

ESAANZ (Virtual) Conference Brochure

Europe in 2020: Times of Turbulence

Abstracts Lists

ALOMES, Stephen

Title: War Memory and Commemoration - From Macrocosm to Microcosm in Europe and Australia

Abstract: The most basic principle for the study of your own society and of other societies is the importance of "making the strange familiar and making the familiar strange". That principle is more important than all other theories of social research. I wish to apply the principle to Australia by briefly contrasting the Australian macrocosm and my family's microcosm with a German war experience. Here it is also important that we differentiate between memory based on actual experience, whether that of C E W Bean, Erich Maria Remarque or Adolph Hitler, and memory as a commemorative convention or invented tradition. It is also important to consider the indirect social and political consequences of war memory. Either Britain, or even more so those great cultural influencers the British tabloids, have never got over World War Two. Like the young English males singing about if "Ten German bombers" should "accidentally fall" in a Prague square when England played Germany at a soccer World Cup, the English have not given up certain negative views of Europe - it can be where the foreigners and the invaders come from. Arguably, this was a significant factor in the vote for Brexit. In Australia, in contrast to much of Europe, the settler -invader society has itself never been invaded, despite a history of invasion fear. Its World War 2 experience is one in which, it was once calculated, that more lives were lost in the fire-bombing of Dresden than all Australian services lives lost in World War II. While European real war memory has been growing, in Australia, which spent more than the UK on its commem-oration of the centenary of World War I, and nearly a billion dollars on other war memorials in the last two decades, war remains a romantic central story in national foundation myth. This paper introduces those macrocosms, those contexts but then focuses on two different stories of actual wartime experience in the second great charnel house of the twentieth century, World War Two, now known to have killed 60 million human beings. One is that of my father as a Thirty Niner serving in the second AIF in the Mediterranean, North Africa and the Pacific from 1940-45, and his stated and unstated war memories. The other is the story of a young boy in a German town, who was deeply touched by the war. Today, in new times of turbulence, we take more account of civilian suffering, as in the 50,000 deaths in the fire-bombing of Hamburg and the 100,000 deaths in the fire-bombing of Tokyo. As we also consider the psychological impact of war, particularly returned soldiers and PTSD, and the experience of their families, we need to reflect more on those microcosms.

Bio: Adjunct Professor in the School of Global Urban and Social Studies at RMIT University Melbourne.

ANDREEVSKI, Ordan

Title: Evaluating the ethics of the Prespa Agreement

Abstract: In 2020 EU Foreign Policy is failing its founding principles, democracies, citizens and prospective member states like the Republic of Macedonia. It needs to be overhauled to incorporate ethics in policies, legislation and practices. Ethics are often seen as a burden to political expediency and no longer valuable to arrogant EU elites in the post truth era.

An independent Evaluation of the ethics of the Prespa Agreement between the Republic of Macedonia and the Hellenic Republic has found huge ethics flaws. These must be addressed by the EU and its member states that are pushing their poorly thought out foreign policy disaster.

The best way to overcome the ethics flaws is for all stakeholders to work together in developing and implementing rigorous and relevant EU ethics strategy and standards to guide EU Foreign policies. The key to making ethics more attractive to the EU and its member states is to build upon the latest evidence from leading researchers and diaspora communities from Australia.

Bio: Director of Australian Outreach, United Macedonian Diaspora. He is a member of the Australian Institute of International Affairs. He was Industry Partner in the ARC Linkage Project 'Current and Potential Links between the Italian, Macedonian, Vietnamese and Tongan Diasporas with the Homeland and Australia'. He was also Manager of Research and Commercialisation at the Advanced Manufacturing CRC and Marketing and Communications Manager with the Rail Manufacturing CRC.

BASOK, Nina

Title: Ukraine and Lublin Triangle: Another step back from Russia

Abstract: Throughout the history European countries were creating different cooperation formats, unites, groups, coalitions as it was during WWII. In post-war Europe unions gave a background for the creation of the European Union. EU is diversified not only by the number of countries and nationalities it amounts, but also, by the number of collaborations between its countries and formats. Among them we have Benelux, Weimar Triangle, Visegrad Group, Bucharest Nine, Franco-German couple, etc. On the 28th July 2020 the Lublin Triangle, cooperation format between Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine, was officially established. It is a three-side platform of political, economic, cultural and social engagement that aims to support Ukraine on its way to the integration into the European Union and NATO membership. This format has a significant historical meaning for the ancestor countries of the 17th century Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth fighting against Russian Empire conquests and Soviet Union occupation later in 20th century. Common historical background gives a special role to the Central Europe in the EU nowadays. Do Poland and Lithuania act as supporters of Ukraine's territorial integrity and its security matters by replacing Normandy format? Franco-German couple is losing its role in Ukraine and Lublin Triangle has something new to offer Ukraine?

Bio: Nina Basok is a recent graduate from the College of Europe in Natolin, who specialises in European Neighbourhood Policy, Franco-German relations, Weimar and Lublin Triangle and is currently working in Poland on evaluations and policy-related projects on Eastern Partnership countries, is a contributing writer for a French think-tank focused on Eastern and Central Europe ("Euro Creative") on issues of Ukrainian politics.

BONOMI, Matteo

Title: EU and China relations in the Western Balkans: from rapprochement to rivalry?

Abstract: The unfavourable economic situation and the slow process of EU enlargement are among the main reason why the Western Balkan countries have been developing political and economic ties with non-EU actors in the last decade. Among these non-EU actors, China has rapidly assumed a prominent role in the region by promoting a series of investment projects in Southeast Europe, mainly in transport connectivity but also in energy and other sectors. Such investments, often in a form of loans, not being based on political conditionality, have been particularly attractive to leaders interested in speeding up the modernization of the infrastructure of their country. Although Chinese investments have often obscured – at least in the public debates – investments coming from the EU, the European Commission and the Chinese government have for a long time tried to enhance synergies. Still, things seem to have changed since the settlement of the new “geopolitical” European Commission of Ursula von der Leyen and the outburst of the Covid-19 pandemic, characterized by Beijing’s aggressive “mask diplomacy”. Now the EU institutions have become much more vocal in expressing rising concerns about the Chinese presence in the Balkans, pointing out how Chinese investments could (negatively) affect Western Balkans governance and institutions. Have the EU’s and Chinese’s approaches to the Balkans now become mutually exclusive by default?

Bio: Dr Matteo Bonomi is an Italian expert on EU affairs who has published academic and policy papers on various aspects of EU integration, Western Balkan–EU relations and the political economy of EU enlargement. He is a Research Fellow at Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) in Rome and member of the Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group (BiEPAG). He has published academic and policy papers on various aspects of EU integration, Western Balkan – EU relations and the political economy of EU enlargement.

BRUNAZZO, Marco

Presentation title: Anti-EU Parties in Italy: The Challenge of Populism

Abstract: Between 2013 and 2019 Italy became one of the countries where Eurosceptic parties had a preponderant position in parliament and public opinion. While Euroscepticism of Italy’s populist parties is a matter more of glibness – superficiality – than real commitment, at the same time populist parties have to pay a price for their glibness. Once in office, they are trapped by their posturing and have to face a hard choice: work within the constraints posed by the institutions and treaties of the EU (and risk losing credibility with their supporters) or exit the government in order to preserve their purity and freedom of action. The article concentrates primarily upon the Movimento 5 Stelle (M5S) illustrating the superficiality with which this party has treated the question of Italy’s relations with the EU. By analysing party manifestos, posts in Beppe Grillo’s and M5S’ blogs, and the ‘Contrasts’ for government, it suggests that superficiality or glibness of analysis is an essential part of the populist rhetorical style.

Bio: Marco Brunazzo is Associate Professor of Political Science at the Department of Sociology and Social Research at the University of Trento (Italy). His main areas of interest are the EU differentiated integration theory, the role of Italy in the EU, and participatory democracy.

BUSTIKOVA, Lenka

Presentation Title: Radical Right Mobilization in Eastern Europe

Abstract: The paper presents issues explored in more detail in the book *Extreme Reactions: Radical Right Mobilization in Eastern Europe* (Cambridge University Press,

2019). Focusing on the rising support for the populist right in Eastern Europe, this book examines how anger and resentment towards minorities is being utilized in politics. Bustikova details the process by which the acquisition of political power and demand for rights by ascendant minority groups precipitates a backlash of mobilization from the radical right. However, this book also argues that prejudice against minorities is not a sentiment exclusive to right-wing voters and is not the root cause of increasing support for the radical right. Rather, this study reveals, variation in how minorities are accommodated by the government explains the electoral successes and failures of radical right parties.

