



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe



Natolin



International Conference

New Developments in the
Study of EU External Action

5 October 2018

International Conference

New Developments in the Study of EU External Action

Friday, 5 October 2018

PROGRAMME

Venue: College of Europe, Verversdijk 16, AUD.1, BE-8000 Bruges

The field of EU external relations studies has been highly productive over the past decade, including the emergence of many interesting conceptual debates. Despite this dynamism, it still falls short of providing established theories and approaches comparable to other fields of EU studies. To better understand and explain the increasingly important external action and diplomacy of the European Union, however, suitable concepts, approaches and theories are needed not only for analytical and research purposes, but also for policy practice.

This conference takes stock of some of the main achievements in the academic literature on EU external action, discusses current trends and explores further research avenues. It addresses the following questions: what kind of power is the European Union in international affairs? How can the EU's 'actorness' and the coherence of its external action be conceptualised? How is the Union seen from the outside, and how are the external perceptions and images that other international actors have of the EU taken into account by those who analyse, design or implement this action? And what can broader theoretical trends in the social sciences bring to the study of EU external policies?

Prominent scholars will present their approaches and illustrate how these can usefully be applied to cases of EU external affairs. The conference papers will, together with additional contributions, become part of an edited volume aiming to compile the state-of-the-art of theory-informed reflection in this dynamic field of study in order to support students, scholars and practitioners in their efforts of understanding, explaining and evaluating the European Union's external action.

9:00 Registration (*Foyer*)

INTRODUCTION

9:30 Welcome

Jörg MONAR, Rector, College of Europe

Introduction

Sieglinde GSTÖHL, Department of EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies, College of Europe, Bruges

With the support of the
Erasmus+ programme





KEYNOTE ADDRESS

9:45 What kind of power is the EU in international affairs?

Ian MANNERS, Department of Political Science, University of Copenhagen

10:30 Discussion opened by

Chad DAMRO, School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh; Visiting Professor, College of Europe

11:15 *Coffee break*

SESSION I Conceptualizing EU actorness

11:45 Chair: *Simon SCHUNZ*, Department of EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies, College of Europe, Bruges

11:50 Stalking elephants: Actorness and the study of the EU's external action

Edith DRIESKENS, Leuven International and European Studies (LINES), University of Leuven

12:10 Conceptualizing coherence in EU external action

Clara PORTELA, Department of Constitutional Law, Political and Administrative Sciences, University of Valencia

12:30 Discussion opened by

Simon SCHUNZ, Department of EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies, College of Europe, Bruges

13:00 *Buffet lunch (Foyer)*

SESSION II EU external action and 'the other'

14:15 Chair: *Chad DAMRO*, School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh; Visiting Professor, College of Europe

14:20 Decentring EU external action: Europe as a post-colonial power

Nora FISHER ONAR, Department of Politics, Coastal Carolina University, and *Kalypto NICOLAÏDIS*, St Antony's College, University of Oxford

14:40 Discussion opened by

Stephan KEUKELEIRE, Leuven International and European Studies, University of Leuven; Visiting Professor, College of Europe

15:30 *Coffee break*





SESSION III Bringing social theory into the study of EU external action

16:00 Chair: *Sieglinde GSTÖHL*, Department of EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies, College of Europe, Bruges

16:05 The discursive turn in the analysis of EU foreign affairs

Caterina CARTA, Hautes études internationales, Université de Laval, Québec

16:25 Gendering approaches to EU external relations

Roberta GUERRINA, Department of Politics, University of Surrey; Visiting Professor, College of Europe

16:45 Discussion opened by

Sieglinde GSTÖHL, Department of EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies, College of Europe, Bruges

CONCLUSION

17:15 Conclusions

Simon SCHUNZ, Department of EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies, College of Europe, Bruges

