

CALL FOR PAPERS

European Workshops in International Studies, Istanbul, 3–5 July 2024 **Practising the practice turn in the study of the European Union**

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The practice turn is increasingly resonating with researchers studying the EU, its institutions and its evolving global role (e.g. Lequesne 2015, Adler-Nissen 2016; Bicci 2021; Bremberg, Danielson, Hedling, Michalski 2022). Adopting a practice perspective opens up **new opportunities for research into the EU**, its institutions, its interactions with citizens and member states or its external actions and reactions. The application of different conceptions of practices, praxis or communities of practice can uncover unlikely sources of creativity, agency or disenfranchisement. Studying the criteria of “more or less competent” performances can reveal meanings and tensions within a practice. Practice-oriented interpretive approaches can help transcend enduring dualisms between the logics of consequences and appropriateness as driving forces for the Union, its member states and their representatives.

The study of the EU can also be a fertile ground for the further **theoretical and methodological development** of the wider practice turn. The EU as a complex and constantly evolving organism contains both highly institutionalised and stable components, as well as new, experimental and sometimes short-lived initiatives, leading to almost endless opportunities to explore the emergence, evolution, stabilisation, change or disappearance of social practices. The EU’s complex decision-making processes coupled with relatively ease of access to researchers, also provide an ideal testing ground for research methods and strategies, such as interpretive versions of process-tracing or (auto)ethnographic participation in practices.

Recognising the growing diversity of (international) practice theory, from Bourdieuan praxeology to communities of practice or pragmatist approaches, our workshop aims to provide a forum to connect researchers contributing to the development of the field of EU practice research. **We want to include a variety of voices to reflect on theoretical and methodological innovations as well as the problems and challenges of practice-oriented approach.**

The workshop invites theoretical, empirical, and methodological contributions to all aspects of EU practice research, with a special focus on adding to ongoing discussions surrounding the wider practice turn and on practical aspects of practice and/or EU research. The workshop welcomes contributions at all stages of research, from researchers at all career stages, addressing – but not limited to – the following broad themes:

- **Theoretical:** How do different conceptualisations of practice, practices and praxis relate to European (dis-)integration and (de-)Europeanisation?
- **Methodological:** What are best practices for practice research? What are challenges and opportunities resulting from the application of specific theories of practice?
- **Empirical:** Where do new practices emerge and existing ones evolve? What contributions from case studies, ethnography and other ways of conducting research can tell us about these practices?
- **Practical:** Which research and data collection strategies are viable? What are the “dos and don’ts” of ethically researching the EU and gaining access to institutions?