Bio: A/Prof Lenka Bušíková grew up in Prague and holds a PhD in political science from Duke University and MA degrees from Charles University, Central European University and Harvard University. She is an Associate Professor in the School of Politics and Global Studies at Arizona State University. Her research focuses on party politics, voting behavior, clientelism, and state capacity, with special reference to Eastern Europe. Her book, *Extreme Reactions: Radical Right Mobilization in Eastern Europe* (Cambridge University Press) demonstrates that far right parties mobilize against politically ascendant minorities. It received the Davis Center Book Prize in political and social studies (2020).

BYESYEDINA, Anastasiya

Title: Ukrainian Collective Memory: where fallen statue become resurrected as Darth Vader

Abstract: This study systematically investigates how social movements construct national identity by drawing a comparison between the Ukrainian revolutions: 2004 Orange Revolution and 2013-14 Revolution of Dignity. It argues that revolutions are sites of identity construction, where the identity's malleable nature makes it susceptible to change. This study treats identity as a subject prone to contestation, and consequently reconstruction, through a process which is rooted in a historical environment and traces of which can be observed through the dimension of collective memory. Collective memory represents group experiences and recollections whose subsequent interpretation fundamentally drives a nation's identity and interests, which transform over time. Hence, collective memory is significant in shaping and contesting identity, where Ukraine's history delivers several key moments that have impacted the meaning of what it is to be Ukrainian – traces which can be seen in bottom-up and top-down shifts. Examples of these shifts are observed through toppling of Lenin statues, rise in street art, Decommunisation legislation and presidential speeches. The dismissal of Soviet symbolism by the Ukrainian state and society suggests the direct effects of social movements upon the re-construction of collective memory. Furthermore, this study engages with methods of process-tracing, archival research, semiotic analysis and discourse analysis.

Bio: I am in my final year of PhD candidature at The University of Sydney (GIR Department), where my study deals with exploring the themes of nationalism, identity construction and revolutions in the Ukrainian context

CANELAS DE CASTRO, Paulo

Title: EU Studies in Macau

Abstract: EU studies in Macau stand historically as a forerunner in the Asia-Pacific region. For this, they tapped on the multi-century presence of Portuguese administration in Macau. Originally, these studies were meant to play as an instrument for helping preserve such

close interaction between the Western Portuguese community and the vaster Chinese one, and this beyond the handover set for December 1999. This should occur in the context of a framework participated by the EU, which thence set up a specific representation for Macau and Hong Kong to further oversee the implementation of the corresponding agreement. All in all, this was also in line the visionary formula of the “one country, two systems” for the specific region.

The attendance of EU studies was expected to work as a catalyst for dissemination of structural knowledge about the EU within the Macau society and an opportunity for identifying business and cultural exchange opportunities and generally for positively impacting the new administration of Macau, faced with the momentous challenges of the handover and the setting up of Macau’s Special Administrative Region in the context of a growing People’s Republic of China.

To this first phase of the history of EU studies in Macau, a subsequent one followed, where these studies kept playing a role in facilitating the multilevel dialogue between the communities, civil societies as well as governmental structures of both the Region and the EU, in conjunction with other factors or instruments which were developed in parallel; like for instance chambers of commerce and other EU-related programmes (Jean Monnet actions in the University of Macau, cooperation for Judges and translators’ training , with both civil society and government platforms). On this occasion, EU studies became part of the academic curricula of several higher education-related institutions (UM, IESM) and gave rise to manifold academic events and publications with impact, primarily in Macau, but also in nearby Hong Kong, the Asia Pacific partners, China and even Europe. They were equally instrumental in promoting networks and habits of mobility and academic exchanges amongst the aforementioned. Furthermore, a growing trade between Macau SAR and EU countries, friendly people-to-people sets of experiences, namely in the cultural sector, and regular dialogues not only between civil society instances but also the more formal high-ranking governmental level, all experienced throughout the 90s and the first decade and a half of the XXI century, seem to indicate that EU studies have indeed contributed to meet the overall expectations underpinning them.

In more recent times, a shift seems to be unfolding: the experience of EU studies in Macau seems to growingly reflect the overall context and environment of relations between the EU and China at large. Tellingly, the universe of attendants to EU studies programmes is growingly populated by Mainland Chinese, not anymore local Chinese. Similarly, more and more Mainland Chinese scholars are increasingly implicated in the administration or implementation of the Programmes. The dominant research agenda also evidences the same orientation: EU Studies are growingly an occasion for studying the interface with Mainland China and its prevailing projects, namely the Belt and Road Initiative and, even more compellingly lately, the Greater Bay Area. The ongoing pandemic may be seen as providing the opportunity for accentuating these shifts in the profile and orientation of EU Studies in Macau.

Bio: Paulo Canelas de Castro, on a protracted leave from the Faculty of Law, University of Coimbra, Portugal, is Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Macau (Macau, China), where he currently holds a second Jean Monnet Chair on European Union Law in the Global Context. He also serves in the Board of Directors of the Institute of European Studies of Macau and as President of the European Union Studies Association-Macau, of which he was a founder. Additionally, he is also a Member of the International Law Association. His research and writings focus on International and European Union Law and stands as member of the editorial board of several outlets in these fields.

Title: Lessons Learned?: Evaluating European Public Diplomacy.

Abstract: In the past twenty years, the expansion of academic interest on the study of public diplomacy (PD) has been dramatic. Jan Melissen's declaration that practitioners exist in a new landscape in the twenty-first century has been fully supported by European public diplomacy. Tools for engaging foreign publics: social media; through directed communication; broadcasting; and, using new technologies to bridge divides, have all resulted in a very different set of contemporary European practices to engage foreign publics to what has been previously used. Whilst tools for evaluating national public diplomacy programs have advanced, understanding how effective European public diplomacy has been is a challenge. Whilst there have been notable excellent analytical works conducted, this paper argues that using a Logical Framework Analysis (LFA) to assess existing practices of European public diplomacy and Nicholas J. Cull's taxonomy for separating public diplomacy practices adds significantly to the body of work, and extends our knowledge of European public diplomacy's key strengths and potential weaknesses.

Bio: James M. Carey is a sessional academic and researcher at The University of Melbourne, and a former committee member of CESAA

CARNIEL, Jessica

Title: Shining a light on Eurovision 2020

Abstract: In 2020, for the first time in its 65-year history, there was no Eurovision Song Contest. In its place, the EBU held 'Eurovision: Europe Shine A Light', a non-competitive event that purported to provide a celebration of Eurovision and the artists of 2020 whose Eurovision journeys were cut short by COVID-19. Responses to the event were mixed. While some audience members were grateful to still mark that one night in May, others found the event a grim reminder rather than a welcome distraction from the pandemic. This paper presents an analysis of Eurovision: Europe Shine A Light as a response to COVID-19, contextualising this within fan and other responses to the contest's cancellation, such as #EurovisionAgain and Eurovision Home Concerts. It explores the role of participatory culture in forging and maintaining meaningful transnational connections in a time of global crisis, and argues that the various responses to the cancellation of Eurovision 2020 underscore its social and cultural importance for a global community of fans.

Bio: Jessica Carniel is Senior Lecturer in Humanities at the University of Southern Queensland. Located within the field of cultural studies, her research interests encompass multiculturalism, gender and cultural representations in Australian and global society. She has published widely on gender and ethnic identities in popular culture in multicultural Australia, including literature, film, television, and sport. She is the author of *Understanding the Eurovision Song Contest in Multicultural Australia* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2018) and the co-editor of *Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Eurovision: Perspectives from Down Under* (with Chris Hay, in press Palgrave Macmillan, 2019).

CARTER, Kurtis

Title: The experience of Eurovision - an insider's look

Abstract: This presentation will examine the Eurovision Fan Club of Australia Network, otherwise known as OGAE (Organisation Générale des Amateurs de l'Eurovision) Australia and how it relates to Australia's place at Eurovision, the impact and role the club plays in Australia and its connections with other international organisations. This includes

OGAE Australia's relationship with OGAE International, SBS, the EU delegation in Australia, the Dutch Embassy, as well as the club's interactions with other fan sites and press organisations. One of the main points of discussion will be the broad-ranging impact COVID-19 has had on Eurovision, specifically for Eurovision fans world-wide, including in Australia. The presenter travelled to Poland in November 2019 to report on the Junior Eurovision edition of the contest for OGAE Australia. Kurtis will discuss his experience at the junior edition compared to his experiences at the adult contests he has attended. Specifically, the inclusion of such nations as Kazakhstan, Ireland and Wales in the junior contest, and the role minor or indigenous languages and culture play on the world stage at Eurovision. This presentation will include results from the participant-observation method as well as insights from primary and secondary data gathered over the period of 10 years. As such, the research is original and thought-provoking, seeking to expand our current knowledge of the dynamic processes and influences on the world's longest running song-contest which originated in Cold War Europe in 1956.

