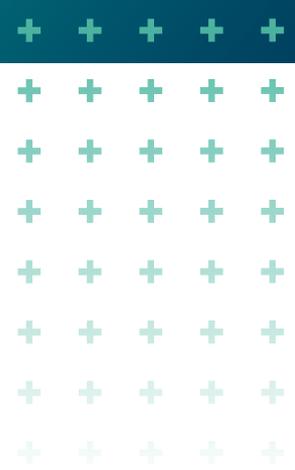
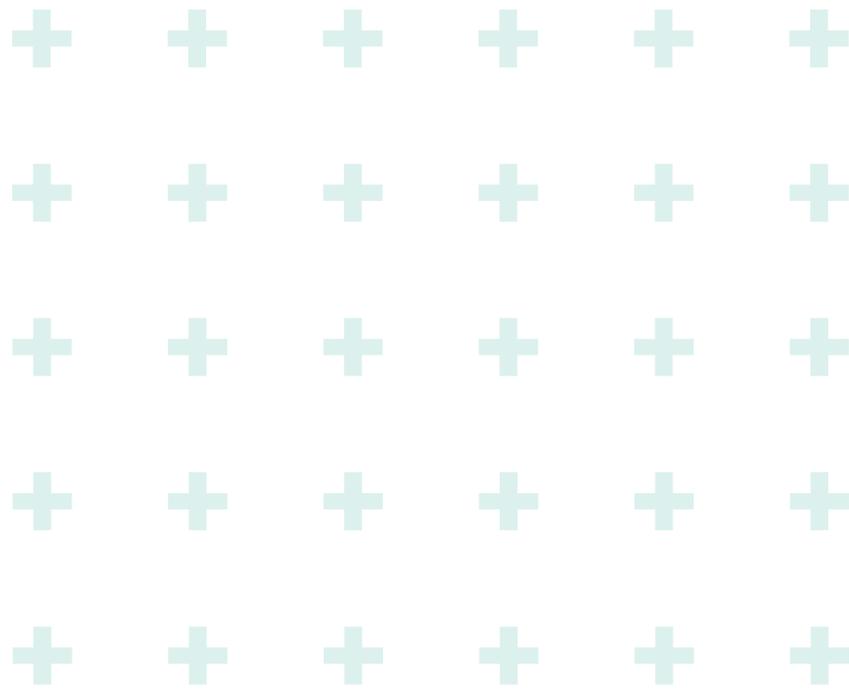




23

**EISA  
 ANNUAL  
 REPORT**







# Content

|    |                               |
|----|-------------------------------|
| 2  | Introduction                  |
| 3  | Who We Are                    |
| 4  | Membership                    |
| 6  | Events                        |
| 17 | Career Development            |
| 21 | Awards                        |
| 24 | Publications                  |
| 26 | Communications & Social Media |
| 28 | Mobility and Inclusion        |
| 30 | Academic Freedom              |



# Introduction

**Dear friends and colleagues,**

**The Annual Report for 2022 outlined the EISA's success in addressing the structural challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic through the association's growth in terms of activities and finances. This trend continued and further strengthened throughout 2023. The Annual Report for 2023 shows in detail how this has been achieved through the hard labour of our Governing Board members, the wider EISA community and C-IN.**

The past 12 months witnessed an expansion of our membership, which now includes colleagues from all corners of the world. We have reached a healthy financial balance thanks to the steady flow of association membership contributions and revenue achieved through annual on-site events. In the last quarter of 2023, the EISA Governing Board decided to transfer 200.000 Euro of the association's revenue to a savings account, which will serve as a reserve fund in the case of potential external shocks and emergencies. Our increased financial resources have enabled us to further expand our existing initiatives and devise new ones to offer solidarity-based support.

Our recently introduced projects, such as the EISA-Oxford University Press Book Series 'Voices in International Relations' have been enriched through the interest and generous active participation of EISA members, and we are grateful to our membership for their support. In addition to launching the EISA Postdoctoral Bridge Grants Scheme, whose first funds were distributed in 2023, the EISA Governing Board devised EISA Dissertation Fieldwork Support Grants as a new funding scheme. EISA Dissertation Fieldwork Support Grants are designed for PhD candidates who lack finances for fieldwork travel as a crucial part of writing their dissertations in International Studies. The first round will take place in 2024 with seven grants amounting to 3.500 Euro each to be allocated to our members. Overall, EISA financial support for colleagues has further developed in the past year with new types of funding initiatives with an increased budget in line with the rising inflation and the needs of the academic community, with a clear strategic focus on early career scholars and colleagues in situation of work precarity.

European Workshops in International Studies (EWIS) have grown immensely in the last two years. Once managed by its respective portfolio-holder as a member of the EISA Governing Board, EWIS is now an annual event that is bigger than some major annual conferences in the field of IR. Taking its current size and workload into consideration, the EISA Governing Board upgraded its cooperation with C-IN. In the last quarter of 2023, the EISA Governing Board has signed a new, two-year contract with C-IN, and C-IN will organize EWIS 2024 and EWIS 2025 together with the EWIS portfolio holders. With the renewed contractual relationship with C-IN, EISA membership system and event management systems have been merged.

I thank all old and new members who served on the EISA Governing Board in 2023. Our activities would not have been possible without your labour, commitment and dedication. I am grateful to EISA members whose feedback, support and involvement have been crucial for making the association a more inclusive and pluralistic IR community in Europe and beyond.

On the following pages of this Annual Report, we give you a detailed overview of EISA's activities in 2023.

Please let us know if you have any questions and ideas.

Best wishes,

**Beste İşleyen**

President of the European International Studies Association (2023–2025)

# Who We Are

**EISA exists to promote and advance the interdisciplinary field of International Studies in Europe and beyond. 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 (PEC) and European Workshops in International Studies (EWIS)—where scholars and practitioners from around the world can discuss the latest developments in the field. EISA promotes inclusivity by prioritising a diverse range of voices at our events and in our association practices. We are committed to ensuring that our academic community remains an accessible and welcoming space to all International Studies scholars who share our founding ethos of pluralism, scholarly innovation and critical dialogue.**

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 ensuring that our academic community remains an accessible and welcoming space to all International Studies scholars.*

## Governing Board 2023–2025

### Executive Committee

**President:**

**Beste İşleyen** (University of Amsterdam)

**Executive Secretary:**

**Sonia Lucarelli** (University of Bologna)

**Treasurer:**

**Corina Lacatus** (Queen Mary University of London)

**Magdalena Kozub-Karkut**

(Jagiellonian University)

