

## **EWIS 2023 Call for Workshop Proposals**

### **Critical Perspectives on the European Union's Role as a Global Actor**

#### **Workshop Convenors**

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Scholarship on the EU's role as a Global Actor has traditionally been dominated by debates on issues pertaining to Europeanization, actorness and effectiveness. This focus is also evident in the literature on the EU and conflict resolution which has predominantly attended to the institutionalist, neo-functionalist and rationalist theoretical traditions (see for example Coppieters et al. 2004; Tocci 2007; Whitman and Wolff 2012; Visoka and Doyle 2015). The intersection of Foreign Policy Analysis (FPA) with the study of the EU's role as a Global Actor has also sought to unpack the roles of a variety of actors, processes and outcomes which shape EU external action. Most of these approaches have typically come from an inside-out perspective, which has put the EU at the centre. While all these approaches help to shed light on the internal constitution of the EU's global behavior, they tend to assume a stable or fixed EU agency, even as a growing body of critical scholarship is increasingly uncovering fraught processes of co-constitution between forces traditionally described as "European" and "non-European".

In parallel to efforts to decentre the broader discipline of international relations (see for example Tickner and Waever 2009; Acharya and Buzan 2010; Bilgin 2016) voices within EU studies began to call for the adoption of a decentring approach to the analysis of EU Foreign Policy (Fisher-Onar and Nicolaidis 2013; Keukeleire and Lecocq 2018; Wolff et al. 2022). Our workshop calls for papers inspired by critical, non-Eurocentric approaches, perspectives and methodologies to the study of the EU as a Global Actor especially in the field of security and conflicts/conflict resolution. More specifically we invite papers which incorporate feminist, queer, postcolonial/decolonial, practice and other decentring approaches and ethical frameworks to the study of the EU's role in the world. In terms of methodologies, we also invite papers which use a range of critical methodologies including discourse analysis, practice approaches, reflexive, and relational perspectives, as well as contrapuntal reading and listening in order to analyze what Fisher-Onar and Nicolaidis (2022) call "Global EU External Action". Empirically, we are looking for papers which focus explicitly on issues related to conflicts (broadly defined) and security, in line with the broader theme of EWIS2023. This workshop will support a conversation between critical approaches which can help to come to terms with the ways that actors, process, and structures typically read as the objects rather than co-constitutive subjects of EU foreign policy in fact contribute to its global role - and the ways that we read the "global" more broadly.

This workshop is sponsored by the ATHENA Jean Monnet Chair on the EU as a Global Actor ([www.athenajmc.eu](http://www.athenajmc.eu)) which is co-funded by the European Union. Small grants will be made available for participation in the workshop with priority given to junior and early career academics as well as scholars who come from under-represented backgrounds.