Bio: Kurtis has a Bachelor of Arts with a Bachelor of Education (Secondary) majoring in Japanese, Modern History and International Relations. He is a dedicated Eurovision fan since 2012 and the current Secretary of OGAE Australia, otherwise known as ESCFAN. He has been on the committee since the beginning of 2018. He has seen the growth and changes surrounding Eurovision in Australia. His first time at the contest was 2016 in Stockholm followed in 2017 in Kyiv and 2018 in Lisbon and the 2019 Junior Eurovision in Poland

COLAGIURI, Vincent

Title: From 1950s glamour to 2020 solitude: Eurovision's musical styles and messages through its songs

Abstract: At its inception in 1956, the Eurovision Song Contest was intended to be an evening of light, conservative, family entertainment, attempting to bring post-war Europe together through harmony. The musical styles and lyrical content of the entries reflected these ideals from the beginning and have evolved over the ensuing decades in response to social and national conflicts, as well as changing cultural trends and fashions. The prevalence of digital music production from the 1980s onwards means today we have an ESC without a live orchestra and in 2020 the EBU announced that recorded backing vocals would be permitted in 2021. Recorded music is now bought and stored digitally, and heard in playlists of choice on individually customisable devices. Is this a loss of the collective musical experience or simply technology pushing us apart from each other? This paper takes a broad overview of evolving musical styles and lyrical messages in Eurovision songs in the first four-and-a-half decades of the ESC and a closer view of trends in the last two decades, including those of the "social issue" and "message" songs as well as the recent rise of songs about personal loss and solitude, which, by horrid coincidence, are eerily pertinent to the uncertain new world of masks, distancing and lockdowns we find ourselves in in 2020.

Bio: Born in Sydney to an Italian family, Vincent Colagiuri has been a professional musician for over thirty years. He has worked as a pianist, conductor and vocal coach for Opera Australia, in touring musicals such as The Phantom of the Opera, has played in countless classical and popular concerts, as well as teaching at NIDA and the W.A. Academy of the Performing Arts in Perth. An avid fan of the Eurovision Song Contest since 1996, Vincent has attended the competition four times.

COOTE, Matthew

Title: The Decline of Two Social Democratic Parties: Germany and Poland Compared 1989-2020

Abstract: Social democratic parties have experienced significant electoral decline throughout Europe, highlighted by the heavy defeat of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) at the 2017 German federal election. The SPD is one of the world's oldest and most successful democratic parties and its recent electoral woes have received considerable media attention and scholarly examination. Less well known, however, is the situation in neighbouring Poland where social democratic and centre-left parties have similarly struggled to gain voter support. This was underlined at the 2015 national elections when the 'United Left' failed to win a seat in Poland's parliament.

Various explanations (usually focusing on Western Europe) have been put forward for the decline of social democratic parties and can assist us to better understand the situation in Germany and Poland. However, a closer look at the electoral fortunes in these two countries also provides the opportunity to consider local circumstances and amplify our insight into why social democrats are failing to present a coherent platform that resonates with voters at large. Moreover, social democrats and progressives in Australia, New Zealand, and elsewhere can also learn from what is happening in Germany and Poland.

Bio: Matthew Coote is a Research Officer at the European Union Centre of Excellence, Social and Global Studies Centre at RMIT University. In this role, Matthew is assisting with research and outreach for projects on regional policy and Smart Specialisation, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), innovation and trade while also currently researching contemporary election results in central and eastern Europe and the implications for social democracy

DAMJANOVIC, Ivana and de SADELEER. Nicolas

Title: EU foreign investment screening: between free movement of capital and national security interests

Abstract: The return of the government intervention into global economy has directed political focus on foreign direct investment (FDI), foreign ownership and related investment screening processes. China's global economic expansion, driven by state-owned investors, has become a national security issue and it is coming under the close scrutiny of the Western governments. As a response to these global developments, in October 2020 the EU has introduced a new regulatory framework aimed at enhancing cooperation between the Member States and the European Commission in the FDI screening processes. The emergence of this new area of EU law poses a number of practical internal as well as conceptual challenges. The divergencies in the regulation and screening practices between the Member States could lead to difficulties in the implementation, in particular given their exclusive competence for national security. At the EU level, the challenge lies in balancing FDI openness (free movement of capital) and guaranteeing the protection of public order. Finally, the introduction of the new legislation signals the EU's move from historically informal and political practices towards formal legal procedures in investment screening. This paper analyses some of these challenges and implications for the EU in reconciling its geopolitical interests with legal checks and balances.

Bio: Ivana Damjanovic is a former Croatian diplomat, a PhD candidate at the Australian National University and lecturer in Law at the University of Canberra.

Professor Nicolas de Sadeleer from Saint-Louis University in Brussels is a specialist of EU law (institutions, internal market), environmental law (international and domestic) and comparative law.

DAVISON, Bradley

Title: Nuclear Energy Policy in the EU

Abstract: Nuclear energy has a long history in the European Union. Over the years, it has garnered negative connotations due to its destructive nature when accidents occur. However, it provides a relatively clean source of energy for countries around the world trying to meet commitment towards climate change and global warming targets. In late 2019, the European Commission released their European Green Deal, a roadmap to carbon-neutral Europe by 2050. The role of nuclear energy was not stipulated. This paper seeks to uncover the history, political discourse, and future of nuclear energy in France, Germany and Poland, to determine whether it will form a part of EU 2050 climate ambitions. Completing a qualitative context policy analysis, it was found that nuclear energy will unequivocally form a significant part of meeting the climate targets of countries France and Poland. Germany, however, will have completely phased it out in the next two years. It was found that centralised governance systems who owned/partly-owned their electricity utilities provided favourable environments for nuclear energy, whereas Germany's federalist model allowed for greater diversification and collaboration among actors. France and Poland were emphatic in nuclear energy's ability to meet climate commitment and provide a stable source of baseload energy while a transition to renewables can be made.

Bio: Bradley Davison is a graduand of RMIT's International Studies (Honours) program and a research officer at RMIT's European Union Centre of Excellence. He is the Melbourne Chair of ESAANZ, website manager, and conference organiser.

DAVISON, Rémy

Title: Project on Comparative Migration

Abstract: The UK's withdrawal from the EU will affect both British and EU labour markets across a range of sectors, including manufacturing, services industries, knowledge-based high-tech industries and education. Workers' and businesses' recruitment and employment decision-making will be affected by this profound shift in the EU labour market. In addition, the future EU-UK relationship will also impact upon social, health and labour policies, such as wages and pensions. This Jean Monnet project analyses the implications of intra- and extra-EU migration in the context of Brexit, the EU Single Market and the labour market impact of UK withdrawal. Given that freedom of movement to the UK for EU citizens will be more restricted following Brexit, a major question raised by this project is what countries will become the chief immigration destinations following Brexit? Conversely, if the UK implements a relatively-open, merit and skills-focussed immigration regime, will this continue to attract skilled EU workers? These are critical questions for EU and labour market policies in the Single Market for the 2020s. This paper outlines the scope and aims of the project.

Bio: Jean Monnet Chair in Politics and Economics Department of Politics & International Relations, Monash University

DAVISON, Rémy and MARKOVIC KHAZE, Nina

Presentation Title: Re-balancing the EU-China relationship

Abstract: The EU's 2019 Strategic Outlook adopted a three-pillar approach to its relationship with China. First, it aimed for engagement with Beijing across issue areas of common interest, albeit based on EU interests and principles. Second, it sought to build relations based on economic reciprocity. Third, it emphasised the necessity of strengthening the EU's own industrial base, thus denoting the protection of EU strategic industries. The latest Multi-annual Framework and Recovery Fund placed a further emphasis on this strategic policy goal. EU decision-makers regard China increasingly as a strategic rival, rather than an economic partner. The clear message emerging from the Strategic Outlook is that the EU objective is to ensure its political and policy autonomy, rather than becoming dependent upon Beijing. The PRC's militarisation of the South and East China seas, its abrogation of UNCLOS III following the PCA's 2016 decision on the South China Sea, together with Beijing's emergence as a technological rival to the EU, has shifted the strategic debate. Moreover, China's Belt and Road project, the establishment of the AIIB and NDB, together with the development of a string of 'Pearl Harbors' throughout Southeast and South Asia, have also altered EU policy makers' strategic conspectus on China. Our paper will address a series of questions pertinent to more volatile diplomatic relations between Brussels and Beijing. What steps has the EU taken to re-balance the China relationship and strategically distance itself from Beijing? Does the EU need to work with Washington and Tokyo to contain and constrain China? What consequences will NATO's repositioning towards China (by which China has been elevated to the same threat level as Russia) have for the future relations between the EU and China?

