

## **EWIS 2020 Call for Papers**

### **Change in EU-Russia relations. Integrating new approaches**

#### **Workshop convenors**

Tom Casier, University of Kent / Brussels School of International Studies, [t.casier@kent.ac.uk](mailto:t.casier@kent.ac.uk)

Tuomas Forsberg, Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies & University of Tampere, [tuomas.forsberg@helsinki.fi](mailto:tuomas.forsberg@helsinki.fi)

For over five years, since the escalation of the Ukraine crisis, Russia and the EU have found themselves in a staring contest. Recent developments suggest that there is a growing political willingness to overcome the current stalemate, but also demonstrate how difficult it is to trigger any substantial change. Yet, the challenges are tremendous. The European post-Cold War security order has to a great extent eroded. Some of its pillars have crumbled: the collective security regime which the Paris charter envisaged, the European border regime and the arms control regime. An unexpected démarche by French President Macron in summer 2019 suggested the possibility of rapprochement. Interestingly, Macron's proposal was driven by the need for balancing in a world of drastically changing power relations. This raises new and interesting questions for the study of EU-Russia relations and underlines the need to link the relationship more closely to global change.

This workshop seeks to make a contribution to the further integration of new theoretical and methodological perspectives that may, first, help us to make more sense of the ambiguities of current EU-Russia relations and, second, connect current developments better to global challenges, such as the eroding arms control regime, the rise of China or transatlantic tensions. In doing so, it builds on the proliferation of theories and methods to study EU-Russia relations in recent years and seeks to make a pluralistic theoretical contribution rather than reinforcing the often polarised debate on relations between Russia and the Euro-Atlantic Community. Along similar lines it seeks to transcend both overly deterministic approaches to EU-Russia relations and EU-centric or Russia-centric perspectives. The workshop welcomes theoretical and methodological approaches from diverse backgrounds. This may include approaches that focus on new or under-researched issues, process dynamics, non-state actors, perception, dimensions of power and hegemony, as well domestic identity debates.

Themes may include, but are not limited to:

- The erosion of the European post-Cold War security order
- Critical geopolitical approaches to EU-Russia relations
- Russia's identity debates and its impact on relations with the EU
- Russian and Chinese anti-hegemonic stances and what they mean for Europe
- How Russia's return to the Middle East impacts on relations with the EU
- The interaction of regional initiatives in Central Asia
- The role of non-state actors
- Understudied policy areas of EU-Russia cooperation