

First and Second Term, Academic Year 2025-2026

## Field Seminar: Europe in the World

Time and Place:

**October: 8, 23**

**November: 6, 20**

**December: 4**

**January: 15, 29**

**February: 12, 26**

**March: 12**

**Villa Schifanoia, Belvedere/Mansarda, 15:00 – 17:00**

Given by: **Professor [Stephanie Hofmann](#)**

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### Seminar description

In this two semester-long seminar (meeting every other week), we will address broad topics such as the struggle over European sovereignty, the autocratization of member-states and norm trajectories – and will locate Europe's place and role therein from an interdisciplinary angle. We will tackle these topics with the help of invited guest speakers, who will present their cutting-edge work-in-progress. Sonia Lucarelli (University of Bologna), Bahar Rumelili (Koç University), Frédéric Mérand (Université de Montréal), Hylke Dijkstra (Maastricht University), Chiara Ruffa (Sciences Po Paris), Anna Herranz Surreales (Maastricht University), and Thomas Sommerer (University of Potsdam) are the confirmed guest speakers.

### Format

Each seminar will start with a 30-minute discussion among seminar participants and the seminar instructor, where we will situate the guest speaker's scholarship, before we invite in the guest speaker to the 1,5-hour presentation and Q&A. Each seminar participant will at least once take on the role of discussant and "resident expert".

## Learning Outcomes

The main goals of the seminar are to

- (1) familiarize researchers with leading scholars and scholarship in their discipline(s),
- (2) discuss the ropes of how to present and
- (3) discuss academic work constructively and learn about the substantive research areas.

Course requirements consist of

- Carefully reading the circulated material before the talk
- Short presentation that helps situate the scholars' scholarship (1x)
- Discussant (1x)

## Sessions

### Week 1

**(8 October, Villa Schifanoia, Belvedere, 15:00 – 17:00)**

### Introduction

### Week 2

**(23 October, Villa Schifanoia, Mansarda, 15:00 – 17:00)**

### **Borders and the EU: challenges to the EU's liberal credentials**

Michela Ceccorulli & Sonia Lucarelli (University of Bologna)

This paper examines the relationship between the European Union (EU), liberalism and borders in a context increasingly shaped by a return to power politics. While European integration has promoted unprecedented border dilution—through the single market, Schengen mobility, and legal supranationalism—borders have simultaneously re-emerged as central devices of regulation, exclusion, and identity. We argue that this paradox reflects the EU's fragile liberal compromise, in which supranational ambitions coexist with growing national retrenchment and contestation over values. To analyse this dynamic, we propose a tripartite framework of economic, territorial, and community borders, highlighting how each dimension captures distinct tensions between integration and resistance, openness and closure. This approach illuminates both the EU's aspiration to act as a liberal community and the limits of that ambition, exposed by crises of migration, enlargement, and geopolitical upheaval. Borders thus provide a critical lens to assess whether the EU continues to promote liberal principles internally, at its frontiers, and beyond.

### **Week 3**

**(6 November, Villa Schifanoia, Mansarda, 15:00 – 17:00)**

#### **Geopolitical Europe: Reshaping Identities and Conflicts on EU Borders**

Bahar Rumelili (Koç University)

The Russian war in Ukraine as well as the second Trump Presidency in the US are leading European policymakers to reconstruct the EU's external relations along geopolitical lines. This seminar will discuss the implications of this process for the structure of EU's external borders and conflicts between member and non-member states. First, a conceptual framework which analyzes the structures of borders of regional organizations along the dimensions of malleability, hierarchy, and modality will be introduced. Second, the effects of different border forms on the identities of Self and Other and conflicts between them will be theorized. Third, these theorized effects of different border forms will be demonstrated in the case of EU-Turkey relations and the Cyprus conflict in the post-Cold War period. The seminar will conclude with proposals on how a more geopolitical Europe can structure its external borders to avoid aggravating conflicts between member and non-member states.

### **Week 4**

**(20 November, Villa Schifanoia, Belvedere, 15:00 – 17:00)**

#### **The struggle over European sovereignty**

Frédéric Mérand (Université de Montréal)

### **Week 5**

**(4 December, Villa Schifanoia, Belvedere, 15:00 – 17:00)**

#### **Global governance transformation for a world in transition: Evidence from 15 case studies**

Hylke Dijkstra (Maastricht University)

In an era marked by global challenges, international cooperation is more essential than ever. Yet multilateral initiatives too often end in gridlock, as dominant states seek to bend the global order to their own interests. This paper provides the comparative findings from the ENSURED Horizon project on global governance transformation. It summarises evidence from 15 case studies about recent reform efforts across international institutions based on around 200 interviews with relevant policy-makers and experts. From the negotiations of the Pandemic Treaty to reforms of UNFCCC decision-making, the regulation of digital currency, gridlock at the World Trade Organization, and the difficult implementation of the Global Compacts on Refugees and Migration, this paper highlights all sorts of different actor constellations around the various global governance issue areas and their continued investment in improving global governance.

**Week 6**

**(15 January, Villa Schifanoia, Belvedere, 15:00 – 17:00)**

**Trajectories of norm decline in international politics**

Chiara Ruffa (Sciences Po Paris)

Norms – guidelines for appropriate behavior- play an important role in international politics. We know little, however, about the conditions under which norms decline. This book project develops a theory of norm decline, identifying the conditions that make norm decline more likely, the stages through which norms become eroded, and the main actors involved. It focuses on three very different norms that have recently become contested: the norm of obliging all seafarers to search and rescue people at sea; the norm against women in close-ground combat; and the one prescribing that the military should be apolitical.

**Week 7**

**(29 January, Villa Schifanoia, Belvedere, 15:00 – 17:00)**

Anna Herranz Surrallés (Maastricht University)

**Week 8**

**(12 February, Villa Schifanoia, Belvedere, 15:00 – 17:00)**

Tbd together

**Week 9**

**(26 February, Villa Schifanoia, Belvedere, 15:00 – 17:00)**

**Member state autocratization and the formal design of international organizations**

Thomas Sommerer (Universität Potsdam)

**Week 10**

**(12 March, Villa Schifanoia, Belvedere, 15:00 – 17:00)**

**The Arc of Cooperation. How Geopolitics Shape the Use of International Organizations**

Charles Roger (IBEI)