Bio: Dr Remy Davison is Jean Monnet Chair in Politics and Economics in the Department of Politics & International Relations at Monash University.

Dr Nina Markovic Khaze works as a sessional academic at Macquarie University and has published extensively on Australia-EU relations, China in Europe and Western Balkans.

de BRAAL, Wilke

Title: Flying High - A Critical Assessment of the EU's Ambitions to Reduce the Use of Chemical Pesticides in the Light of the Existing Regulatory Framework on Pesticides Authorisation and Use

Abstract: Despite being characterised as one of the most stringent systems in the world, the European Union regulatory framework on the authorisation and use of pesticides in agriculture has so far failed to substantially reduce the environmental risks of pesticides. This paper addresses the shortcomings of the current system by arguing that decentralised decision-making procedures are ineffective in protecting the environment from the adverse effects of pesticides. It evaluates the ambitious risk-reduction objectives of the EU's 2020 Farm to Fork Strategy in the light of the existing legislation, with a focus on the division of responsibilities between the national and the supranational level. The Farm to Fork Strategy's goal to achieve an overall reduction of the risk and use of chemical pesticides with 50% by 2030 is in stark contrast with the current legislation, which leaves decisions on specific reduction targets to the Member States, and allows for national emergency authorisations of pesticides despite their risks. While the introduction of mandatory reduction targets is to be welcomed, this objective can only be achieved through further centralisation of the authorisation procedure and through harmonised requirements for the use of pesticides.

Bio: Wilke de Braal LL.M. MA is a PhD candidate at Tilburg University (The Netherlands) who conducts legal research on the effectiveness of environmental protection through EU product regulation

de SADELEER, Nicolas and DAMJANOVIC, Ivana

Presentation Title: EU Climate Change Neutrality: Between Solidarity and Green Economy

Abstract: The road to EU Climate Change Neutrality is paved with good intentions. However, is it achievable? The recently reached political agreement on the EU coronavirus recovery package (New Generation EU) demonstrates the importance of solidarity between the 27 Member States in addressing a major crisis and reaffirms the EU orientation towards the 2050 carbon neutrality objective. However, the agreement also demonstrates the divergences in the approach towards the attainment of this common goal. While the European Commission envisages the recovery firmly based on its vision of digital and green Europe, the Member States are more focused on addressing their immediate economic and social concerns. The success of the new deal will largely depend on redefining solidarity as the same coin with two sides: solidarity in achieving a common goal of climate neutrality, and solidarity in compensating States that require more resources in enhancing the shift toward a green economy. Only in effectively combining these two facets of solidarity will the EU ensure that neutrality does not remain on the current promises of “greenish” economy.

Bio:

Prof Nicolas de Sadeleer is a Jean Monnet Chair in EU Law at Saint-Louis University in Brussels. He is a specialist of EU law (institutions, internal market), environmental law (international and domestic) and comparative law, and an active commentator on EU legal and political issues in the areas of trade, investment, and sustainable development, and most recently the EU coronavirus recovery package.

Dr Ivana Damjanovic is an Assistant Lecturer at the University of Canberra, a Jean Monnet Visiting Fellow at the ANU Centre for European Studies and a former Croatian diplomat. Her research focuses on EU external trade and investment policy, and most recently on the effects of the EU coronavirus recovery package on its geopolitical aspirations

DUNWILL, Alexandra

Presentation Title: European, National or Global? Elite Schools in Post-Communist Poland

Abstract: It is commonly understood and proven by years of research that elite schools produce or at least aim to produce future leaders by fostering pathways to privilege and power. Poland is one of the Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries where transition from communist to capitalist system had many implications. One of them is the emergence of new types of elite schools. Poland’s elite school options have expanded during its post-communist transformation. This is a relatively new phenomenon in the post-communist space and research in this area is extremely limited. With the latest political and economic developments in countries of European Union, my study offers excellent opportunities to improve understandings of how prestigious schools in Poland navigate the major political, social and cultural crosscurrents. It will improve the understanding of how elite schools emerge and adjust to changing global and national circumstances, how they embrace or reject the global trends and agendas and how they foster new pathways to positions of leadership, influence and power. Studying the emerging elite-ness of education in Poland offers useful methodological tools and opens an avenue for similar studies in other post-communist countries, particularly those that joined the European Union.

Bio: Alexandra Dunwill is in the final stage of finishing her PhD thesis titled: Elite schools in Post-Communist Poland: four angles of scrutiny, at the Faculty of Education at Monash University

FURTAK, Dominika

Title: European aviation regulation: identifying policy window

Abstract: The proposed paper raises the issue of the Community air service regulation in the light of long-term trends together with the current distortions and growing uncertainty. Aviation remains one of the strategic sectors for the EU, generating 9,8 million jobs, ensuring vital connectivity, driving growth, supporting business and tourism, enhancing social cohesion and culture exchange. Recent EC's strategies focused on notions of mobility, efficiency and green transformation of industry (in line with the European Green Deal). Now industrial shareholders proclaim existential threat for the industry and call policymakers for direct support, i.a. financial assistance, relaxing rules. Drawing upon Multiple Streams Approach and the concept of the policy window, this paper argues that current turmoil, compared in media coverage to the abyss, from the political standpoint can be seen as a propitious opportunity creating momentum for introducing lasting changes to the legal fabric of the industry. Based on the historical evidence from past regulatory changes in the economic framework of air transport services, the paper aims to explore main strands of discussion and activities undertaken by the EU in 2020; outline the nature of the opening window; and its potential impact on the further agenda of European aviation policy.

Bio: PhD student at Doctoral School in the Social Sciences of the Jagiellonian University in the discipline of Political and Public Administration Sciences, graduate of International Relations at the Faculty of International and Political Studies of the JU.

GRGIC, Gorana

Title: Transplanting the transatlantic: United States and Europe in the Indo-Pacific

Abstract: The strained relations between the United States and its – primarily Western – European allies and partners have been all too apparent over the course of Donald Trump's presidency. At the same time, the United States and the major European powers are increasingly converging in their diagnosis of the security challenges that emanate from the Indo-Pacific. This reflects a notable change in the European strategic thinking over the past decade. This paper explains the domestic drivers behind the change in states such as the United Kingdom, France and Germany amongst others. It then assesses the capabilities of the said states in order to ascertain the extent to which cooperation with the United States in the Indo-Pacific is possible. The paper argues there is plenty of scope for functional cooperation on the development of regional infrastructure, as well as a stepped-up involvement in the relevant diplomatic frameworks and fora. At the same time, while military cooperation is a policy area that has traditionally seen deepest integration between the two sides of the Atlantic, it is going to be more challenging to transplant to the Indo-Pacific.

Bio: Dr. Gorana Grgic of the University of Sydney is a jointly appointed Lecturer at the Department of Government and International Relations and the United States Studies Centre, who writes and regularly comments on the Indo-Pacific affairs and Australian foreign and defence policy.

GRIMM, Julian

Title: Building an EU Identity: Policy Development at the EU-Level – An Overview of the Current State

Abstract: The EU has, belatedly perhaps, engaged with the issue of building an EU identity by setting up various initiatives aimed at building a sense of civic society across Europe and hence of greater citizen identification with the EU. Under the rubric of 'democratic deficit', the European Parliament, the body specifically established to create a democratic constituency of European citizens, has engaged specifically with this problem. This article analyses in detail EU policy formulations from the 1970s through to the very different conditions of the past decade. It also discusses the process undertaken by the EU institutions in order to establish the levels to which and the ways in which its citizens understand and 'feel' themselves to be members of the EU on a personal and individual as well as social and cultural level, if at all. The aim of the article is to establish whether this is considered sufficient for the ongoing operation of the EU, or, if not, what is lacking, and what an EU identity might further mean to its citizens.

Bio: PhD candidate (second year) at The University of Sydney in European Studies with a focus on Geopolitics, in particular EU identity, analysis of policy development of EU institutions and how this can lead to the creation of a sense of European belonging / citizenship. I have a background in strategy consulting and work as a freelance consultant.

HANSON, Marianne

Title: Can the EU lead the way in security without nuclear weapons?

