

Call for Panels & Papers

2024 Annual Conference

The European Initiative for Security Studies

**And the *European Security Studies Best Paper Prize* for PhD Students
and Early Career Academics**

27-28 June 2024

Charles University, Prague

Contact: contact@eiss-europa.com

Deadlines:

- **8 February:** deadline for sending panel proposals, poster presentation proposals, and paper proposals to the panel chairs through [our indico website](#).
- **27 February:** decision on open panels by EISS; and on papers for closed panels by chairs.
- **March:** final programme sent to participants.
- **9 June:** deadline for sending conference papers to the panel chairs to be considered for European Security Studies Best Paper Prize for PhD Students and Early Career Academics.
- **14 June:** deadline for sending the full paper to the panel chairs.

Other Key Information on the EISS Conference:

- **Registration fee:** for PhD students = €40; for anyone with a PhD = €80. Established academics are invited to contribute a higher fee - up to 250 - to support the EISS and early career scholars.¹
- **Travel/accommodation expenses:** no funding is provided by the EISS. Applicants are advised to seek funding for travel/accommodation from their home institution.
- **Organization of each panel:** 4 presentations (10 min. each); followed by 10 min. discussion between chair/discussant and panelists; followed by 40 min. Q&A with the audience.
- Each participant can make only one presentation per conference.

¹ Note that that for any withdrawal in the month before the conference, registration fees will not be reimbursed (only exceptional circumstances will be accepted as exemptions from this rule). For more information, please refer to our [Terms and Conditions](#).

- The 2024 EISS Conference Program will also feature one keynote lecture “The Evolutionary Anthropology of War” from [Professor Richard Wrangham](#) (Harvard University) and two thematic roundtables.

Call for Panels & Papers

You can either submit **proposals** for entire panels (‘open’ panels) or **paper proposals** to participate in the pre-established panels (‘closed’ panels’, see the list below (3)). All proposals should be made via our [indico site](#).

(1) Submission of Panel Proposals

Participants propose a panel title, a chair, and four speakers. The chair serves as discussant. The proposals should include: (1) an abstract of the panel summarising its academic goals and originality (300 words max); (2) the name, affiliation, and email address of the participants; (3) an abstract for each presentation (300 words max). These ‘open panels’ are meant to broaden the range of existing themes in the EISS and to provide greater latitude to the participants to contribute to the definition of the EISS programme. Therefore, please consult the list of closed panels (below) to avoid duplication. **Please send the ‘open’ panel proposals** via our [indico site](#).

Selection Criteria for Closed and Open Panels: (1) quality and originality of the panel/paper proposal; (2) multidisciplinary and/or interdisciplinary (history, political science, sociology, etc.). The panels should focus on specific themes that can be addressed from a variety of disciplines and approaches. Each panel should also include scholars from disciplines other than political science; (3) represent different European countries/regions (Western, Northern, Eastern, Central, Southern Europe), as per participants’ affiliation; (4) and allow for gender diversity.

(2) Submission of Poster Presentation Proposals

We are happy to introduce this new format specifically designed for PhD and Master students who want to either present early work or pitch preliminary paper or thesis ideas. Posters combine a visual summary of the research objectives, and, if available, findings of a paper/study with the opportunity for individualised and informal discussion of the presenter's work with the EISS community. Poster presenters will be able to present during a poster session their work via physical display (traditional poster presentations) and/or digital platforms (e-posters or pre-recorded video presentations such as, for instance, narrated PowerPoint presentations) available via QR codes to colleagues participating at the conference.

Submissions for poster sessions should include an abstract of up to 200 words. Submission requirements: A brief discussion of the research idea and objectives, the expected significance of the work for policy and practice, and a brief and preliminary discussion of theories, methods and empirics which would be used in this research project. Please submit the Poster Presentation Proposal via the [indico site](#).

(3) Submission of Paper Proposals for 'Closed' Panels

Closed panels are pre-established by the EISS and cover the following themes: Terrorism and Counter-terrorism; Military Technology; Private Actors, Armed Conflict and the State; Defence Cooperation and Military Assistance; Military Interventions; Political Economy, Technology and the Defence Industry; WMD Non-Proliferation and Arms Control; and Intelligence (see each panel's abstract below). Participants should send an abstract (300 words max) to the panel's chair (see the chairs' email addresses below). **Please submit your paper proposals to the relevant 'closed' panel** via our [indico site](#). Each panel includes four papers, and the chair serves as discussant.

Defence Cooperation and Military Assistance

Luis Simon, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

For nearly all states, various forms of defence cooperation and military assistance are central to their national security policies. This can take the form of bilateral and multilateral arrangements, or of more structured and institutional cooperation through organisations such as the African Union, the EU, NATO, or the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. In recent years, there has been a proliferation of various forms of defence cooperation or military assistance, often on a regional or sub-regional level. It can also take a variety of forms, from joint military training and exercises to operational planning, procurement, and defence-industrial research. This panel invites papers on defence cooperation and military assistance in a broad and inclusive sense, from a variety of disciplines (history, political science, sociology, etc.) and of analytical, theoretical, and empirical perspectives. Papers may cover: responses to traditional security threats (Russia's military assertiveness or China's rise, etc.), or more diffuse risks and challenges (terrorism, proliferation, human smuggling and the impact of global climate change). Papers may also cover the creation and evolution of defence institutions, cooperation arrangements whether in bi-, tri-, or 'minilateral' ways and, last but not least, the organisational and operational aspects of innovation within the context of defence cooperation.

