

Call for Papers
Empty promises of protection: intersectional and decolonial conversations on protection
European Workshops in International Studies
Jagiellonian University in Krakow, 2-4 July, 2025

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Interlocking global crises have made it clear that discourses and practices of protection are selectively applied, and colonial logics of gender, race, sexuality and religion afford protection in violent and hierarchical ways. We are curious to explore what happens ‘in-between’ moments where protection practices and discourses fail in their possibilities for transforming protecting beyond imperial and patriarchal regimes.

Feminist and decolonial approaches to protection within and beyond the confines of the discipline of International Relations have long been interested in practices and discourses of the liminal, hybrid and ambiguous. In the context of widespread impunity for mass atrocity crimes, including genocide and the selective granting of refugee and human rights protections, this workshop will explore the violent ambiguity of protection. This connects well to the EWIS 2025 theme, *Hybrid, liminal, ambiguous? International politics ‘in-between’*.

This workshop aims to resurface critical conversations around protection at this violent moment of disjuncture and ask, ‘Where to from here?’ Do we do away with protection altogether, or are there aspects of protection that can be reimagined by centring anti-racist, decolonial and feminist approaches? We invite scholars from all disciplines and methodological approaches to submit papers. We welcome papers that address decolonial, queer and/or feminist approaches to the following themes:

- The weaponization of protection
- Protection as an empty, white, hetero-patriarchal liberal promise
- Tensions, relationships, and/or common ground between critical approaches to protection
- How to reimagine and practice protection in ways that resist its raced, heteropatriarchal liberal promise?

Please submit your abstracts via the EWIS electronic submission system and send a copy to the workshop convenors (Lucy Hall and Jasmine-Kim Westendorf) by 11 February 2025.

We encourage our participants—especially doctoral researchers, ECRs, and precarious academics — to apply for funding provided by the EISA Mobility Fund. For more information on EWIS 2025, please refer to their website.