Abstract: The European Union is widely regarded as adhering to the rule of law, democracy, and respect for human rights and humanitarianism. While these principles are widely accepted and upheld, and indeed are embedded in, and constitute, the identity of the EU, there remains a key security issue which will challenge the position of many EU states individually and the organisation as a whole. The new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) calls on states to relinquish their support for nuclear weapons and their reliance on nuclear deterrence, and to work for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. It does this by framing the issue very clearly within a humanitarian framework and the tenets of international humanitarian law. In coming years, as the treaty enters into force, those EU states which are also NATO members will face a dilemma between their support for nuclear weapons (which the TPNW declares to be illegal) as ongoing members of NATO and their commitment to the principles noted above. We are seeing already in some EU-NATO states (eg Belgium, Germany, Netherlands) growing opposition to reliance on nuclear weapons by the public and even by parliamentarians. How these states might address these challenges is the main focus of this paper. The paper will also examine the potential role of the EU as an institution which might lead the way towards regional and global security in a nuclear free world. With the potential weakening of the US-NATO relationship, with the departure of Britain from the EU (leaving France as the only EU state to have its own nuclear weapons), and with the growing calls for nuclear elimination from certain EU-NATO states, there is certain to be a period of confusion and uncertainty in EU foreign and security policy. I argue that this will also provide an important opportunity for individual states and the EU as a whole to forge new security partnerships and to develop an independent security policy which rejects nuclear weapons. While this will not be easily achieved, and while the position of France will be critically important here, the recent legal developments making nuclear weapons unequivocally illegal mean that this issue will have to be faced by the EU, and probably sooner rather than later.

Bio: Associate Professor of International Relations, University of Queensland, Marianne Hanson gained her MPhil and DPhil in International Relations at the University of Oxford, specialising in international security in Europe. She teaches and researches in the area of nuclear weapons and international security at the University of Queensland, and has published widely in these fields. She has recently completed a monograph on the significance of the new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Prior to joining the University of Queensland, Associate Professor Hanson was Stipendiary Lecturer in Politics at Magdalen College, University of Oxford.

HARVEY, Matt

Title: Australia and the EU After Brexit – and After Covid?

Abstract: It appears that Brexit may finally proceed in December, 2020. When the world, and Australia and the EU in particular, may be rid of COVID is another matter (congratulations to our New Zealand friends!) These events will enable a reboot of Australia-EU relations. While Australian media and many people may continue to see the EU through a British lens, it will be an opportunity to see more clearly through some others: German, Irish, Italian, French, Nordic, Dutch and Belgian, Baltic, Polish, Hungarian, Slovenian and Croatian, Spanish and Portuguese, Maltese and Cypriot to name a few. For a constitutional lawyer, Germany and Ireland are of most interest: Germany as a fellow federation, Ireland as an English-speaking republic. Malta and Cyprus are fellow former British colonies now republics. Economically, Britain is likely to continue to be Australia's most significant economic partner in the region, but politically, socially, culturally, these new (or polished) lenses will provide interesting new perspectives. Australia may become better known in Europe, hopefully for its effective COVID response rather than its refugee and migration policies.

Bio: Teaches Australian Constitutional Law and EU Law at Victoria University Melbourne. His PhD was on the constitutional development of the EU. He is the co-author with Michael Longo of *European Union Law: An Australian View* (LexisNexis 2008).

HOLMES, Les

Title: Corruption and Continuing Transition in Central and Eastern Europe

Abstract: The honeymoon period following the collapse of Communist systems in Central and Eastern Europe was very short-lived. Already by the mid-1990s, many citizens in this region were increasingly despondent about both democracy and the market economy. A major reason for this was that, far from disappearing or significantly declining - as predicted by some Western observers in the 1980s - corruption appeared to be increasing in many countries. But what is the situation in 2020? Is corruption in decline and democracy consolidating? Or does the picture vary from country to country, with some countries consolidating and others clearly still in transition? If the latter, how can we explain the differences?

Bio: Leslie Holmes has been a Professor of Political Science at the University of Melbourne since 1988, and Professor Emeritus there since 2014. He also teaches annually at the Polish Academy of Sciences and China's Renmin University, and sometimes at the International Anti-Corruption Academy in Vienna; until 2016, he also taught annually at Europe's oldest university (Bologna). In addition to almost 100 articles and book chapters, he has authored or edited 16 books – including *Communism: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press: 2009) - and his work has been published in 19 languages.

Professor Holmes was President of the International Council for Central and East European Studies 2000-2005, and has been a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia since 1995

HOQUE, Golam Nasibul

Title: Exploring the potentials of interculturalism in supporting social cohesion: A Case Study of South Asian Migrants in London and Auckland

Abstract: The proposed study is concerned with the assessment of 'interculturalism' and how it can play a crucial role in sustaining the social cohesion process in the context of London, the UK; and Auckland, New Zealand. The reason for choosing these top-north and down-south Anglophone countries due to their long-standing history of immigration that helped London and Auckland flourish as super-diverse cities. Besides, both countries have a similar Westminster system of government and research design, resemblances in terms of diversity management and multicultural policies. The context of New Zealand is quite different due to the country's biculturalism-multiculturalism policy approach whereas the UK changes its immigration policies over time. Within the different multicultural policy frameworks of the chosen countries, this study attempts to situate Pan-European-interculturalism as a potential policy approach to support social cohesion. In more specific terms, the commitment to promote and manage the issue of interculturalism and its function within social cohesion will be based on the researcher's interdisciplinary knowledge, combined with a critical analysis of the state of the art. It will be scientifically enhanced by the choice of Critical Discourse analysis (CDA) as Theoretical Framework and Methodological Approach to particular focus on contemporary assessments of policymaking strategies in those countries. Finally, to realize these objectives, this study would like to contribute to the further development and extension of the chosen issue by providing well-argued solutions and practices.

Bio: PhD student in European Studies at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand.

HUTCHINSON, Jade, and DROOGAN, Julian,

Title: Far-Right 'Reactions': A Cross-National Comparative Analysis of Australian and Canadian Far-Right Extremist Groups on Facebook and its Association with British Far-Right Groups

Abstract: In recent years, the prolific adoption of social media has focused research on how social media affordances operate and intend influence users. Little, however, is known about which social media affordances most or least appeal to users of extremist groups, how such affordances may influence a user's interaction with far-right themes and narratives, and how this is being experienced across various nations. In this study, we used a mixed methods approach to conduct a cross-national comparative analysis of over three years of 'Reaction' use across 59 Australian and Canadian far-right extremist groups on Facebook. Here we assessed the level of user engagement with administrator posts using Reactions, and identified the types of posts, themes and narratives that generated the most user engagement specific to each Reaction ('Love', 'Wow', 'Haha', 'Sad', 'Anger' and 'Thankful'). This was paired with an in-depth qualitative analysis of the most popular Reactions used over time, and the posts, themes and narratives that attracted the most user engagement. Findings were interpreted using User and Gratification Theory to gauge why certain Reactions appealed to and may influence sympathetic followers of far-right extremist groups in these countries. Results highlight the 'Anger', 'Love', and 'Haha' Reactions as effective generative mechanisms for user engagement and resonance with

far-right themes and narratives, while producing a dangerously broad spectrum of referential meaning with moral and ideological implications. Findings will be cross-referenced with findings from extreme-right groups in the United Kingdom.

Bio:

Jade Hutchinson is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Security Studies and Criminology at Macquarie University (Australia) and the Research Centre for Media and Journalism Studies at Groningen University (The Netherlands).

Dr Julian Droogan is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Security Studies and Criminology at Macquarie University (Australia), and is the Editor of the Journal of Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism.

JENKINS, Danica

Title: Cinema as a 'Trojan Horse': Coming to Terms with the Past in Post-Yugoslav Film

Abstract: In the Western Balkan nations, formal processes of lustration and transitional justice have been instituted very unevenly. Differences in terms of objectives, legal frameworks, and most problematically, political will, have led to widely differing outcomes. It is generally accepted that perpetrators of war crimes and other atrocities must be brought to justice in order for nations and communities to re-establish civic society and a level of social trust. However in riven societies such as these, a prior form of social reckoning is needed in order to prepare for formal lustration and to foster the level of self-understanding required to break the cycle of violence and overcome the past. Since the early nineties, films from the former Yugoslavia have taken on this function, aesthetically negotiating and thereby mediating truth and understanding in these still conflict-ridden environments. Cinema is both a product of the long tradition of European aesthetic self-reflection and has the potential to reach a broad audience as a form of popular culture. I argue that this unique combination renders cinema an important tool of social-intervention in the post-Yugoslav environment. By preparing the ground for the collective understanding of the participation and responsibility required by communities to overcome history, cinema comes close to functioning as a surrogate for the necessary motions of a civil society trying to move forward by dealing with the past.

