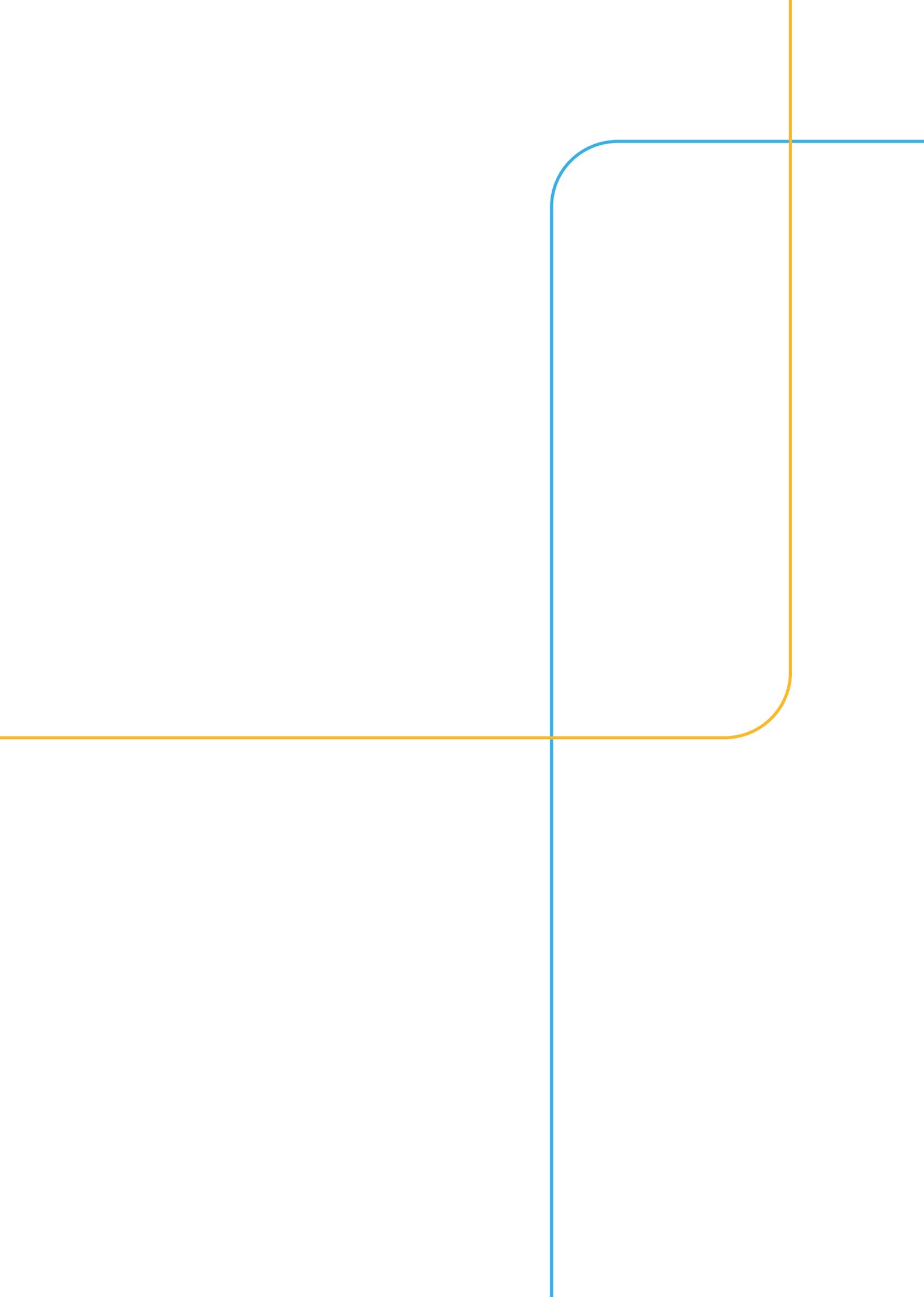


2020

EISA  
ANNUAL REPORT

Committed to innovation,  
intellectual advancement  
and inclusivity





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# Introduction

I am pleased to introduce the EISA Annual Report for 2020.

Dear EISA members,

2020 was a challenging year for EISA – as for so many other institutions. The Covid-19 pandemic forced us to cancel all our major events: the European Workshops in International Studies (EWIS), the Pan-European Conference (PEC), the Exploratory Symposia in Rapallo and the Olympia Summer Academy. These cancellations in turn led to a serious fall in membership numbers. Despite these pressures that resulted in a budgetary deficit for the year, EISA ended 2020 in a sound financial position.

Moreover, we replaced our workshops and conferences with an online program, including workshops, roundtables and keynote speeches – all of them free of charge and attracting large audiences. We have also begun to develop a series of podcasts designed to provide our members with online teaching and learning material.

EISA continued to award its prizes, honouring excellent scholarship in IR dissertations, graduate papers and journal articles.

We are now looking forward to our online PEC in September 2021 and have begun preparations for PEC 2022 in Athens – where we hope to be able to get together again in person under the title: Pandaemonium – Interrogating the Apocalyptic Imaginaries of Our Time.