Military Technology

Sanne Verschuren, Boston University

This panel focuses on the interplay between military technology and global security – and how scholars study it. Emerging technologies are unquestionably shaping the ways in which policy makers, military, and industry do security and defence. New developments in artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, additive manufacturing, hypersonics, quantum computing, and space technology are projected to have transformative – even disruptive – effects on strategic stability, military innovation, defence economics, and the conduct of warfare. Most new military technology is dual use and has commercial origins, widening the spectrum of threats and actors with access to technology thanks to cheaper alternatives to military-grade systems. This trend affects the relations among commercial interests (private companies), scientific thought leaders (epistemic communities), those who weaponize technology (militaries), and those who develop technology policy (political leaders). Research on designing key principles for global technology governance and standards for military applications of emerging technologies is in high demand, while the dynamics between old and new technologies on the battlefields is still poorly understood. At the same time, how we study military technology requires more methodological rigor. Responsible forecasting is yet to moderate exaggerated expectations about military technology's capabilities, inclinations to technological determinism, and strategic overkills. This panel invites submissions that theoretically and conceptually advance our understanding of how military technology changes the security environment. It encourages diversity in scientific disciplines (political science, sociology, economy, history, philosophy), theories, and methods, since the panel primarily

aims to facilitate dialogue between scholars interested in how politics and technology interact.

Private Actors, Armed Conflict, and the State

Andreas Kruck, Ludwig Maximilians University

Private actors are at the centre of politics today. A proliferation of these actors -- including mercenaries, private security companies, cartels, gangs, local militias, and rebels, among others — has been identified as the central source of the state's loss of monopoly over the use of violence and influence over its territories and communities. Throughout the world, these actors have been fulfilling political functions through the use and threat of violence and by cultivating complex and overlapping relationships with each other, local communities, and the state. The behaviours of these actors and interactions between them, local communities, and the state have significant political and social consequences that we are only beginning to understand. The panel aims to explore these complex links and interactions at the local, national, and transnational levels. It aims to bring scholars seeking to understand the history, dynamics, and policy implications of this increasingly complicated landscape. It intends to address the following questions: How and why do extra-legal actors use violence, and what are the consequences of this violence? How and why do these same actors seek to provide goods and services to communities and create social and political orders? How have states responded to these actors, and why have they sometimes chosen to collaborate with and support them and others to combat them fiercely? How have citizens and local communities responded to these actors? What moral and legal challenges do these interactions imply? The panel welcomes diverse theoretical and methodological approaches to the connections between private and public spheres in international security.

Military Interventions

Kersti Larsdotter, Swedish Defence University

With the winding down of large-scale boots-on-the-ground multinational missions in Afghanistan and Iraq, it has become apparent in both policy and academic circles that large-scale military interventions are but one option among others. Many other kinds of military interventions have been and are being launched and implemented, ranging from military assistance, to more 'agile' counterinsurgency, drone fighting, peacekeeping, and aerial interventions, among others. Recent work has investigated the politics of forming multinational coalitions for launching military interventions. Other contributions have explored the politics of implementation, looking at caveats and actual behaviour of troops on the ground. A third strand has explored the implication of military interventions for the civil-military relations of the home country when those soldiers return home. Notwithstanding recent advances, within the field of security studies, there is little clarity about the conceptual, theoretical, and empirical underpinnings of different kinds of military interventions with

important implications for both scholarship and policy. This panel welcomes contributions on different types of military interventions and potential comparisons. Contributions are welcome from a variety of disciplines (history, political science, sociology, etc.) and may shed light on conceptual, theoretical, and empirical aspects of the ongoing debate on military interventions within the security studies debate in dialogue with other neighbouring fields such as peace and conflict research, war studies and military sociology.

Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism

Laura Berlingozzi, Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies

The topics of terrorism and counter/anti-terrorism have in recent years received a huge amount of scholarly attention. The increase in scholarship led to deeper knowledge of and insights into the causes, processes, activities, and ends of terrorism of as well as responses to terrorist struggles. There is a certain temptation to write studies that summarize existing knowledge, rather than producing innovative, original and/or empirical contributions. There are challenges both regarding the consistency of the scholarly base and the content of contributions. First, there is a lack of a solid and consistent base of scholarship, due to lack of long-term funding, and difficulty to access primary, empirical data. Second, the field is somewhat obsessed with fashions and topical studies. There is a deep-rooted lack of appreciation of the history of (counter/anti)-terrorism and of case studies that are not in the constant spotlight of media and political attention. At the same time, scholarship has devoted much time and effort to a few main lines of inquiry (e.g. definitions, the 'root causes' discussion, radicalisation and de-radicalisation, WMD and terrorism, AQ/ISIL). Meanwhile, on the theoretical level, the establishment of Critical Terrorism Studies has created a welcome diversity. However, rather than encouraging exchange, scholars have often resorted to entrenchment in response to this development. This panel is explicitly open to diverse disciplines, such as history, political science, legal studies or sociology. We invite contributions which address any, or possibly all, of the above challenges and which discuss a variety of issues and cases around terrorism and counter/anti-terrorism. This panel intends to offer a multidisciplinary perspective and contribute towards joint research projects.