Bio: Danica Jenkins is a PhD candidate and Teaching Fellow in European Studies at the University of Sydney, Australia. Her research areas are the cultural history of Russia and South Eastern Europe, and her PhD addresses the role of cinema in 'coming to terms with the past' in the Balkans.

JIMENEZ, Pablo

Title: Europe United in Diversity—An Analogical Hermeneutics Perspective

Abstract: At a moment when a new crisis threatens Europe—a crisis containing, among other ingredients, Brexit, COVID-19 and a faltering economy—the EU's motto 'Europe united in diversity' would appear progressively less attainable. This article submits that the European ideal is still both desirable and possible, and advances four key concepts in the fostering of political unity both at the constitutional and the citizenship levels: 'analogical federation', 'analogical culture', 'public sphere secularity' and 'relational interculturalism'. These concepts share the common intuition that the EU should envisage itself in a more flexible manner and theoretical and practical implications for the future of European integration.

Bio: Dr Pablo Jimenez is a Visiting Fellow at Centre for European Studies, Australian National University. His current research explores the challenge for the EU's unity as a polity, in three domains: constitutional integrity, economic solidarity and social cohesion, in light of current challenges such as COVID, the immigration crisis, changes in Russia, China, the US, and Brexit.

KAMPMARK, Binoy

Title: COVID Meets Volvo: The Swedish Public Health Approach to Coronavirus

Abstract: Sweden has found itself considered both pioneer and pariah in the policy of approaching the novel coronavirus and its disease, COVID-19. While much of Europe went into economic hibernation and rigid lockdown in the first wave of novel coronavirus infections in the spring, Sweden kept its borders, bars, restaurants and schools open. Likewise, yoga studios, gyms and hairdressers. Public transportation could still be freely used. Masks were not worn. This approach of voluntary self-restraint has remained, for the most part, unchanged. The confidence shown in the *myndigheterna* (the agencies) has been unwavering, so much so that the country's chief epidemiologist, Anders Tegnell, has become something of a folk hero. The same cannot be said for various prominent infectious diseases experts within Sweden who have resented an experiment which resulted, initially, in a heavy death toll, notably amongst the elderly. Accusations that Tegnell was happy to tolerate a higher death toll amongst the aged members of the populace while pursuing "herd immunity," abound. This paper examines the central, and often controversial tenets of the Swedish public health response to COVID-19, and how widely it has appealed to public health experts and officials in Europe and beyond. Debates within the country itself are also discussed. What it shows is that, despite rising levels of infection in a second wave in Europe, the Swedish model is being adopted by stealth and admired from afar.

Bio: Dr Kampmark was a Commonwealth Scholar at Selwyn College, Cambridge. He lectures in the School of Global, Urban and Social Studies at RMIT University, Melbourne and is a contributing editor to CounterPunch

KELLY, Serena & LAI, Suet-Yi

Title: A normative or market power? EU power projection and reception in China, Japan and Korea

Abstract: As a sui generis entity, conceptions of the European Union (EU) as an international actor have sparked much debate since the 1970s. These debates have variously called the EU a civilian power, soft power, normative power, market power and even declining power (Webber 2015). By analysing the EU's communication and the reception of these communications, this paper compares how the EU wishes to be viewed as a power on the world stage in 2020 with how the EU's self-projections are received and understood in three of the EU's important partners in Asia – China, Japan and South Korea. The paper is divided into two sections. Firstly, it highlights the EU's explicit communication priorities as set out in the EU Global Strategy (2016), the new von der Leyen 'Geopolitical Commission' and the messages contained in the social media accounts of the EU Delegations in the respective countries. Secondly, the EU's communication goals are compared with how the EU is presented and understood in the leading media outlets and foreign affairs accounts in the three countries.

Bio: Lai Suet-yi (Cher) is Associate Professor of Centre for European Studies, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies. Before moving South to Guangzhou, she was a Post-

doctoral Fellow in the Department of International Relations, Tsinghua University (Beijing). Her research interests include EU politics, Asia-EU relations and China-EU relations. She has published some thirty journal articles and book chapters on these topics.

Serena Kelly is Deputy Director at the National Centre for Research on Europe (NCRE) (Teaching/Research Organisation), and Vice-President of ESAANZ

KLATT, Gosia

Presentation Title: De-Europeanization of education policy in Poland

Abstract: Since 2004 accession to the European Union (EU), Poland, like many other post-communist countries, have gone through a significant process of Europeanization (Radaelli 2000) of its policies. In this process focused on adaptation to the EU, the European values, policies and institutions have been an important reference point for the legitimacy of major national system reforms. In education, Poland adjusted its higher education structures according to the Bologna Process, introduced European-focused studies, modernised its governance structures and committed to European benchmarks in early childhood, youth and lifelong learning.

Nevertheless, the ideas of nationalism and populist politics have been increasingly present in European member states. In Poland, since 2015 the populist right-wing government has undertaken wide-spread reforms across variety of sectors including re-nationalisation of industry, judicial reform and education. The political narrative arguing for these reforms refers to the importance of shaping national values and beliefs through education. This paper is interested in the process of de-Europeanization of education policy through Polish national reforms of education, the policy re-alignment and the new discourse legitimising these policies.

Bio: Dr Gosia Klatt is a Senior Lecturer at the Melbourne Graduate School of Education (MGSE) at the University of Melbourne. She has political science background but her current academic and practical interest lie in the field of education policy in Australia and Europe. She is currently a Chief Investigator of the Jean Monnet Module “Education Policy in Practice” delivered for Master of Education students.

KLEIN, Maren

Title: The German Federal Election 2021 – Uncertainties abound in times of a pandemic

Abstract: The German Federal in 2021 is taking place at a time when uncertainties abound. After four consecutive terms in office, Angela Merkel will step down as Germany’s Chancellor at the 2021 election. Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, the current leader of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and at one time seen as Merkel’s preferred successor, announced her resignation of the party’s leadership on 10 February 2020 as a result of the outcome of the 2020 Thuringian government elections in which for the first time in the history of the Federal Republic of Germany a minister president was elected with votes of CDU and far right and populist parties.

The election of a new leader for the Christian Democrats was planned for the summer but postponed to December 2020 due to COVID-19. Currently, there is no clear candidate for the leadership position and with the pandemic moving into its second wave, the uncertainties keep growing.

Local and federal state elections have shown changes in voter behaviour and there is no guarantee that the two main parties of old, the CDU and SPD, the German Social Democrats, will even stay relevant in the coming election, given the erosion of their voter base.

Bio: Maren Klein is a Research Officer in the European Union Centre of Excellence at RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia.

KURECIC, Petar

Title: Geopolitical Stability and Economic Development of the Western Balkans in the COVID-Era: Where lie the EU Priorities in the Time of Crisis

Abstract: The Western Balkans states have a European perspective. However, the economic situation in the Western Balkans is not optimistic, with bleak prospects for economic development. It is not likely that the investment boom and GDP growth, experienced in the Visegrad Four and Baltic States in the pre-accession period will be repeated. Demographic challenges in some of the Western Balkans states are staggering. With the possible accession to the EU, the outmigration from the Western Balkans would most likely increase due to the opening of the labour market in the EU member states. If socio-economic development is not comprehensively encouraged, substantially financed and audited by the EU, poor economic results and negative demographic impacts of the domestic situation will continue, and external players will continue to strengthen their economic and political influence in the region. In the first half of the 2020, the Croatian presidency has, considering the geographic proximity, as well as historical experience and contemporary ties of Croatia to the region, continued with putting the issue on the EU's agenda. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has put aside many priorities of the EU, and it is necessary to study the major implications of it for the Western Balkans states?

Bio: Associate Professor of Political Science and Jean Monnet module coordinator at the University of North Croatia.

LECAJ, Mentor

Title: The Western Balkans in the New Multipolar World Order

Abstract: Global arena has entered into drastic transformation, among the other due to the fact of the economic growth happening in Asia, which influences and makes a shift and a division of power between global players affecting multipolar world where the sample could be the Western Balkans. The author of this paper aims to make an analysis of the current situation and the development within the Western Balkans and the impact the key players have in these developments. NATO role as an umbrella is the main pillar of all developments in the Balkans but important role of EU cannot be neglected. The paper deals also with the fact that U.S role as the major power actor in multipolar world has increased significantly and the dynamics efforts to bring the Western Balkans under the NATO umbrella are being made, so preparations are well organized to face the unpredicted challenges brought from the changes in Asia. Most of the Western Balkan countries are affiliated to NATO, whereas an influence of some other powers are felt in some parts of the Balkans and indeed there is some willingness in some regions for this.