**Beatrix Futák-Campbell** (Leiden University)

**Polly Pallister-Wilkins** (University of Amsterdam)

**Nora El Qadim** (University of Paris 8)

**Joana Ricarte** (University of Coimbra)

**Rebecca Pedi** (University of Macedonia)

### Governing Council

**Debbie Lisle** (Queen's University Belfast)

**Thierry Balzacq** (Sciences Po, Paris)

**Daniela Lai** (Royal Holloway, University of London)

### Staff

**Lukáš Čáp** (Business Development, C-IN)

**Barbora Smejkalová** (Association and Project Management, C-IN)

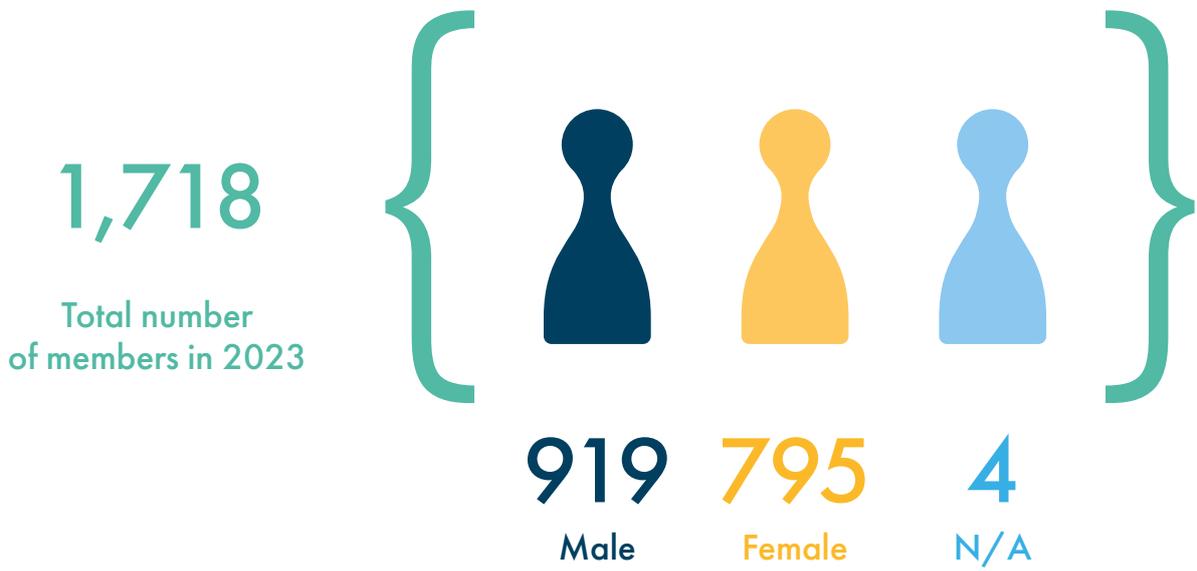
**Barbora Taftová** (Accounting, C-IN)

# 2

## Membership

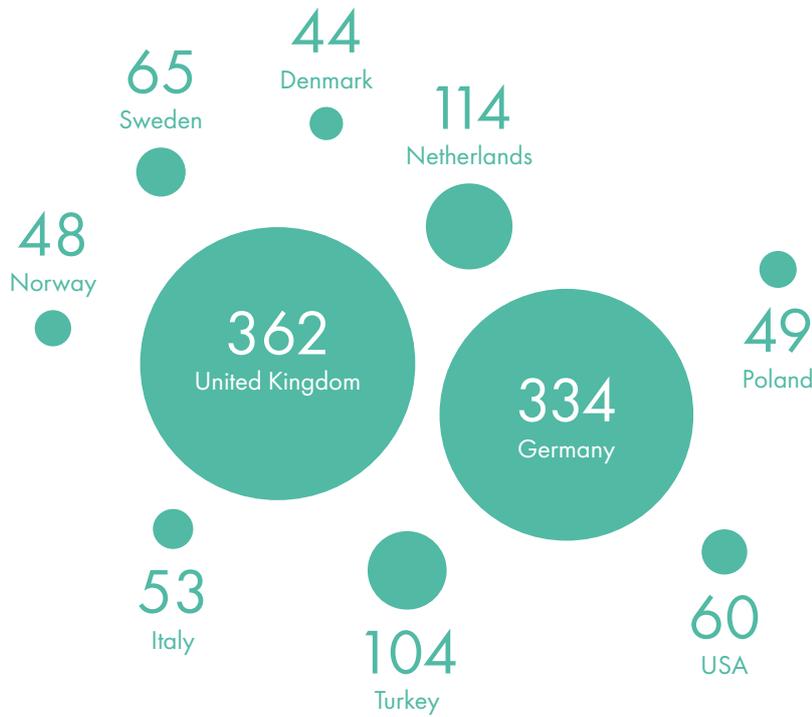


### Membership by Gender



### Membership by Continents





Top **10**  
countries  
by members

## Membership by Renewals



## Membership registration in 2023

1,409  
Number of paid registrations

€ 87,085  
Collected  
membership fees

## Membership registration by period





# Events

## Virtual events



**In 2023, the EISA's annual events, the European Workshops in International Studies (EWIS), the Pan-European Conference (PEC) and the Rapallo Exploratory Symposia were held in-person. Each event displayed growth in participant numbers and a great variety and richness in terms of their respective scientific and social programme. In addition, the EISA organizes virtual events for its membership throughout the year. Activities range from professional development for the ECD community to expert panels on contemporary international politics.**



VIRTUAL EVENT

### Online International Relations Seminars for Students in Turkey

28 March – 28 April 2023

Following the devastating earthquakes in Syria and Turkey, European International Studies Association produced a [support package](#) to assist our members in both countries. We launched a new series of online classes aimed at supporting university students affected by the earthquakes. The first leg of the series brought together 10 scholars from the EISA community, who provided free online classes on key International Relations topics to university students from Turkey. They were taught in Turkish.

VIRTUAL EVENT

BOOK LAUNCH

### The Palgrave Handbook of Global Politics in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Century

31 March 2023

In the online launch event moderated by Sonia Lucarelli (Bologna), the book editors Ayşem Mert (Stockholm), Franziska Müller (Hamburg) and Laura Horn (Roskilde) provided a brief outline of book, highlighting what academic science fiction can contribute to IR. Several contributors offered flashtalk presentations of their chapters.



VIRTUAL EVENT

## EISA sustainability practices session

21 April 2023

What are the roles, responsibilities, room for manoeuvre and contradictions of researchers and academics in the climate and ecological emergency? In this digital town hall meeting, we explored the spectrum from individual actions, via institutional commitments to sustainable practices, to collective direct action.

VIRTUAL EVENT

## New trends in the study of Foreign Policy in Europe

15 June 2023

This hybrid roundtable was part of the annual conference of the Italian Standing Group on International Relations and was jointly organised by the BISA Foreign Policy Working Group and European International Studies Association (EISA).

