

Coercive Statecraft Symposium

19-20 October 2023

Sala Triaria - Villa Schifanoia, Via Boccaccio 121 - Florence

organised by the European Initiative for Security Studies

Introduction

The European Initiative for Security Studies has established a multiannual and multidisciplinary Programme titled *War, Coercion and Statecraft: The Threat and Use of Force in International Politics*. The Programme provides a unique venue to establish a vibrant network of scholars and experts at a time when cross-disciplinary and cross-domain research into coercion is increasingly called for. The goal is to further develop scholarly understanding of coercive statecraft through rigorous conceptual and empirical investigation and reinvigorate academic scholarship through publications in academic journals.

Each year a Symposium will be held in a different European city. The Symposium will bring together a select group of appr. 20 key coercive statecraft academics including political scientists, strategic studies scholars, political economists, and historians to systematically investigate the ways in which states leverage the use of force – and the threat thereof – as a tool of statecraft, across both military and non-military domains. This year's Symposium will take place at the premises of the European University Institute in Florence, Italy on Thursday 19 and Friday 20 October, 2023.

Programme

19 October

- 14.00 - 14.15 Welcome remarks
- 14.15 - 14.30 Presentation programme: rationale, central questions, main objectives
- 14.30 - 14.45 *Tour de table*: introductory round

Roundtable 1: Defining coercive statecraft

- 14.45 - 17.30 Chair: **Tim Sweijs** | The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies / War Studies Research Centre

Introductory remarks by:

Peter Viggo Jakobsen | University of Southern Denmark
Dima Adamsky | Reichman University
Kelly Greenhill | Tufts University
Beatrice Heuser | University of Glasgow



Leading questions:

- Conceptual boundaries: what are coercive statecraft, coercive diplomacy and coercion?
- What are the differences and similarities between peacetime and wartime coercive statecraft?
- What are the differences and similarities between overt and covert coercive statecraft?
- How useful is Alexander George's conceptual framework to evaluate coercive statecraft in the 21st century? How can it be improved?

19.30 Dinner

20 October

09.00 - 09.30 Welcome coffee

Roundtable 2: The effects of coercive statecraft

09.30 - 12.15 Chair: **Hugo Meijer** | Sciences Po

Introductory remarks by:

Melanie Sisson | Brookings Institution

Elena McLean | University of Buffalo

Austin Carson | University of Chicago

Kristin Ven Bruusgaard | Norwegian Intelligence School

Leading questions:

- How can the effects of coercive statecraft be meaningfully measured? What are key methodological challenges and how can they be overcome?
- Under which conditions is the target likely to be coerced (e.g.. contextual variables, target characteristics)?
- How does the effectiveness of coercive statecraft vary across different instruments of coercion?
- How do timing/sequencing and combinatorial packages affect/influence the effectiveness of coercion?

12.15 - 13.15 Lunch break

Roundtable 3: When and why do leaders resort to coercive statecraft?

13.15 - 16.00 Chair: **Eliza Gheorghe** | Bilkent University

Introductory remarks by:

Roseanne McManus | Penn State University

Dan Altman | Georgia State University

Adam Stulberg | Georgia Institute of Technology

Andrew Mumford | University of Nottingham

Leading questions:

- Under what conditions do leaders rely on the threat of force rather than the actual use of force to attain their political objectives?
- Are there specific factors (e.g., nature of the objectives) that affect the choice for particular coercive strategies?
- Are there particular configurations of the international system (e.g., polarity, hierarchy) that affect the choice for particular coercive strategies?
- Are there specific state-level attributes (e.g. regime type) that affect the choice for particular coercive strategies?
- Are there specific individual-level characteristics that affect the choice for particular coercive strategies?
- If credibility of coercive threats is a key factor in getting the target to comply, how do leaders assess credibility, and what strategies do they use to increase credibility?

16.00 - 16.30	Coffee break
16.30 - 17.00	Synthesis and wrap up
17.00 - 18.00	Farewell drinks