Bio: Mentor Lecaj is working as the Vice Dean at Faculty of Law and Professor of International Law at the AAB College Pristina, Kosovo.

LEWIS, Ben

Title: Reporting the EU in Australia

Bio: Ben Lewis is the Chief International Correspondent for SBS News, an Australian public broadcaster. Based in London, he covers events across the UK, United States, Middle East and Europe; including Brexit. He has previously reported for CBS America, ITV London and several Australian commercial networks.

LONG, Debbi

Title: The Global Laboratory: COVID-19 and European variables

Abstract: While pandemics have a history dating back thousands of years, the technological context of big data analysis, vaccine development and global communications in 2020 means that COVID-19 has presented some unique opportunities for rapid responses that were not available with previous pandemics. Taking lessons from the H1N5 and SARS pandemics earlier in the century, the response of the global community has been characterised by quite remarkable transparency, openness of communications and data sharing. One of the consequences of this is that the world has become a test laboratory, with experts closely monitoring the effectiveness of each country's response, to help inform public health advice. This paper examines a range of variables that have emerged as significant, including: the microbiology of the virus; population demographics (including age, density, housing patterns, socioeconomic status and ethnicity); geography; health systems and clinical governance; health equipment logistics; public health response; government policy; and policy compliance and enforcement. The European experience of COVID-19 will be explored through the complex variables that have emerged as a result of data accessibility, data sharing and communications technologies.

Bio: Debbi is a health anthropologist with the RMIT EU Centre Jean Monnet Sustainable Development Goals Network.

LUDEWIG, Alexandra

Title: Westlessness.

Abstract: The disunity of many people in Western industrialised nations is evident nowhere more so than in relation to the contested topic of migration. It polarises, as it is precisely here that legal convictions clash with ethical and moral ones and subsequently fail in the attempt to create Realpolitik. For both Australia and Germany, island names such as Nauru and Lesbos represent complex issues that are difficult to solve.

On the Greek island of Lesbos, the European Union endeavoured to redefine its asylum policy by establishing the Moria refugee camp. To this effect, an agreement with Turkey had already been signed in 2016, however, in the following years, little progress was made, while many setbacks were suffered. In 2020 up to 15,000 people resided there provisionally, until more than half of them were made homeless again after a fire.

The West claims to be an economic and political power, however, in 2020 its moral authority was again pilloried in many places, some political scientists even speak of "Westlessness" (Ischinger 2020): populism, nationalism, right-wing extremism, terrorism, democratic fatigue are some of the symptoms. My paper will explore the crisis of Westlessness.

Bio: Professor Alexandra Ludewig, head of the School of Humanities at the University of Western Australia, is a scholar of German and European Studies. Her teaching and

research focus on issues of identity and 'Heimat' and she has published extensively in both German and English on these topics.

MALKOV, Alexander

Title: Russia's relations with the V4 countries: A Real Threat to EU Integration or Making a Mountain out of a Molehill?

Abstract: Since the 5th enlargement when the Visegrad Group of states (V4) - along with Malta, Cyprus and the three Baltic states - joined the European project, the EU has witnessed a series of crises, namely economic crises, the migration crisis and, relatively new, the rise of populism and nationalism and the COVID-19 pandemic. It may be argued that the EU's current integration problems, partially caused by these crises, open the door to Russia's bilateral interaction with the V4 countries, increasing its influence in the region, undermining the EU's real and perceived superiority in its own geo-strategic 'home' and threatening the European project's future. The paper argues that the participating in the European project remains the V4 states' priority. However, some of the region's countries, particularly Hungary and Slovakia, seek for the alternatives in political, economic or socio-cultural dimensions, which Russia is happy to offer, using individual approach and exercising different types of power in its quest for regional leadership. This paper provides an analysis of the current state of EU's cohesion and integration and the extent and dynamics of Russia's relations with the V4 countries, including the reasons for such interplays' (de)intensification.

Bio: Alexander Malkov was awarded MA degree in International Relations from Tallinn University of Technology in 2015 and is currently a PhD candidate at the National Centre for Research on Europe, University of Canterbury; his current research analyses whether Russia's relations with the V4 countries impact EU's cohesion and EU's integration.

MARKOVIC KHAZE, Nina

Presentation Title: A bitter carrot of EU accession: how to improve compliance and reform agenda in EU candidate states: the case of Serbia-EU relations"

Abstract: Serbia's path to EU accession has been challenging, marred with diplomatic controversies on both sides involving a focus on the compliance with international criminal tribunals in the 2000s and a slow pace of democratization coupled with low incentives to reform since the 2010s. An increasing presence of other external players in the Balkans, most notably Russia and China, has prompted the EU in recent years to change its strategy towards a greater inclusiveness of Serbia (along with other accession candidates and potential candidates) in various EU programs. This paper will argue that for the success of democratization in the Western Balkans towards an eventual goal of EU accession, the EU needs to provide more solid guarantees for accession in order to combat both the enlargement fatigue (from the EU side) and accession fatigue from the candidates' side. A failure to achieve a deeper integration and structural reforms in the EU candidate states such as Serbia (but also others) risks alienating democratic governments towards embracing less democratic alternatives. It would aid in consolidating the political and economic influence of Russia and China in the EU's Southern neighbourhood as they are seen as being less demanding partners by the EU accession candidates. The Western Balkan region will then be put into the spotlight (as it has already been to some extent) in the context of a broader geostrategic game between great powers at the detriment of much-needed democratic reforms, further civil society development and fair and free media reporting which are all in jeopardy at present.

Bio: Dr Nina Markovic Khaze is a sessional academic at Macquarie University in the Department of Security Studies and Criminology, with a track of publications on Australian foreign policy, European political and military affairs, Western Balkans, and European integration

MASCITELLI, Bruno

Title 1: Italy: How long can Italy fend off the growing spectre of Euroscepticism?

Abstract 1: While Italy was a founding member of the European integration project which began with the European Coal and Steel Community, its contributory role until the 1990s was on the whole unquestioned by most and somewhat sidelined from mainstream Italian political debate. This changed initially with the Maastricht Treaty and more specifically with the adherence to the single currency – The Euro. Once the impact of the Euro made itself felt in the Italian economy and given the ideological direction of the centre-right coalition under Berlusconi, Italy began turning against the European Union. What made it worse was the prolonged pain from the global financial crisis and more recently exacerbated by the Covid pandemic response from the European Union and from certain EU member states. The centre right subsequently became the main voice of Euroscepticism in Italy until they were joined by the 5 Star Movement in the 2013 election and reinforced with their strong performance in the 2018 election. An unlikely government alliance was cobbled together with Matteo Salvini's Eurosceptic Lega until the two parties fell out in August 2019. To the surprise of some the 5 Star Movement managed to forge another unlikely alliance – the Democratic Party – which produced a somewhat different tune on the rapport with the European Union. The result of these alternative alliances has been on the one hand the decline of the 5 Star Movement and on the other an uncertain state in the EU-Italy relations. The question one asks is how long Italy can continue to stave off the Eurosceptic label as the pro-EU forces begin falling by the wayside.

Title 2: EUSAAP Australia – European Studies in Australia under Covid 19:

Abstract 2: European Studies in Australia during the Covid pandemic was witness to some ironic developments. Seeking to function in this lockdown environment provided both opportunities as well as difficulties. Ironically the creation of ESAANZ - formerly the Contemporary European Studies Association of Australia (CESAA) – which occurred as a merger with colleagues in New Zealand as well as establishing a branch in Sydney occurred in what would be considered non ideal conditions. With significant preparation, and an association with greater responsibilities not to mention a different set of political conditions, ESAANZ came into being built around its three branches in Melbourne, Sydney and Christchurch. What was equally interesting was the plethora of virtual (Zoom) activities which continued despite the discouraging environment both within ESAANZ as well as amongst universities and EU Centres throughout the country. This was especially complex for those based in Melbourne which was at the pointy end of the physical pandemic restrictions. This presentation will address the 8 month period of activity and how ESAANZ and colleagues in the European Studies space addressed these new circumstances.

Bio: Bruno Mascitelli is an Adjunct Professor at Swinburne University of Technology. He is the holder of a Jean Monnet Chair (2016-2019) and is the President of European Studies Association of Australia New Zealand (ESAAANZ formerly CESAA). His main research interests remain European Political economy and Italian political economy.