This roundtable situated its argument within the current study on Foreign Policy in Europe and the extent to which it is able to catch new and ongoing trends and phenomena. Attention was devoted to Non-State Actors (NSAs), broadly defined either as subversive actors, civil society organisations and unaccomplished state entities; to how bias can affect investigations on Foreign Policy in sensitive policy fields (e.g. migration), and to theorise FP in non-Western areas of the world.



Envisioning  
a New Normal



1,200+  
Participants

1,049  
Speakers

# 16<sup>th</sup> Pan-European Conference in International Relations

Potsdam, Germany, 5–9 September 2023

*We are grateful  
to programme chairs  
Dagmar Vorlíček  
and Matthias  
Leese for managing  
the academic programme,  
and to section chairs  
for helping us manage  
sessions throughout  
the conference.*

**The 16<sup>th</sup> Pan-European Conference on International Relations in Potsdam. The conference welcomed over 1,200 delegates in-person and 60 virtual. The programme featured 323 panels, 48 roundtables and a rich social programme with 2 special events.**

12,300 €  
Mobility grants  
for 41 participants

2,100 €  
Grants from special funds  
for 7 participants

 GERMANY  
321

 UNITED KINGDOM  
229

 NETHERLANDS  
76

 SWEDEN  
60

 NORWAY  
49

3

Early Career Workshops

1,871

Abstracts

48

Sections

We also celebrated the official launch of the new EISA Book Series with OUP. The Series Editors offered a brief introduction to the aims and scope of the book series, and discussed potential projects with participants over celebratory drinks. EISA also organized "Meet the editors session", where EISA and OUP editors were available to discuss potential book and article submissions.

Members also attended the EISA General Assembly and heard plans for the future of EISA. We are especially proud of having been able to offer childcare services free of charge during the conference.



33

Parallel sessions

 DENMARK  
43

 POLAND  
43

 TURKEY  
43

 FINLAND  
35

 USA  
34

## STANDING SECTIONS

- ST01 CRITICAL MILITARY STUDIES
- ST02 DIPLOMACY – PAST AND PRESENT
- ST03 DOING INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY
- ST04 GLOBAL HEALTH: ONE HEALTH AND POWER POLITICS IN NATURE
- ST05 GLOBALISING IR
- ST06 HISTORICAL INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
- ST07 INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION, NATIONALISM AND INTERETHNIC RELATIONS
- ST08 INTERNATIONAL PRACTICES
- ST09 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN THE ANTHROPOCENE
- ST10 INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY
- ST11 POLITICAL ECONOMY BEYOND BOUNDARIES
- ST12 POPULAR CULTURE AND WORLD POLITICS
- ST13 SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SECURITY
- ST14 SMALL STATES IN WORLD POLITICS
- ST15 VISUAL IR
- ST16 AGRARIAN ORDERS AND TRANSFORMATIONS: DISRUPTIONS IN AGRARIA
- ST17 BLUE TURN – THE POLITICS OF OCEANS AND POLAR REGIONS
- ST18 CONTESTATION IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS
- ST19 INFRASTRUCTURES AND GLOBAL ORDER
- ST20 INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL DESIGN: MAKING WORLD POLITICS DIFFERENTLY
- ST21 GLOBAL LAW AND POLITICS
- ST22 REIMAGINING PEACE STUDIES
- ST23 JUSTICE & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
- ST24 KNOWLEDGE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. EPISTEMIC STRUGGLES  
IN A COMPLEX WORLD





## REGULAR SECTIONS

- S01** EXISTENTIALISM IN AND FOR IR
- S02** DECENTERING DEBATES ON FUTURE GLOBAL ORDERS
- S03** BORDERED SPACES, BODIES AND ACTIONS: OLD CRISES AND NEW WORLD ORDERS?
- S04** INSTITUTIONALISING THE NEW NORMAL? INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN TIMES OF CRISIS
- S05** CIVILIAN AGENCY IN WAR AND VIOLENT CONFLICT: EXPLORING THE POWER OF SELF-PROTECTION
- S06** EMOTIONS AND THE DYNAMICS OF INTERNATIONAL LIBERAL ORDER
- S07** DECOLONISING DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES
- S08** INTERNATIONAL ATROCITY PREVENTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY
- S09** POPULISM AS THE NEW NORMAL IN WORLD POLITICS?
- S10** THE ETHICS AND POLITICS OF 'HARM': INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY AND INTERNATIONAL LAW
- S11** HETERARCHY – ENVISIONING WORLD POLITICS BETWEEN HIERARCHY AND ANARCHY
- S12** GLOBAL CHINA AND THE CHANGING INTERNATIONAL ORDER
- S13** CRITICAL SECURITY STUDIES: COLONIAL ENTANGLEMENTS, EVERYDAY (IN)SECURITY, AND THE POLITICS OF THREAT
- S14** ALTERED ORDERS: REIMAGINING MOVEMENTS AND ACTIVISM IN GLOBAL POLITICS
- S15** MAKING NEW FROM OLD? REALIST THOUGHT, THEORY, AND ANALYSIS IN THE SEARCH FOR A NEW NORMAL
- S16** MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS AND AGREEMENTS: PARTICIPANTS, PROCESSES, PERFORMANCE
- S17** THE DOCUMENTS OF SECURITY
- S18** DISCOURSE ANALYTICAL APPROACHES TO FOREIGN POLICY ANALYSIS
- S19** ISLAM AS THE NEW NORMAL IN THE STUDY OF THE 'INTERNATIONAL'
- S20** RE-IMAGINING THE INTERNATIONAL: NORMS, ONTOLOGICAL SECURITY AND THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION
- S21** GOVERNING GLOBAL ECONOMY IN THE UNCERTAIN TIMES
- S22** YOUTH IN GLOBAL POLITICS: GOVERNANCE, REPRESENTATION, TRANSFORMATIONS
- S23** NEW INTELLIGENCE STUDIES
- S24** ONLINE SECTION





Are we doomed?  
Rethinking War and Peace  
in World Politics

# 10<sup>th</sup> European Workshops in International Studies

Amsterdam, Netherlands, 12–14 July 2023

The 10<sup>th</sup> European Workshops in International Studies took place at the University of Amsterdam. EWIS 2023 was co-organized with Amsterdam Centre for European Studies (ACES).