Intelligence

Zakia Shiraz, Leiden University

Intelligence is deeply embedded within national and transnational security policies and practices. The panel's aim is to understand the various roles intelligence plays at the strategic and tactical level. How do intelligence actors reduce uncertainty and provide a knowledge advantage? What are the problems and pitfalls of intel analysis and organizations? With intensified global great power rivalry, the focus of intelligence services is increasingly on closed authoritarian regimes. How do intelligence services work with the collection of intelligence and analysis of such targets? Do authoritarian regimes have an information

advantage as they can take advantage of vulnerabilities inherent in the openness of democratic societies? By comparing systems and practices from a range of historical and contemporary cases, as well as state and non-state contexts, the panel aims to provide a rich picture of the current status of Intelligence Studies. We are particularly keen to bring together panellists from various disciplinary backgrounds and with diverse theoretical approaches and methodologies.

Political Economy, Technology and the Defence Industry

Antonio Calcara, CSDS Brussels

This panel aims to explore how economic, industrial, and technological dynamics influence defence issues. The war in Ukraine, the strategic competition between China and the United States, and the European quest for strategic autonomy or technological sovereignty (among other factors) highlight how issues related to technological innovation, industrial policy and economic competitiveness are increasingly important for understanding geopolitical competition, and how the traditional distinction between high politics (security) and low politics (economics) is increasingly blurred. Understanding the links between economics, industry and technology is important because we are seeing partly contradictory trends. On the one hand, the return of war to the European continent and the numerous global crises and wars has refocused attention on the productive and innovative capacity of the defence industry and on the fundamental role of the state in directing economic, technological and industrial efforts for security and defence purposes. On the other hand, technological innovation in areas such as artificial intelligence, biotechnologies, cloud computing, machine learning and quantum computing is being driven by a mix of private actors - big tech and start-ups - and in value chains far removed from the traditional defence-industrial pipeline. This panel invites diverse papers that explore the links between political economy, technology, and defence, and welcomes contributions from all theoretical approaches and disciplines. Papers may focus on national, multilateral, or comparative dimensions and may be either empirically rich case studies and/or more theoretical explorations. Contributions may relate to, but are not limited to, the three areas: (1) The role of technological innovation in the security and defence sector; (2) The reconfiguration of the role of private actors (big tech and start-ups) and defence industries and their impact on defence procurement, the defence market and arms transfers; and (3) The role of the state and industrial policy in steering technological innovation and economic competitiveness in the security and defence sector.

Weapons of Mass Destruction Non-Proliferation and Arms Control

Michal Smetana, Charles University

This panel serves as a platform to present and discuss new research on arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). In light of Russia's nuclear threats and Iran's growing nuclear program, the panel especially encourages

submissions that focus on strategies and institutions to prevent the proliferation and use of nuclear weapons. The panel aims to bring into conversation scholars from different disciplines, such as political science, history, international law, and science and technology studies (STS), and seeks to facilitate a multidisciplinary dialog on non-proliferation and arms control. Possible topics include, but are not limited to, the tension between nuclear disarmament and deterrence; the role of civil society in managing nuclear risks; and international verification.

PhD students will be centre stage at the Annual Conference with:

The *EISS-JSS* Award for PhD Students and Early Career Academics

The EISS jointly with the *Journal of Strategic Studies* (JSS) will also be awarding the European Security Studies Best Paper Prize to the best conference paper written by a Ph.D. student or early career scholar (i.e., three years from the award of their/his/her Ph.D.) and presented at the EISS Annual Conference. The recipient of the award will receive a check of €400 and will be mentored in their submission process to the *Journal of Strategic Studies* by a senior scholar.² The *Journal of Strategic Studies* is one of the flagship academic journals covering military and diplomatic strategic studies.

All participants who fall in those categories (Ph.D. students or early career scholars) and whose paper is selected for the conference (either through ‘open’ panels or ‘closed’ panels) will be considered for the prize. In line with the EISS goals, this is a multidisciplinary award that will consider papers from a variety of disciplines (Political Science, History, Sociology, Economics, etc.). The prize will be awarded to papers providing a substantial theoretical, empirical and/or historiographical contribution to the field of Security Studies. At each annual conference, the panel chairs will select what they consider the best paper(s) presented in their panel, and the EISS Governing Board and JSS will then evaluate and select the best among the selected papers.

² Any articles that do not pass the journal’s peer review and do not receive an ‘accept’ decision from the Editor will not be published in the Journal.