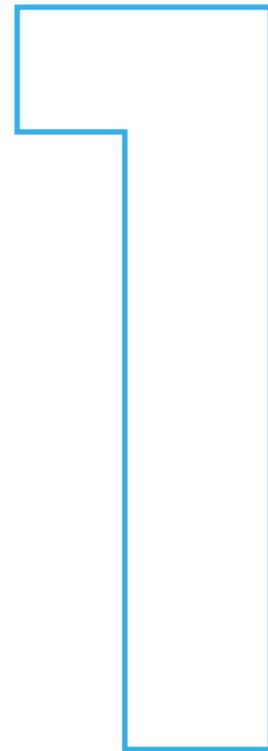
In the following pages you can find more details on all our activities. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our members for their support and active engagement – albeit online – without which none of these activities would be possible. Thanks are also due to our colleagues at C-IN for their expert help in steering EISA organizationally and financially through this pandemic. Finally, I am tremendously grateful to the members of the current governing board who confronted the unexpected challenges with admirable commitment, creativity and good humour. I hope very much to see many of you at our online General Assembly in September.

With the very best wishes,

Beate Jahn  
President of the EISA

# Who We Are

EISA exists to promote and advance the interdisciplinary field of international studies in Europe and beyond. We are committed to innovation, intellectual advancement and inclusivity. As a member-driven association, we provide a range of innovative events, from small-scale symposia for exploratory projects to our flagship Pan-European conferences, where scholars and practitioners from around the world can discuss the latest developments in the field. EISA also promotes inclusivity by prioritising a diverse range of voices at our events and in our association practices. We actively seek suggestions from our members and the wider international studies community on how to continue to develop this agenda.



EISA is managed by a Governing Board of 12 elected members who serve on a voluntary basis. Within this, 3 elected members serve on the Executive Committee (President, Executive Secretary and Treasurer). An annual General Assembly ensures that the views of members on core association business are taken into account.

We are committed to innovation, intellectual advancement and inclusivity.

## Governing Board

2019

2021

### Executive Committee

**President**

Beate Jahn (University of Sussex)

**Executive Secretary**

Maria Mälksoo (University of Kent in Brussels)

**Treasurer**

Juha Antero Vuori (University of Tampere)

### Governing Council

Anna Gudrun Christina Leander (Graduate Institute, Geneva)

Cemal Burak Tansel (University of Sheffield)

Catherine Charrett (University of Westminster)

Felix Berenskötter (University of London)

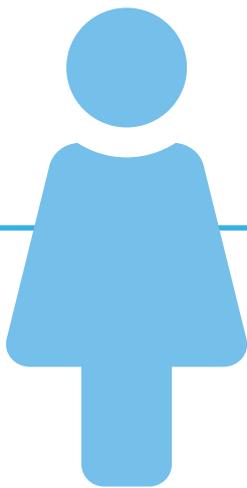
Gabi Schlag (University of Tübingen)

Maj Grasten (Copenhagen Business School)

Marieke de Goede (University of Amsterdam)

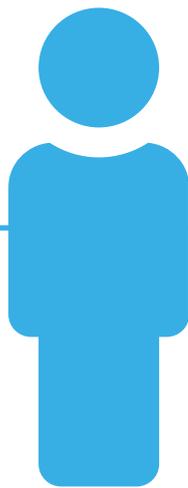
Valeria Bello (University Ramon Llull, Barcelona)

Vineet Thakur (Leiden University)



1,056

Female



1,202

Male



69

N/A

2,327  
TOTAL NUMBER  
OF MEMBERS IN 2020

### Membership by Gender

# Membership

present

## Executive Committee

### President

Cemal Burak Tansel (University of Sheffield)

### Executive Secretary

Gabi Schlag (University of Tuebingen)

### Treasurer

Juha Antero Vuori (University of Tampere)

## Governing Council

Catherine Charrett (University of Westminster)

Felix Berenskötter (University of London)

Marieke de Goede (University of Amsterdam)

Vineet Thakur (Leiden University)

Debbie Lisle (Queen's University Belfast)

Sonia Lucarelli (University of Bologna)

Beste İşleyen (University of Amsterdam)

Corina Lacatus (Queen Mary University of London)

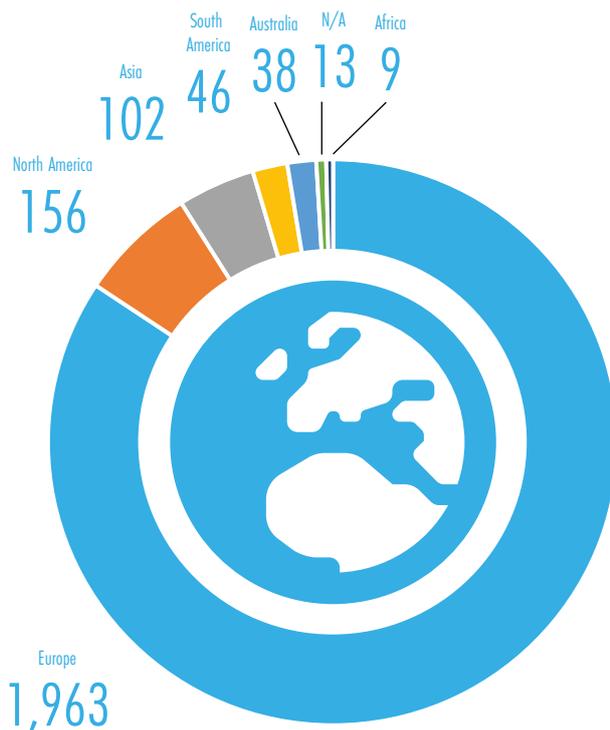
Thierry Balzacq (Science Po CERI)