**611**  
Participants

**39**  
Workshops

**781**  
Abstracts

**6,000 €**  
Mobility grants  
for 20 participants

**2,000 €**  
Amsterdam Centre  
for European Studies (ACES)  
accommodation grants  
for 4 participants



# Workshops

- WS A** 'AFTER NEOLIBERALISM' AND ON THE 'DARK SIDE'? THE STUDY OF GOVERNMENTALITY AND COUNTER-CONDUCT IN TIMES OF GROWING AUTOCRATIZATION
- WS AB** ARE WE DOOMED TO DISTRUST EACH OTHER?: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON TRUST IN INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS
- WS AC** AT WAR WITH THE TRUTH: EPISTEMIC POLITICS, CONTESTATORY PRACTICES, AND THE CO-PRODUCTION OF KNOWING AND UNKNOWING IN PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES
- WS B** BLIND SPOTS OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS: NEW DIRECTIONS IN RESEARCH
- WS C** CARE, COMPOST, CAPITALISM, AND CATS: DISSIDENT ANTHROPOCENES / DISSIDENT SCHOLARSHIP
- WS CA** CATASTROPHIC CADENCES: EXPLORING THE SEQUENTIAL DYNAMICS OF DISASTERS THROUGH THE PRISM OF THE RHYTHM
- WS CB** CHANGING FABRICS: WORKING WITH ARTISTS IN ANALYZING WORLD EVENTS
- WS CC** CONTESTING GLOBAL SITES OF POWER AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE 'CRITICAL' WHEN STUDYING 'TERRORISM' IN THE MODERN-COLONIAL WORLD?
- WS CD** CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE EUROPEAN UNION'S ROLE AS A GLOBAL ACTOR
- WS D** DEMOCRACY SUPPORT STRATEGIES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION'S NEIGHBOURHOOD
- WS DA** DEMOCRATIC AND AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES UNDER STRAIN: THE IMPACT OF CRISES AND CONFLICTS ON POLITICAL CHANGE
- WS E** EXISTENTIAL THREATS, FOREIGN INTERFERENCE AND COGNITIVE RESILIENCE IN TIMES OF WAR: THE CASE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
- WS EA** EXISTENTIALIST EXPLORATIONS IN IR
- WS F** FOREIGN POLICY NARRATIVES AND NARRATIVE ANALYSIS
- WS FA** FORMS OF WRITING – FORMS OF KNOWLEDGE
- WS G** GLOBAL CRISIS GOVERNANCE IN TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY
- WS GA** GLOBAL ENTANGLEMENTS OF THE NEOLIBERAL SECURITY STATE
- WS GB** GROWTH INFRASTRUCTURES: THE MATERIALISATION OF DOOM?
- WS H** IR, DIALECTIC AND THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN CONFLICT AND COOPERATION
- WS I** LESSONS FROM RUSSIA'S WAR ON UKRAINE
- WS J** LIFE IN A PERMANENT STATE OF CRISIS: INTERPRETING OUR WORLD THROUGH THE CRISIS MANAGEMENT LENS
- WS K** MAKING SECURITY PUBLIC: SCANDALS, CONTROVERSIES, STRUGGLES
- WS L** MIGRATION CONTROL AND ITS (UN)INTENDED CONSEQUENCES: THE COMPLEXITIES OF AND RESISTANCE TO BORDER REGIMES

- WS M** MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE AND INTERAGENCY COOPERATION EXPERIENCES TO BUILD AN INTEGRATE SECURITY
- WS N** NEW CONFLICTS ON THE HORIZON? THE GEOECONOMIC TURN IN GLOBAL TRADE, INVESTMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY
- WS O** ONTOLOGICAL (IN)SECURITY IN EUROPE: ANXIOUS COMMUNITY OR GROWING THROUGH CRISIS?
- WS P** POLITICS OF SOCIAL IMAGINARIES IN WORLD POLITICS
- WS Q** POSTCOLONIAL HIERARCHIES IN WORLD POLITICS – A RESEARCH AGENDA
- WS R** RACE, MIGRATION AND TRAJECTORIES OF KNOWLEDGE: GOVERNANCE AND PRACTICES OF SECURITISATION
- WS RA** REIMAGINING PEACE AND CONFLICT: YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE PRODUCTION OF WORLD POLITICS
- WS RB** RESPONSIBLE STATECRAFT IN POST-LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY
- WS RC** (RE)THEORISING TOURISTIC GOVERNANCE: SECURITY, ECONOMY AND COLONIALITY
- WS RD** RETHINKING SPECULATIVE SECURITY: THE POLITICS OF ANTICIPATION IN AN AGE OF UNCERTAINTY
- WS S** SECURITY RAMIFICATIONS OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS
- WS T** SOCIAL MEDIA AND EVERYDAY INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: DIGITAL NARRATIVES OF SECURITY, IDENTITY, AND GLOBAL ORDERS
- WS U** SYSTEMIC TRANSFORMATION AND NATIONAL ROLE CONTESTATION: THE DOMESTIC POLITICS OF DECONSTRUCTING AND REDEFINING THE 'WEST'
- WS V** TECHNOLOGIES OF ARMED VIOLENCE AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF GLOBAL ORDER
- WS W** THE CHANGING MODES AND FRAMES OF CONTEMPORARY COUNTER-TERRORISM: POLICIES, PRACTICES AND INSTITUTIONS OF PREVENTION
- WS X** UTOPIA AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: PROSPECTS AND PROBLEMS
- WS Y** WOMEN, PEACE AND (PRIVATE) SECURITY: ACCOUNTING FOR CORPORATE ACTORS IN THE PERPETRATION AND MITIGATION OF GENDERED VIOLENCE
- WS Z** WORLD POLITICS AND UNITED NATIONS PEACE MISSIONS



# Exploratory Symposia 2023



- Gender, Natural Resources, and Peace
- How is regional governance made outside the EU? Policymaking and implementation in regional organizations across the global South
- Impact Craters: Towards a Political History and Reflexive Practice of Knowledge Exchange and Policy Relevance
- Non-western narratives of international relations: the Mobilizing Narrative of Turkey
- Digital International Relations. World politics in an age of synthetic media



# 10<sup>th</sup> Rapallo Exploratory Symposia

Rapallo, Italy, 5–8 November 2023

**The EISA Exploratory Symposia offers an excellent opportunity to meet in groups to pursue collaborative work. The Symposia are an excellent occasion both for newly established groups that would like to meet at an early stage of a research project to progress it, and for already established research groups that would like to meet to work out how to further their research agenda.**

On 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023, the 10<sup>th</sup> Exploratory Symposia for EISA members were held in the town of Rapallo on the Portofino Coast in Italy. Five panels were held in parallel with five participants each, involving in total 25 participants. The Symposia opened with a welcome dinner in the evening of the first day.

