



European  
University  
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MAX WEBER  
PROGRAMME  
FOR  
POSTDOCTORAL  
STUDIES



## **James Madison University & EUI Max Weber Programme**

### **6th Graduate Symposium**

San Domenico di Fiesole, Villa La Fonte

25 March 2013

**Keynote lecture by Prof. Valeria Fargion:**

**“The European Union in Africa. Discourse and Policy Practice”**

#### **Abstract**

Over the last fifteen years, the EU multiplied its commitments to promote social objectives globally. The presentation will first provide an overview of how the EU progressively incorporated a variety of social elements into the image it is trying to convey in the international arena and will shed light on the effective ranking of social policy concerns within foreign policy priorities. To test the credibility of the EU as a global social policy actor, the second part of the presentation looks into what the EU has actually been doing on the ground. Considering the EU engaged in a major overhauling of its development policies in 2005, based on a clear prioritization of the Millennium Development Goals with a special focus on Africa, evidence will be provided on EU's development policies in Sub-Saharan countries – notably among the poorest and most deprived areas of the planet. The final part will elaborate on the opportunity to refocus EU's development co-operation in Africa in order to increase the effectiveness of its action while at the same time improving EU's political leverage and its current image in the eyes of the African citizenry at large.