## Staff

Van Anh Nguyen > Barbora Smejkalová  
(Association Management)

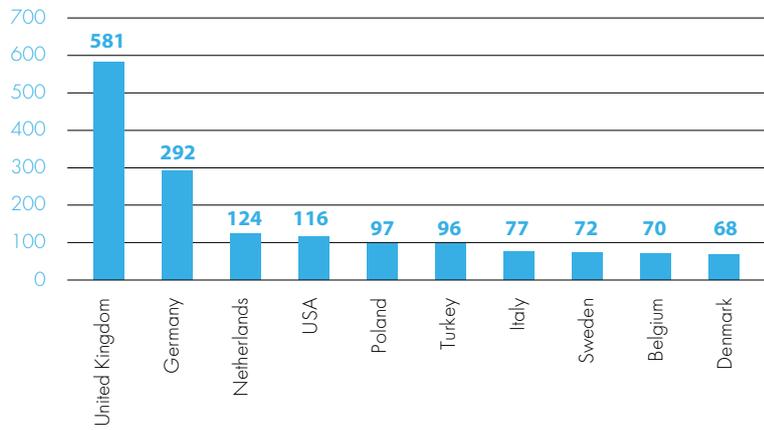
Lukáš Čáp (Business Development and Project Management)

Barbora Taftová (Accounting)