# 25

Participants

# 5

Symposia



# 22<sup>nd</sup> Olympia Summer Academy

Athens, Greece, 11–14 July 2023

**EISA co-organised the Olympia Summer Academy in Politics and International Studies with the Navarino Network, Greece. The Olympia Summer Academy (OSA) was established in 2002 with the dual purpose of creating a forum of high quality academic work and a platform for the creation and consolidation of scholarly networks of cooperation.**

*2023 marked the 22<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year of the Olympia Summer Academy, which consistently succeeds in offering a competitive, academically intensive, summer program. This year's Olympia Summer Academy ran three parallel course-cycles:*

**1.**  
Global Discord  
and Cooperation

**2.**  
Terrorism and  
Counterterrorism

**3.**  
The Rise of China:  
Domestic and Global  
Perspectives



# 5

## Career Development

### Early Career Development

**As a professional association, the EISA aims to provide its members with opportunities for career development and engagement with other colleagues. While the main vehicles for that aim are the events and conferences organized by the association, with emphasis on the Pan-European Conference on International Relations (PEC) and the European Workshops on International Studies (EWIS), other activities in-between conferences are also provided to members as a means to create a dynamic, inclusive and living network of scholars in the field of International Studies and related disciplines, to boost their careers and push the boundaries of research and innovation through exchange and collaboration.**

The EISA is mindful of the specific challenges faced by early career scholars, either during their PhDs or in the first years after the award of the degree. These professionals are usually faced with high(er) levels of work precarity, lack of funding and scarce job positions, while still needing to comply with the overall competitive environment of academia that affects scholars in all career levels, pushing them to publish more and faster, attract funding for their own research, teaching and supervising, as well as taking over administrative tasks. The transition to the labor market entails the existence of opportunities for CV building and career development which sometimes cannot be met without a support network. For this reason, the EISA's contribution to its members who are early career researchers includes not only specific events, grants and awards ([Early Career Researchers Workshop](#), [Best Dissertation Award](#), [Best Graduate Paper Award](#), [Postdoctoral Bridge Grants](#), [Dissertation Fieldwork Support Grant](#), [online events and activities](#), the [Mobility Fund](#) available for all members to attend EISA conferences), and a dedicated portfolio in the Governing Board structure, but also counts on a peer-to-peer group created to provide specific opportunities for early career development to EISA members.



# ECD Group



## The EISA's Early Career Development Group

### What is the ECD group?

**The Early Career Development (ECD) group was established as part of the overall professional development support and activities that the European International Studies Association provides to its members. Its aim is to build a network of early career scholars in International Studies and related disciplines, to create clustering opportunities and collaborative projects, and promote leadership within early career researchers. The ECD group is comprised of up to seven members who are selected for a two years mandate based on a call for new members plus the EISA board member who holds the portfolio of Early Career Development.**

### Organization

ECD group members benefit from their involvement in the group by building up networks, visibility and organizational experience. The group convenes at least once a month via an online platform to plan activities and discuss group progress. It convenes at least once a year physically, normally at the EISA-PEC.

### Activities

The group is the core structure of the early career researchers network at the EISA. Its activities comprise the establishment of an online and an offline community and a dynamic and living space for early career researchers to meet, promote their work, share experiences and develop professional activities and opportunities alongside more senior colleagues. The group also organizes events, meetings and activities where thematic discussions and learning can take place, on topics that are of particular relevance to early career scholars – at PEC, EWIS, and beyond.



## Activity Report 2023

### Membership and Governance

In 2023, five new members were recruited from a highly responsive open call for participants. The selection committee was composed by two members of the ECD Group, Samarjit Ghosh and Neslihan Dikmen Alsancak, plus the Board Member who holds the ECD portfolio, Joana Ricarte. Selection criteria included institutional, geographic and gender diversity, as well as differing career levels which were considered representative of the overall universe of early career scholars at EISA. We are happy to welcome the new members:

**António Leitão** (University of Coimbra)

**Itsasne Allende Sopelana** (University of the Basque Country)

**Justinas Lingevičius** (Vilnius University)

**Tasniem Anwar** (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

**Leonie Felicitas Jegen** (University of Amsterdam)

The renewed composition of the ECD group is organized into three portfolios, mirroring the Governing Board's structure. These are communications, social media & online and offline events.

### The following members discontinued their membership in 2023

We are thankful to Gregory Stiles, Nina Perkowski, Erna Burai, Flavia Lucenti and Beatriz Buarque for their contributions to the ECD Group.

## ECD during 16<sup>th</sup> Pan-European Conference in International Relations

### Welcome Reception by the ECD Group

6 September 2023

The reception was particularly designed for early career scholars, and provided an opportunity for them to get to know and engage with one another, and meet members of the EISA Governing Board

### ECD1 Panel: Early Career Development (ECD) Group – IR Café on Research Methods in Critical IR

7 September 2023

The IR Café is set up as casual conversations between leading scholars and all interested participants (with an emphasis on early career participation) – people join different tables and chat in an informal setting. Attendees are invited to hop around the tables, explore different research methods they use in their projects – including (but not limited to) political ethnography, archival research, historical narratives, materiality, infrastructure studies, and political design; explore what related methods mean for different people, learn from each other's perspectives.



## Moving forward

### Next steps for the ECD group ...

The ECD Group is working towards developing a more stable and sustainable structure that is plural, encompassing and can act as a living network of early career scholars who are members of the EISA.

The group will continue investing the organization of two ECD panels that have been very successful during the Pan-European Conferences, namely the IR Café on Research Methods and the Meet the Publishers event. Additionally, we will introduce two new panels that will become part of the group's activities during the main conference: the ECD Hub – this year presented as the ECD Hub L(a)unch – and the Projects Lab. The former is intended to become a permanent participatory forum of EISA early career members in which the group will present its activities, opportunities for engagement throughout the year and gather feedback and suggestions from the extended community during a lunch offered by the association (first-come-first-served basis). The latter will constitute a living lab with online meetings throughout the year and an in-person encounter during the Pan-European Conferences aiming to provide its members with information on bidding for collaborative funding, opportunities for meaningful engagement and creating transnational research networks/groups within the Association in what will become an ongoing activity/space. While priority will be given to empowering early career scholars to develop research independence, autonomy and assume leadership positions, all EISA members are welcome to attend.

## Early Career Workshops

Early Career Researchers Workshops (ECW) are an annual event taking place in the first day of the EISA [Pan-European Conferences](#). ECWs are one-day funded workshops organised by and for doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers who finished their PhD less than three years prior to the application deadline. Eight to twelve participants use the workshop to present and discuss their work. Early career workshops offer a collegial, supportive and safe environment for PhD candidates and Early career scholars to present their work and test their ideas and research findings. The EISA supports each selected workshop with a budget of 4,000 EUR.