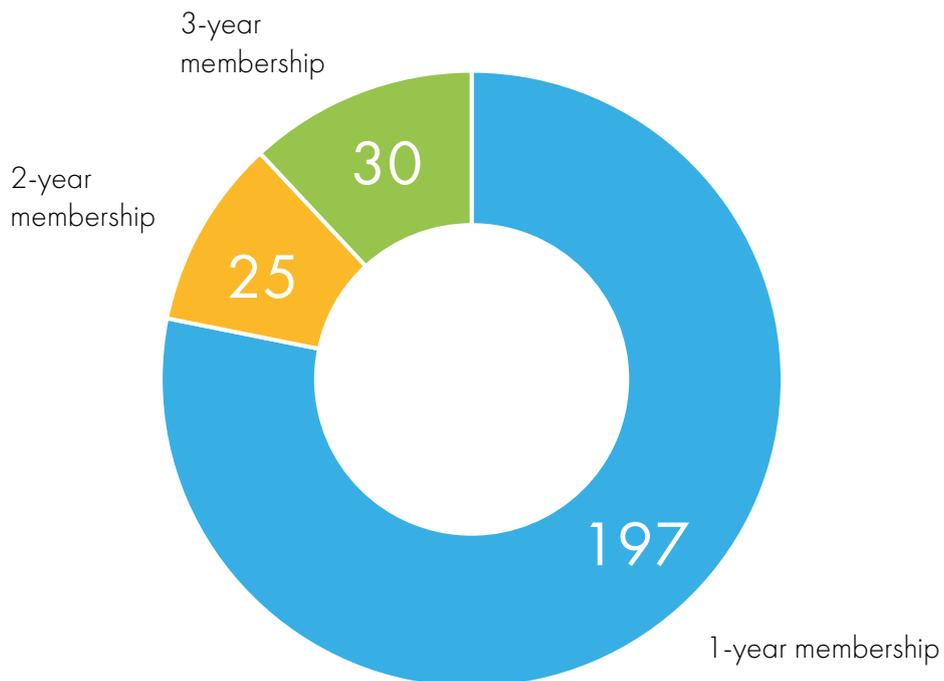


Membership  
by Continents

## TOP 10 Countries by Members



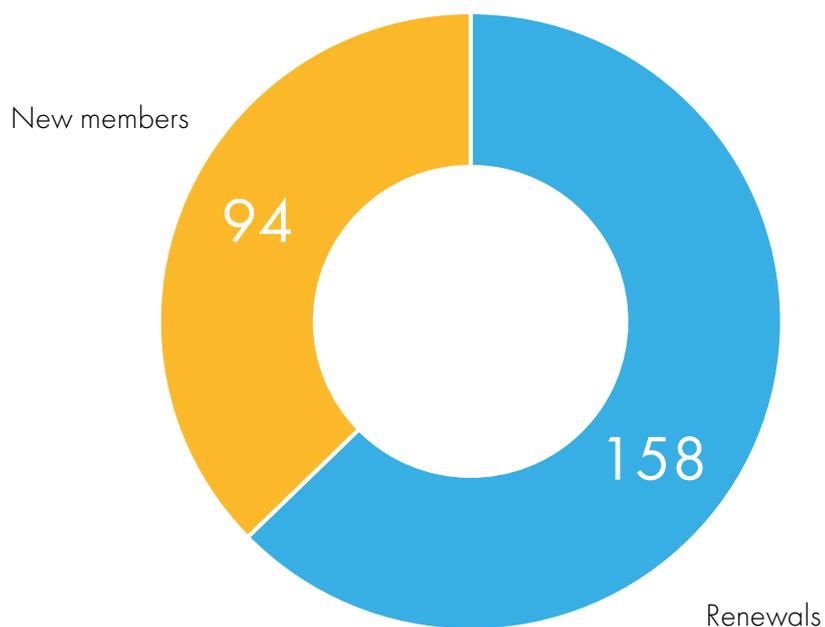
## Membership Registration by Period



## Membership Registration in 2020



## Membership by Renewals





# Events

## Online program

The Covid-19 pandemic forced us to cancel all our major events on site: the European Workshops in International Studies (EWIS), the Pan-European Conference (PEC), the Exploratory Symposia in Rapallo and the Olympia Summer Academy.

However, EISA managed to offer its members a wide ranging online program that attracted large audiences.

## EISA Virtual Conference: Knowledge Practices and Academic Community – Keeping the Fire Going in the Times of Corona

### **Keynote Lecture**

Failing Better – Academic Life in Precarious Times

### **Roundtable**

Bridging the Divide – Justice and Political Economy in Conversation Precarity in Academia

### **Life Virtual Performance**

The Vein, the Fingerprint Machine and the Automatic Speed Detector

## Workshops

Anxiety in International  
Relations

Intelligence  
in Contemporary Times:  
Towards a Transversal  
Research Agenda

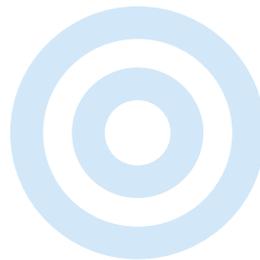
Multiplicity:  
IR's Strangely Familiar  
Common Ground

Post-Growth in World  
Politics: Exploring  
the Strange within  
the Familiar

Field Work and Covid  
19: A Collective  
Discussion on Disrupted  
Fieldwork

Field Work and Covid  
19: Assessing the Impact  
of Covid 19 on Early  
Career Scholars

IR Cafe on Militarism



Silences are Political

Professional Skills:  
Writing Workshop

A Conversation  
Between IR Theory  
and STS: Knowledge  
Production and  
the Role of Networked  
Technology

# Career Development

## Early Career Development Group



The aim of the Early Career Development Group (ECD) group is to create safe, generous and diverse spaces for early career scholars in International Studies and related disciplines. This is done by actively stimulating and contributing to EISA, assisting its board in matters concerning ECDs, and organizing meetings and activities. In this context, thematic discussions and learning concerning topics that are of particular relevance to early career scholars can take place, both in the context of EISA annual conferences and workshops such as PEC and EWIS and beyond. The agenda and activities of the group are constantly under development and open to ideas of new ECD group members as well as the wider community.

## ECD Group

**Janine Bressmer**

(Graduate Institute in Geneva)

**Minda Holm**

(Oslo University)

**Alice Martini**

(Autonomous University of Madrid)

**Tamás Peragovics**

(Central European University)

**Elisabeth Schweiger**

(University of York)

It must be noted that the Covid pandemic and the related delays and disruptions have been particularly challenging for early career scholars, who are facing disruptions to their work and a lack of networking opportunities. Questions were raised about the standards for completing PhDs when fieldwork was disrupted and on possibilities for funded and non-funded extensions to PhD work. To some, the prospect of finalizing a PhD and entering the job market during the pandemic created stress and anxieties that we need to continue to acknowledge as the pandemic is likely to alter academic work structurally.

## Activity Report 2020

The Early Career Development Group organized a series of online events in 2020/2021. A key question for the Early career group is how the Covid pandemic and disruptions to academic networking and fieldwork are impacting early career scholars in the field of International Studies. This entails but goes beyond the question of disrupted fieldwork and interviews and includes questions concerning the changing shape of academic work and the anxieties induced by the pandemic.

5

ECD events

277+

Participants

Two online events on **'Fieldwork and Covid-19: A Collective Discussion on Disrupted Fieldwork'** (December 2020) and **'Fieldwork and Covid-19: Assessing the Impact of Covid-19 on Early Career Scholars'** (January 2021) discussed these questions with an international panel of presenters and a lively international audience. In addition, the group organized two online **'IR Cafés on 'Militaryism'** (November 2020) and on **'Silences are Political'** (February 2021), which gave early career scholars ample opportunity to be involved and discuss their own work.

Three Early Career Workshop proposals received funding to be organized at EISA-PEC 2020 in Malta. They were selected by a small committee composed of EISA Board members and an Early Career Group representative. Because of the conference cancellation, one of the workshops took place online via zoom in September 2020.

The Virtual workshop on **'A Conversation between IR Theory and STS: Knowledge Production and the Role of Networked Technology'**, was organized by Lilly Muller (King's College London) and Johanna Rodehau-Noack (London School of Economics and Political Science). It offered a strong programme and a lively, deep discussion despite the online format.

The organisers of the two other Early Career workshops decided to postpone to EISA-PEC 2021. They will take place online in September 2021, with the themes of **'Firefighters and Arsonists: Decolonizing Epistemologies, Methodologies and Practice in Humanitarian Action'** (organized by Janine Bressmer, Graduate Institute) and **'Decolonizing Affective Attachments in Global politics'**, organised by Dr. Sara Tafakori (LSE) and Dr. Sabiha Allouche (University of Exeter).

In March 2021, a call for proposals for additional Early Career workshops to coincide with EISA-PEC 2021 was launched, which resulted in three additional workshop proposals.

## Mid-Career Development

The EISA takes seriously the continued challenges of professional development for mid- and advanced-career scholars in recent decades. Mid- and advanced career scholars have all been involved in efforts to consolidate and develop research and teaching skills, to formulate and complete research projects, and to lead and develop institutions.

New challenges have emerged as outcomes of both the pandemic and digital innovations, including complicated choices between different types of open access and standard publications, and the relevant impact they have on the future careers of researchers.

The EISA is consequently planning a roundtable on 'Open Access: When the Road to Inequality Are Paved with Good Intentions' to be held at the 2021 Online 14<sup>th</sup> Pan-European Conference on September 16 at 5pm.

The EISA strives to yearly offer spaces with room for exchanging ideas for how these old and new challenges might be handled. At its yearly conference, it continues to organize roundtables, workshops, cafés and seminars with shifting foci, and, remotely, it is very active to provide its community with critical debates about this variety of concerns.

## Moving forward together

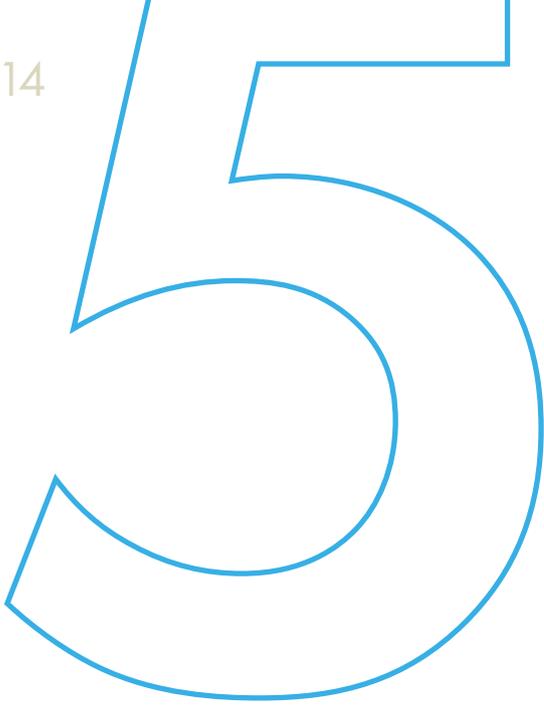


In 2020, two of the founding members of the Early Career Group stepped down from their role, as their PhDs and post-PhD careers became too demanding to reconcile with the work for the group. EISA warmly thanks Elisabeth Schweiger and Minda Holm for their time and commitment in helping set up and develop the group.

Concurrently, the Early Career Group had a discussion about its membership principles and recruitment. Having been set up rather informally and through a network-based recruitment drive, the group felt it was time to formalize its membership principles and organize an open application process. In July 2020 an open call for new members was widely circulated, leading to the appointment of the following new group members: Samarjit Ghosh (Ozyegin University, Istanbul/University of Minnesota, Twin Cities); Nina Perkowski (University of Hamburg); Flavia Lucenti (Roma Tre University); Madita Erdmann (University of Vienna). EISA is delighted with such a strong response to its call for new group members and looks forward to working with them.

In a next phase, the early career group principles, values and portfolios will be further fleshed out and coded in a short governance document. In the meantime, it was decided by the EISA Board that Early career group members have a similar status at EISA-PEC as Section chairs do (in terms of participating in events and dinners, for example). It was also decided that the Early career group should be able to use a small budget for catering (for example, coffee at the IR Café) for their events at physical conferences.





# Awards

The selection processes for the best doctoral dissertation and best articles published in EJIR and Global Affairs were delayed due to Covid-related constraints. Care was taken to ensure that the processes remained rigorous and transparent, using the criteria outlined on the EISA website, so that in all cases the respective selection committees were able to confidently agree on winners (and runner-up/honourable mentions in the best dissertation category).

EISA received ten eligible nominations for the 2021 best dissertation award, all of which of high quality, a slight increase from the previous year (six eligible nominations). The upward trend is welcomed and should be nurtured, as a growing pool seems desirable to represent the range of EISA's membership even if the English-language requirement functions as a barrier. The best EJIR articles were chosen out of a pool of 54 (2020) and 45 (2021), consisting of all articles published online in EJIR in the previous year, or the previous two years in the case of best Global Affairs article. Selection committees were composed of representatives of key stakeholders (Editors, EISA Board) and usually also an external member.