**The selected workshops for 2023 were:**

### THE SECOND COLD WAR: US–China rivalry for global network hegemony

**Organised by:**

Elisa Gambino (University of Manchester),  
Philip Nock (University of Bonn),  
Alice Politi (King's College London)

### RESHAPING PERCEPTIONS: Human-Nonhuman Systems in Security Contexts

**Organised by:**

Klaudia Klonowska (Asser Institute/University of Amsterdam),  
Sofie van der Maarel (Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands  
& Netherlands Defense Academy)

### The Politics of Green Extractivism in the Global Energy Transition

**Organised by:**

Tobias Kalt (University of Hamburg, Germany),  
Lauren Hermanus (University of Cape Town, South Africa)





# Awards



## Best Doctoral Dissertation Award 2023

**The Best Doctoral Dissertation Award recognises 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 2023 is

**Dr Henry Maher**  
(University of Sydney)

for "Abandoning the Free Market to Save the Free Market: A Discursive Analysis of Neoliberalism in the Global Financial Crisis or Why Won't Neoliberalism Die".

#### **Abstract:**

Despite repeated predictions of its demise in the previous decades, neoliberalism continues to dominate our understandings of economic and political reality. Focusing on the most dramatic crisis of neoliberalism, the Global Financial Crisis of 2008, this thesis uses the tools of Lacanian discourse analysis to explain the ongoing dominance of neoliberalism in spite of its repeated failures. Conceptualising neoliberalism as a dominant discourse, I argue that neoliberal dominance should be located both in its affective potency as discourse, and in the pervasiveness of neoliberal ontological presumptions, which predominate even in accounts that attempt to critique neoliberalism. Part I consists of a history of neoliberal thought, utilising concepts from Lacanian theory to understand the appeal of the neoliberal discourse. I theorise the free market as the master signifier of neoliberal ideology, and using Lacan's theory of the four discourses, highlight the synergies between the 'master' and 'university' accounts of neoliberalism. Part II examines the moment of discursive rupture that emerged with the GFC, utilising a corpus comprised of newspaper articles, world leaders' speeches, thinktank output and G20 documents. Though neoliberalism was challenged during the onset of the crisis, I suggest that critical accounts were largely constructed according to the logic of the hysteric's discourse, implicitly accepting the validity of neoliberal categories of analysis – most notably, the state/market binary – thereby terminally constraining their ability to offer an alternative. Conversely, by drawing on the 'master' and

'university' logics, neoliberal accounts were able to reshape the 'facts' of the crisis to fit the fantasy of free market infallibility, and therefore demand the intensification of free market policies. In concluding, I use Lacan's discourse of the analyst to consider future possibilities for thinking beyond the neoliberal horizon.

### Committee's note:

"Henry Maher addresses a field defining question, namely why is it that, in face of what appears as its blatant failures, neoliberalism seems to grow stronger and deepen its grips on global politics? By weaving discourse theory, Lacanian scheme of thought and the history of neoliberalism, Henry Maher's thesis provides a renewed and original account of neoliberalism's ability to exert an enduring 'epistemic capture' on the ways societies across the world understand neoliberalism's crises, and the responses they deem legitimate. Both the wealth of data assembled and the detailed analysis of the 2008 global financial crisis, which serves as a foil against which reactions to other crises can better be assessed, stand as clear evidence of Maher's intellectual sophistication".

### The Committee also awarded an honorable mention to

**Richard Georgi (University of Gothenburg)**

for Political Imaginaries amidst a Peace Deferred.

The Politics of Human Rights Activism in the Colombian Peace Process'



# Best Article in The European Journal of International Relations 2023

**The prize recognises 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 EJIR in 2023 is

**Prof Jonathan White**  
(London School of Economics and Political Science)

for "The De-institutionalisation of Power beyond the State".

**Stefan Elbe**  
(University of Sussex)

for Bioinformational Diplomacy: Global Health Emergencies, Data Sharing and Sequential Life'.

### Abstract:

The making of modern authority centred on efforts to formalise and de-personalise power, and transnational orders such as the European Union have often been viewed as an extension of that project. As this article argues, recent developments tell a different story. More than a decade of crisis politics has seen institutions subordinated to and reshaped by individuals and the networks they form. Locating these tendencies in a wider historical context, the article argues that greater attention to informality in transnational governance needs to be paired with greater recognition of the normative questions it raises. Just as a separation between rulers and the offices of rule was central to the making of modern legal and political structures, the weakening of that separation creates legitimacy problems for contemporary authorities both national and supranational. Rather than acclaimed as flexible problem-solving, the step back from institutions should be viewed as a challenge to accountable rule.

## Committee's note:

"The prize committee found that the article presents a path-breaking argument about the normative costs of informality in world politics. It renews our understanding of how and why power was institutionalized and what happens when it is de-institutionalized. The article shows clearly how informality erodes power's accountability and what this means for governance in general and for sovereignty, in particular".

# Best Graduate Paper 2023



**The Best Graduate Paper Award recognises and supports the contribution of PhD students to the development of the field of International Relations. The paper awarded with this prize must be an original contribution to existing debates in the field and offer a careful, convincing and rigorous analysis. The recipient will be chosen from the contributions of graduate students to the annual EWIS workshops.**

## The recipient of EWIS 2023 Best Graduate Student Paper is

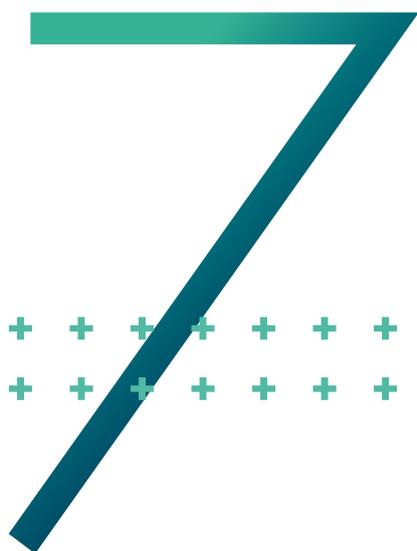
**Uygar Başpehlivan**  
for "Cucktales: Race, Sex, and Enjoyment in The Reactionary Memescape".

## Committee's note:

Uygar Başpehlivan critically explores the inherently gendered and racialized images/imaginaries that nowadays prevail and flourish on social media platforms. The politics of internet memes direct our attention to the political spaces that are re-shaped on social media. The author persuasively illustrates how cucktale memes are contributing to a global public space that enhances reactionary sensibilities. Theoretically and empirically excellently developed, the paper critically unpacks the complex relation between race, desire, and masculinity. By 'looking at the everyday micro-production and circulation of reactionary tendencies and subjectivities', the author nicely shows how discursive and affective power unfolds online.