## Best Doctoral Dissertation Award 2020

The Best Doctoral Dissertation Award recognizes outstanding work by young scholars in the field of International Relations. It is awarded to dissertations that make a highly original and significant contribution to International Relations based on rigorous research

The winner of the Best Doctoral Dissertation Award in 2020:

**Sean Fleming**  
University of Cambridge

**for 'Leviathan on a Leash: A Political Theory of State Responsibility'**

Award Committee comments:

"This dissertation is a highly ambitious and masterfully executed exploration of the idea of state responsibility. Identifying a central question – how can states be held morally responsible – Dr Fleming recovers Thomas Hobbes' conception on state personality through political representation, which he systematically develops into an original theory. The committee was impressed by the sharp and critical analysis of existing conceptions of state responsibility, the creative and sophisticated development of Hobbes' thought, and the effective application to core issues in international politics. Remarkably clear in both argumentation and presentation, Dr Fleming's dissertation makes a significant contribution to the fields of political thought, International Relations theory, and international law."

Honourable mention

**Stéphanie Perazzone**  
Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva

**for 'Congo: A State Ecosystem'**

Award Committee comments:

"This excellent dissertation offers a rich and sophisticated reading of the postcolonial state as an 'ecosystem' to challenge conventional conceptions of 'state failure'. Based primarily on fieldwork in three cities in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Dr Perazzone carefully reconstructs the material and ideational presence of the Congolese state through the everyday experiences and practices of 'ordinary dwellers' and 'street level bureaucrats'. The committee was impressed by the interpretivist skill underpinning a comprehensive, layered and nuanced analysis, and by the interdisciplinary approach combining political science, urban studies, and social anthropology. Dr Perazzone's dissertation offers both a critical reminder of the limits of a core Western concept and an innovative demonstration of where and how we can see the postcolonial state at work".

## Best Article in Global Affairs 2020

The journal Global Affairs traces trends and events in global and European politics and facilitates debate about current issues. The prize is awarded to the most innovative article with considerable impact on debates about current global politics.

The winner of the Best Article in Global Affairs award in 2020:

**Oliver Daddow**  
University of Nottingham

**'GlobalBritain™: The Discursive Construction of Britain's post-Brexit World Role'**

The Award Committee was impressed by Dr Daddow's analysis of the political discourse central to the debate on Brexit and considered this article an important and innovative contribution, and likely to have high impact.

# Best Article in The European Journal of International Relations 2020

The prize recognizes and supports the crucial role of theory and theoretical pluralism in and for International Relations in Europe. It is awarded to theoretically innovative articles that elaborate a novel idea, make a significant contribution to existing debates, provide a rigorous analysis and impetus for new research.

The winners of the Best Article in the European Journal of International Relations in 2020:

**Deepak Nair**

National University of Singapore

**'Saving face in diplomacy: A political sociology of face-to-face interactions in ASEAN'**

The award committee commented:

"Deepak Nair's article makes an important contribution by offering an original analysis of the genesis and effect of practices of 'face-saving' in diplomatic interactions within ASEAN. Rejecting an essentialist and orientalist account, Nair persuasively presents a reading of face-saving as a social code originating in the conservative stance among ASEAN's founding members. The committee was impressed by the reflexive, skilful and rigorous research grounded in social theory, extensive ethnographic fieldwork and an interpretivist method of immersion. Nair's attention to historical context and his systematic and nuanced observation of practices in both formal and informal settings not only allows him to present a rich empirical picture and pervasive nature of this diplomatic habitus; it also directs attention to the power of this social code within a community of practice, providing impetus for new research."

**Ida Danewid**

University of Sussex

**'The fire this time: Grenfell, racial capitalism and the urbanisation of empire'**

The award committee commented:

"Ida Danewid's article makes a powerful intervention into the debate on cities in the global political economy. The study of global cities has been on the rise in IR. Danewid argues that this literature has largely neglected questions of race and racism. By connecting urban studies and IPE with post/decolonial, black and indigenous studies, the article shows how global cities as part of a much wider cartography of imperial and racial violence. Understanding the violence of neoliberal urbanism requires us to acknowledge the role of race and racism within capitalism and its historical embeddedness. The article makes an important contribution to the fields of political economy, urban studies and international relations. It is an outstanding and sophisticated example of theoretical pluralism and integration that significantly broadens the perspective on structural violence in IR."

# Publications

## European Journal on International Relations (EJIR)

The EISA has overseen and supported the journal through the joint management committee (JMC) that it operates jointly with the SGIR / ECPR. The EJIR has been developing satisfactorily. However, in spite of this, revenue and so the royalties received by the association have been falling. The JMC is currently striving to gain a better understanding of the reasons for this and what (if anything) might change this predicament.