### Abstract:

This chapter is part of my doctoral thesis: "Meme-ing Global Politics: Capital, Race, and The State" which broadly analyses and navigates the multi-dimensional, open-ended, and complicated politics of internet memes as novel communicative and mediatic phenomena. Very briefly, my research starts from the assumption and the claim that the everyday politics of internet memes in political research so far have largely been analysed from a particularly individualistic perspective, in which memes are mostly read either as singular aesthetic products that convey a particular message, or as supportive players in individual events such as elections and/or social movements such as the Occupy Wall Street movement. I argue that the reading of internet memes should move on from such individualistic readings towards a spatial understanding in which we understand memes as comprising and opening a space of political relation -which I conceptualise as the memescape- through which a variety of political subjects, aesthetic objects, discourses, affects, and technological infrastructures relate, come together, and transform in a site of playful digital interactivity. I argue that this spatial relation has several features that offer particular political possibilities. Firstly, the memescape distributes and circulates discourses and affects through largely "rhizomatic" relations where aesthetic artefacts propagate and mutate in a horizontal, decentralised, and ahierarchical manner and in continuous variation. Secondly, the memescape's predominant mode of expression and interaction is of play, non-seriousness, and humour where once-stable and reliable signs of truth and meaning become open to creative, subversive, and transgressive intervention. Finally, the memescape produces a site of affective relationality where a multiplicity of political subjects affectively "move" and are "moved" by immediately accessible, enjoyable, and, silly digital products. These spatial features which I argue produces a "smooth space" (Deleuze and Guattari, 2013) of possibility against the "striated (hierarchical and central) space" (ibid, 2013) of the international produces various political relations. My research divides them up into four: resistance, reaction, capture, and excess. The chapter below focuses on the question of reaction and analyses how racist and misogynistic politics of the reactionary memescape emerge through the particular memetic expression of "the cuck".



# Publications



## European Journal on International Relations (EJIR)

### EJIR Editorial Team

#### Editor-in-Chief

Oliver Kessler  
University of Erfurt, Germany

#### Associate Editors

Sophia Hoffmann  
University of Erfurt, Germany  
Zeynep Gülşah Çapan  
University of Erfurt, Germany  
Jorg Kustermans  
University of Antwerp, Belgium  
Halvard Leira  
Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Norway

**2023 was the first full volume of EJIR (#29) published under the editorial team at Erfurt, Germany led by Oliver Kessler. The team has refined and embedded their editorial processes to manage the high volume of submissions the journal receives each year (over 500 submissions in 2023).**

The rates for acceptance, revision and rejection remain consistent with previous years, but the overall turnaround time for submissions decreased in 2023. The editorial team continues to work to ensure gender balance and a diverse geographical spread of submitting authors. While the Impact Factors have not yet been released for 2023, the editorial team works closely with the publisher Sage to ensure that EJIR outputs have maximum impact and engagement. The editorial team initiated and supported a number of ‘Meet the Editor’ sessions at major IR conferences (e.g. EISA, ECPR, ISA), as well as many online opportunities to engage prospective scholars and demystify the editorial process for PhD students and ECRs. The journal has an active online presence across all major social media networks and has substantially increased their following this past year to 1,300. EJIR continues to be supported by the Joint Management Committee of the EISA and the ECPR’s Standing Group in IR.

### EJIR Publications Data for 2023

**22** (out of 165)

ranking  
in International  
Relations

**87<sup>th</sup>**

percentile  
for all journals  
in International  
Relations

**510**

total manuscript  
submissions

**9%**

acceptance rate

**34%**

submitting authors  
are female /  
non-binary

# 'The SAGE Collection': online access to IR journals for EISA members

**Working closely with Sage, we have arranged for EISA members to have access, via membership portal,, to additional journals in International Relations. Our new 'SAGE Collection' includes:**

- European Journal of International Relations
- Cooperation and Conflict, International Relations
- International Relations
- European Journal of Political Theory
- International Area Studies Review
- India Quarterly: A Journal of International Affairs

## EISA-OUP Book Series Voices in International Relations



**Our new EISA-OUP book series Voices in International Relations was officially launched at the EISA-PEC 2023 in Potsdam with a reception and Meet the Editor event. Since the launch we have had a number of excellent manuscript submissions from across the discipline and beyond. The series editors work closely with each submitting author, providing feedback and engagement to help manuscripts reach the right audience. We are excited that our first Voices in International Relations books will be published by OUP this year, and we are looking forward to reading more proposals when they come in. More information about the series can be found here, which includes a link to the submission portal.**

### The Series Editors are:

Debbie Lisle  
(E-i-C, Queen's University Belfast)  
Tanja Aalberts (VU Amsterdam)  
Anna Leander (Graduate Institute Geneva/PUC Rio)  
Laura Sjoberg (Royal Holloway University London)

### The Advisory Board Members are:

Tarak Barkawi  
(Johns Hopkins University)  
Noe Cornago  
(University of the Basque Country)  
Scarlett Cornelissen  
(Stellenbosch University)  
Thomas Diez (University of Tübingen)  
Naeem Inayatullah (Ithaca College)  
Beate Jahn (University of Sussex)  
Caroline Moulin  
(UF Minas Gerais, Brazil)  
Cemal Burak Tansel  
(University of Newcastle).

In continuing to promote the new series, we have organized a number of 'Meet-The-Editor' sessions (including both EWIS 2024 and PEC 2024) and outreach to early career scholars and scholars in the Global South. We are working with OUP to promote the series in the wider IR Community, including at the annual ISA conference. Every year we work closely with the winner of the EISA best dissertation prize to get their manuscript into review at OUP. Look out for the series editors at future EISA events!





# Communications & Social Media



## X, Bluesky, Facebook & Youtube

The EISA Board continues to strengthen and develop effective channels of communication with our membership. EISA uses X, Bluesky, and Facebook to regularly share updates and reminders with our members and the wider community.

|                               |  |                       |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 8,212                         | 416  | 4,360                 |
| X (@EuropeanISA)<br>Followers | Bluesky<br>(since October 2023)<br>Followers | Facebook<br>Followers |

## Newsletter

The EISA Governing Board sends a bi-monthly newsletter to our members to communicate more detail about the association's current activities, such as events' updates, deadlines and open calls, special panels and nominations, funding opportunities and other association news.

MailChimp data indicates that approximately 58.6% of our members open and read the newsletter when they receive it in their inboxes. The newsletter and other emails sent to our members are in accordance with the information published on our website.

5,812  
subscribers  
(total subscribers)

8.158  
downloads & streams

26  
episodes



## Voices: The EISA Podcast

**Voices, the space for cutting-edge research in the discipline of International Relations is the audible companion to EISA. This podcast sets the stage for deeper insights into award-winning papers, books and theses, as much as it provides a room for the critical engagement with key concepts in political and sociological thought. Voices: The EISA Podcast traces how these concepts have been taken up in the discipline of IR. It interrogates their emergence, their gendered and racialized omissions, and their relevance to current debates and analyses. Through our erudite interview guests, a wide range of critical reading, and reflections on our everyday experiences, Voices: The EISA Podcast helps to think through core IR concepts.**

Since launching **Voices: The EISA Podcast** in November 2021 we recorded and released 26 podcast episodes.