The main task of the JMC this year has been the appointment of a new editorial team to replace the outgoing team headed by Prof Geoffrey Underhill and based in Amsterdam. The JMC interviewed three competent teams that had made bids for taking on the journal in June. In August, this process was successfully concluded and resulted in the appointment of a new editorial team headed by Professor Oliver Kessler (University of Erfurt).

11/94

Ranking  
in International  
Relations

6

issues

469

manuscript  
submission,  
a 19.9% increase  
from 2019

9%

acceptance rate

## Global Affairs (GA)

Over the past three years, the publications committee has worked to diminish the costs the EISA has incurred related to *Global Affairs*. It has done this in collaboration with the Editor and the Publisher. It has also tried to persuade Taylor & Francis to change the terms of the agreement at the source of these costs. In the spring of 2021 Taylor & Francis offered the EISA a EUR 5,000 rebate on the fees for 2021. However, it also became clear that no sustainable long term arrangement could be agreed upon. With regret, the EISA board therefore took the decision to end the contract with Taylor and Francis. This decision took effect on 11 May. The EISA will pay the fee for 2020 and 2021 (the rebate offer is still valid). This concludes the association's ownership of and commitment to *Global Affairs*.

# Palgrave Studies in International Relations (PSIR)



PSIR has gone through a difficult period. The series has continued to publish and the award associated with it has been distributed. However, the editorial team has expressed frustration with the lack of submission. Most of its members have resigned. The editor in chief has also done so. The series in other words does not currently have an academic editor. The EISA board will have to devise a strategy to deal with the crisis of the series.

1



2

## The Story of International Relations, Part One

Cold-Blooded  
Idealists

by Pemberton Joanne



## The US Role in NATO's Survival After the Cold War

by Garey Julie

## International Law's Collected Stories

by Stolk Sofia, Vos Renske

3



4

### The Story of International Relations, Part Three

Cold-Blooded Idealists

by Pemberton Joanne

### Nuclear Deviance

Stigma Politics and the Rules  
of the Nonproliferation Game

by Smetana Michal

5



6

### Pessimism in International Relations

Provocations, Possibilities,  
Politics

by Stevens Tim, Michelsen Nicholas

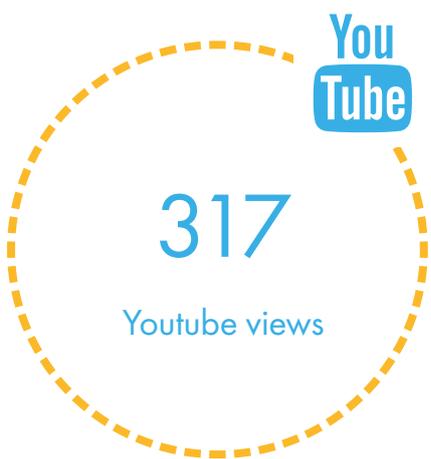


# Communications & Social Media

## Twitter, Facebook & Youtube

EISA has currently two social media accounts on Twitter and Facebook. In 2020 we introduced our new channel on Youtube.

We continued to record steady growth in our follower and engagement figures on Twitter and Facebook—our primary social media accounts. In 2020, we also laid out the groundwork for our new YouTube channel, which will host public recordings of EISA events and offer video updates from the association.





## Newsletter

The EISA's newsletter is emailed to all our members every second month. The format provides a better overview of EISA activities, such as open calls for papers, panels and nominations, events, and other association news. During the year 2020 we sent out several "Special issue" newsletters concerning COVID-19 impacts on changes in the upcoming association activities. Our academic conversations eventually resumed through the online medium. MailChimp data indicates that approximately 50 % of our members open and read the newsletter when they receive it in their inboxes. The EISA continuously strives to increase interest among our members. The newsletter and other emails sent to our members are in accordance with the information published on our website so the members always stay informed.