We had 8.158 downloads & streams during that period.

In 2023 (1 January until 31 December 2023), the podcast had 3.425 downloads & streams.

In the past 30 days we had 311 downloads and streams.

The podcast had 268 unique listeners and 232 subscribers since its launch in November 2021.

The podcast features two types of episodes: 'In Conversation with ...' features the winners of our Best EJIR Article, Best Graduate Paper and Best Dissertation awards. In this category, we so far interviewed Deepak Nair, Ida Danewid, Kerry Goettlich, Xymena Kurowska and Anatoly Reshetnikov, Stefan Elbe, Uygur Baspehlivan and Jonathan White. The other 18 episodes cover key issues, concepts, theories and approaches in the study of international relations and featured Beate Jahn (liberalism), Bahar Rumelili (ontological security), Ingvild Bode (practice theory), Stefano Guzzini (realism, geopolitical theory), Sankaran Krishna (postcolonialism), Lindsay Black (area studies), Maïa Pal (political marxism), Justin Rosenberg (uneven and combined development), Patricia Owens (women's international thought), Maria Mälksoo (memory studies), Meera Sabaratnam (decolonising knowledge), Evgeny Roshchin (international friendship), Claudia Aradau (technology), Debbie Lisle (the Voices book series), Toni Haastруп, Joel Quirk and Lewis Turner (academic freedom), Jo Bluen (genocide), Olga Burlyuk and Ladan Rahbari (migrant academic precarity). Upcoming episodes are planned with Felipe de Oliveira on dependency theory, and a roundtable episode on paternalism. Our podcasts are normally hosted by a member of the EISA Board and are produced by Judith Koch. The aim is to release a new episode on the second Friday of every month. Episodes can be accessed and listened to on six platforms, including via the [EISA website](#), and we invite members to get in touch with feedback, suggestions and comments.

At the time of writing this report, **Voices: The EISA Podcast** had 7,876 downloads & streams since its launch in November 2021, which is an increase by the factor 6.1. In April 2024 the podcast had 302 listeners and 229 subscribers.



# Mobility and Inclusion

**Making our events more inclusive has been a key priority for the EISA. To that effect, the EISA Mobility Fund is designed to provide financial support for PEC and EWIS participants. The Fund aims to make EISA events accessible to our academic community, and supports 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. With new initiatives and partnerships this year, we have been able to further expand on our financial support.**



## Mobility Fund

For EWIS 2023 we offered 20 Mobility Funds of € 300 each.  
For PEC 2023 we offered 50 Mobility Funds of € 300 each (41 received the fund).  
The Governing Board has updated its funding guidelines for the 2023–2024 academic year, and will be increasing the grant amount from 2024 onwards.

## EISA x RIPE Mobility Grants for Early Career IPE Scholars

In addition to our in-house mobility grants, 10 colleagues were offered grants (7 received the fund) for €300 each through generous support from the journal Review of International Political Economy (RIPE). The EISA x RIPE grants are designed to support Early Career IPE scholars attending a PEC event.

## Postdoctoral Bridge Grants

EISA awarded 4 Postdoctoral Bridge Grants of €3,000 each in 2023. Postdoctoral Bridge Grants is a new funding initiative by EISA to support recently graduated or final-year PhD students who have not yet secured an academic contract or fellowship. These grants are designed to help bridge the gap between a doctorate and a postdoctoral funded/salaried position. The scheme is particularly aimed at those who require additional time and funds to finalise potential publications or incubate postdoctoral funding proposals in conjunction with the completion of their doctoral projects. The next round of the scheme will be launched in late 2023. List of recipients and disclosure on how they utilise the funding to work on their objectives can be found [HERE](#).



# ACES

## Accommodation grants

Thanks to a generous donation from the Amsterdam Centre for European Studies (ACES), EISA was able to offer 4 special grants to colleagues located in the global South. Grants covered full accommodation costs during participation at EWIS 2023 in Amsterdam.

# Block Grants for PEC

## Early Career Researchers Workshops (ECWs)

Early Career Researchers Workshops (ECW) are one-day workshops linked to the annual EISA Pan-European Conference. EISA provides funding for up to three ECWs each year. Financial support covers up to €4,000 for each workshop. Funding can be used for additional accommodation costs of workshop participants. Workshop convenors may also claim travel support.

# EISA support to members in Syria and Turkey

EISA committed its support to our colleagues who suffered from the tragic earthquake in Syria and Turkey. Soon after the earthquake, we announced a 1 year membership fee waiver to all existing and new members based in Syria and Turkey. In addition, applications for mobility grants from scholars affected by the earthquakes were prioritized.



## Further Plans

In 2023, excluding fee waivers and contributions from RIPE and ACES, we have made available €48,000 to our financial support budget. This demonstrates the seriousness with which EISA is committed to inclusion and diversity. For 2024, taking into account the inflationary pressures on colleagues, the EISA Governing Board has decided to raise the amount of each mobility grant from €300 to €400, further raising the overall Mobility Fund Budget by another 30%.



*“We unequivocally condemn any attacks on our colleagues and students grappling with immense distress, fear, and grief in these tough times.”*

# Academic Freedom

**The EISA is a leading academic organisation for the study of International Relations and Global Politics. We are committed to protecting the academic freedom of our members and constituencies in order to foster an ethical space for research and teaching and to stand in solidarity with members of our community who are targeted or made vulnerable in their work.**

## EISA Governing Board Statement on attacks on higher education and academic freedom in Palestine:

The European International Studies Association is committed to upholding academic freedom including the ability of academics to work and students to learn in safety. The EISA therefore condemns in the strongest possible terms the destruction of the Islamic University of Gaza and Al-Azhar University in Gaza. The total destruction of both universities means the elimination of university education in Gaza, and the loss of our colleagues’ workplaces. Furthermore, the physical demolition of the universities’ infrastructure is an attack on knowledge,

its collection, production, and dissemination that erases the past and reverberates into the future. This takes place alongside recent intensification of long-standing curtailment of mobility and closures in the Occupied West Bank that result in severe restrictions in accessing university education.

The EISA expresses solidarity with all affected colleagues and students.

At the same time EISA expresses concern at the rising antisemitism, Islamophobia, discrimination and political polarisation which impact our scholarly community, silencing discussions, and fostering feelings of insecurity. The EISA condemns in the strongest possible terms all forms of racism, discrimination and dehumanisation and affirms its commitment to the human rights and safety of all. We unequivocally condemn any attacks on our colleagues and students grappling with immense distress, fear, and grief in these tough times. We stand united in offering them support, understanding, and solidarity.

+ + + + + + + + + +  
+ + + + + + + + + +

+ + + + +  
+ + + + +  
+ + + + +  
+ + + + +  
+ + + + +  
+ + + + +  
+ + + + +  
+ + + + +



*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.*