Opening Rate  
of the Newsletter

51,2 %

January & February

57,8 %

March & April

44 %

May & June

46 %

July & August

46,5 %

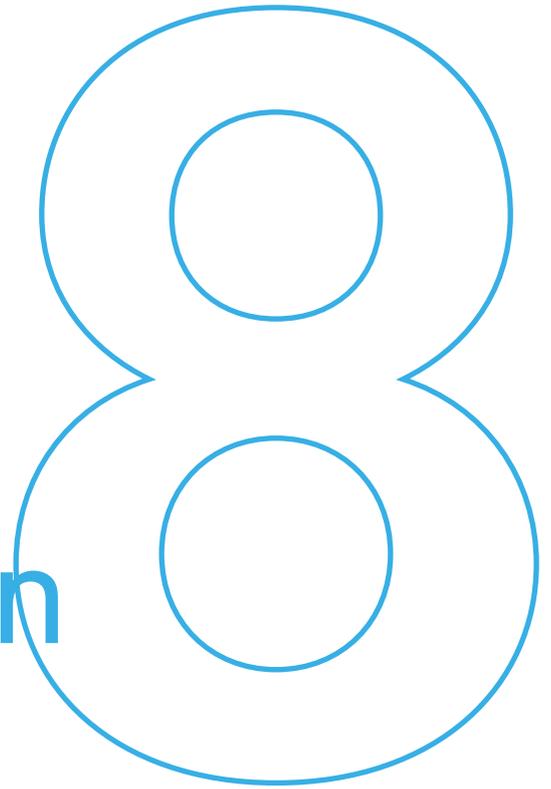
September & October

46,2 %

November & December

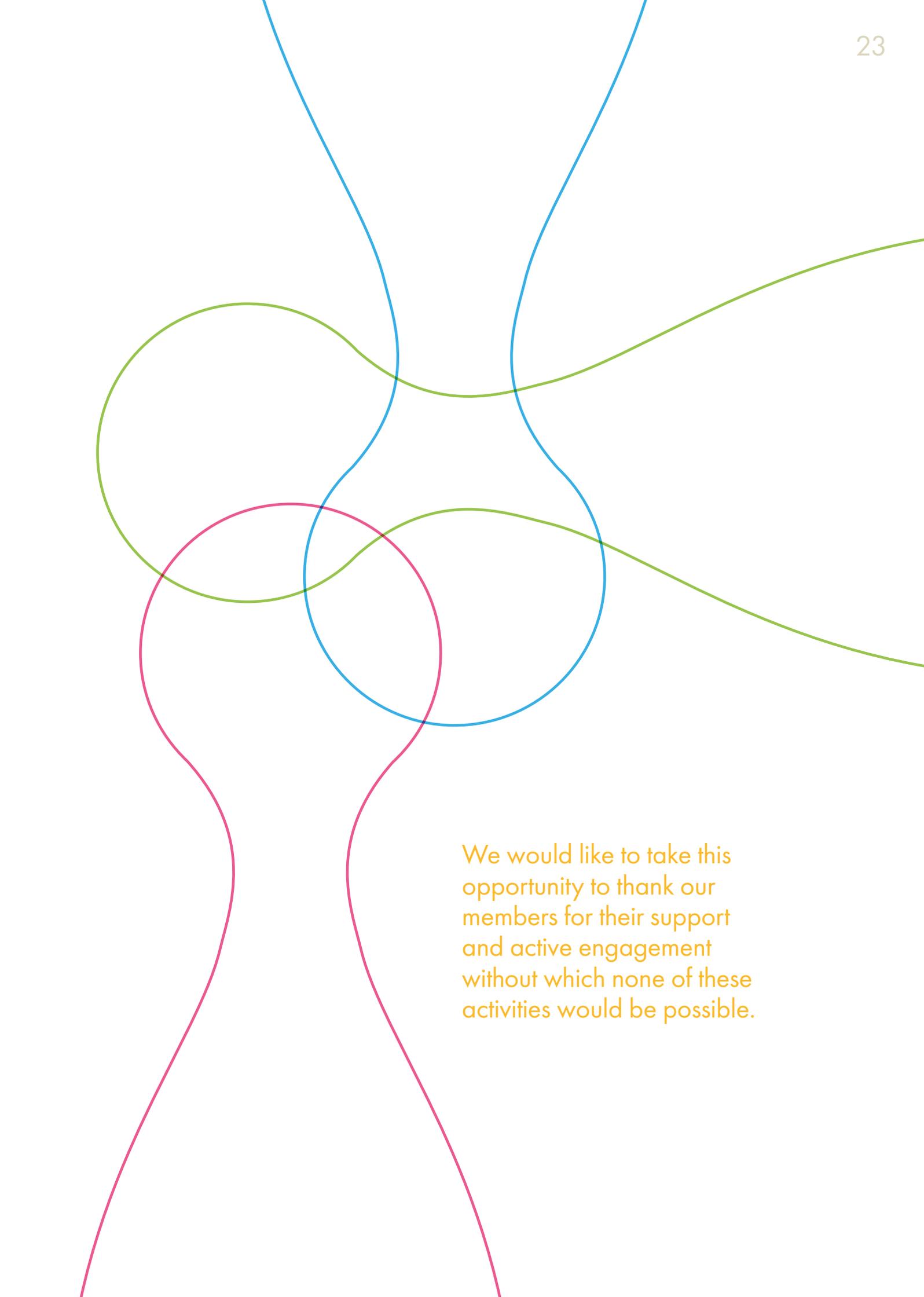
# Mobility and Inclusion

## Mobility Fund



The EISA Mobility Fund is designed to provide financial support for PEC and EWIS participants. In line with our commitment to inclusivity, the Fund aims to make EISA events accessible to every member of our academic community, including doctoral researchers, early career scholars, colleagues on short-term and/or precarious contracts, scholars from the global South as well as those who face discrimination and marginalisation.

Due to the pandemic and the postponement of our physical events in 2020, we froze mobility grants for the most recent editions of PEC and EWIS. The previously allocated budget for the Fund will be transferred in full to the 2022 editions of PEC and EWIS, and we will continue to expand access to our events by directly supporting our members.

The page features a decorative background of overlapping circles in three colors: blue, green, and pink. The circles are of varying sizes and are positioned across the page, with some overlapping each other. The text is located in the lower right quadrant of the page.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our members for their support and active engagement without which none of these activities would be possible.