MEHMETI, Leandrit

Presentation Title: Reversing the insecure path of Kosovo towards the EU integration

Abstract: Kosovo's path towards the EU integration is insecure, despite the narrative from the EU or local political establishment in Kosovo that this process is well-founded and solid. This insecurity is mostly due to Kosovo's political status contestation by five EU members, but also because the democratisation, as a backbone of the integration process, has experienced some drawbacks and regress, with all the progress it has had over the last two decades. I argue that this insecurity is reversible if Kosovo's domestic political elite focuses on further development of democratisation and ensures the rule-of-law is able to combat corruption and organised crime. This discussion analyses the democratisation development, the normalisation process between Kosovo and Serbia, facilitated by the EU and the role that the EU can play in this process.

Bio: Discipline Lead for the Diploma of Arts in the South Australian Institute of Business and Technology, the University of South Australia. His research interests are in the political developments in South Eastern Europe focusing on the Western Balkans.

MOCHAN, Antonia

Title: Reporting the EU in Australia

Bio: Antonia has worked for a number of years in communication roles across the European Commission. She was European Spokesperson for Science and Research 2004-2008, Head of Media in the UK 2008-2011 and Head of Communications in the UK 2011-2014. She moved to Australia in 2014, where she initially worked as a freelance consultant, including a spell as Media and Communications Specialist in the EU-Australia Leadership Forum. She is currently General Manager Community and External Relations at Uniting Vic. Tas, a community services organisation, but she keeps across EU and EU-Australia issues.

MURAVIEV Alexey

Title: The Turkish Gambit in the Caucasus: Russia-Turkey Power Games over the War in Nargorno-Karabakh. Implications for the European Security

Abstract: The opening of hostilities on 27 September 2020 between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh (NK) did not just mark the highest point of tensions between the two former Soviet republics since early 1990s. The 2020 border war over NK saw an active involvement of Turkey, which openly sided with the government of Azerbaijan. The power involvement of a resurgent Middle Eastern power triggered yet another set of concerns in both Russia and the European Union (EU).

Under the presidency of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan Turkey has been displaying increasing geopolitical and military adventurism across parts of the Middle East, south-eastern Mediterranean, and the northern Africa. Turkey's overt support of Azerbaijan is of growing concern to Russia; Moscow already has policy differences with Ankara over Syria and Libya. What worries Russia even more is the reported involvement of Turkish-backed Syrian fighters aligned into the Caucasus, which may transform the secular nationalist conflict into yet another theatre of jihad (ToJ).

A possible Islamisation of the war over NK as well as Turkey's adventurism aligns concerns of both Moscow and Brussels. Russia's relations with the EU, principally Germany, have deteriorated further over the imposition of limited sanctions over the

poisoning of Alexei Navalny. Yet, Erdoğan's clash with Greece and France saw limited convergence between Moscow and Paris.

It also stands to reason that Turkey's troubled relations with NATO are not necessarily disadvantageous to Russia's strategic interests.

Bio: Dr Alexey D. Muraviev is Associate Professor of National Security and Strategic Studies at Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia. He is the founder and Director of the Strategic Flashlight forum on national security and strategy at Curtin.

NIKOLAID, George (Georgios)

Title: The Political Economy of Crisis Management in the Eurozone

Abstract: Why did a diagnosis which placed an emphasis on member-state culpabilities dominate the Eurozone crisis over a systemic one and how did that affect the construction of the Crisis Management System (CMS)? This paper explores the micro foundations of the formation of the CMS in an attempt to address the Eurozone crisis and discusses the domination of a national diagnosis as a remedy for the crisis. In particular, the paper focuses on the reflexive relationship between the architectural flaws of the Eurozone, which lacked a concrete and clear CMS at the onset of the crisis on the one hand, and the timing sequence of the crisis on the other. Specifically, by applying a critical IPE lens, it is argued that; i) the combination of Greece being the first Eurozone member to seek assistance; ii) the lack of a robust system when Greece did reach out for assistance; and iii) the interests of the most powerful member-states, including that of the ECB, constructed a path-dependent CMS that identified state profligacy as the source of the Eurozone problem and thus prescribed austerity as the remedy for it, rather than a broader systemic reorganization of the Eurozone.

Bio: PhD Candidate from Monash University in Melbourne

PAKLUSK, I Jan

Title: Populist Leadership and Political Decay

Abstract: Electoral victories of populist leaders in Hungary (2010) and Poland (2015) had ended nearly two decades of political development there and started a new trend of, political decay" (Fukuyama 2014; also called „political regression"). It is heralded by deteriorating indicators of democracy (Freedom House, EIU) and „quality of governance", the latter measured by the World Governance Indicators (WGI) including „fighting corruption". The panel presentation charts political decay in Poland and Hungary, and comments briefly on its causes and consequences.

Bio: Jan Pakulski, MA PhD ASSA, Professor Emeritus, University of Tasmania, Hobart, Professor at Collegium Civitas, Warsaw

PARK, Sang-Chul

Title: The ASEAN and BRI: Impacts for Asia and Europe and Its Future perspective from the COVID-19 Pandemic

Abstract: Under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China focuses on the ASEAN as part of a land bridge connecting China to other regions including the ASEAN. On the other hand, ASEAN member nations regard the BRI as an avenue to improve connectivity with their poor infrastructure development. Accordingly, ASEAN member nations are keen to

develop their infrastructure projects in collaboration with Chinese companies and funding agencies mainly in the forms of joint venture. This infrastructure plays a very significant role to support the increasing amount of the ASEAN trade and economic growth. This paper explains the possible interaction between China and the ASEAN by implementing the BRI and deals with the impact of the BRI on the region. Furthermore, it analyzes which roles do the BRI play in building the region between China and the ASEAN member nations. Last, but not least it also focuses on Chinese national strategy and how to implement the BRI in the region. The research finding is that some ASEAN member nations face high debt ratios of their GDP that can burden their economic growth continuously although both parties intend to the win-win approach.

Bio: Sang-Chul Park has received PhD degrees in political science in Aug. 1993 in Germany and economics in Feb. 1997 in Sweden. He also passed a habilitation examination (full professorship) in political science in Nov. 2002 in Germany as well as a docent evaluation (Swedish habilitation) in economics in Sep. 2004 in Sweden. He is currently a Full Professor at Graduate School of Knowledge based Technology and Energy, Korea Polytechnic University. Since 2016, he has also served as a visiting professor at Maria Curie Skłodowska University, Poland. His research interests concern industrial policy and regional development and studies on innovation systems and on science parks and innovative clusters in particular. Currently his research areas are expanded toward energy policy, sustainable development strategy, high technology ventures and international business and trade.

PARKER, Rita

Title: Liberal Democracy in Action – challenges and its future

Abstract: This paper seeks to examine and understand contemporary challenges to liberal democracy and the rules based international order as issues of contemporary and future global importance. The paper aims to contribute to the debate about the challenges to, and the future of, the different constitutional forms and characteristics of liberal democracies.

Forms of the European liberal democratic model had spread to every continent by the end of the 20th century and the rules based international order has created conditions of stability, peace and security across the globe. Yet today this constitutional model is being challenged and democracy is potentially at an inflection point. Nation states are facing existential external and internal challenges to the integrity of the principles and value of liberal democracy. They are increasingly under pressure from illiberal and authoritarian regimes, as well as from internal political extremism that seek to undermine the principles and values of democracy.

Bio: Dr Rita Parker, Jean Monnet Research Fellow, Australian National University Centre for European Studies

QUIRK, Jessica

Presentation Title: How does the Resilience and Recovery Fund affect the Italy-EU relationship?

Abstract: The last decade has seen rising levels of Euroscepticism in the Italian public and growing support of populist movements. The austerity measures implemented in response to the sovereign debt crisis of 2011-2012 and subsequent economic stagnation have greatly impacted on citizen support for EU integration. Disenchantment of the Italian people has resulted in the emergence and strengthening of anti-EU political parties such

as Lega and Movimento 5 Stelle. COVID-19 has presented significant challenges to Italy and has accelerated existing trends. This paper discusses the impact of economic policies and economic conditions on levels of Euroscepticism, populism, and support for European integration and will address why the Resilience and Recovery Fund is critical to the future direction of the Italy-EU relationship.

Bio: Jessica Quirk is a graduate of the Bachelor of Business at Swinburne University of Technology and is an Honours student in International Studies at RMIT. She is Secretary of European Studies Association of Australia and New Zealand (ESAANZ) and her current interests lie in the fields of European Studies, Political Economy and Italian populism

QUIRICO, Ottavio

Title: Sustainable Development: Carbon Neutrality v Investment Protection? Assessing the Viability of the EU Green Deal in Light of Regime Conflicts, with a Focus on the UNFCCC and the Energy Charter Treaty

Abstract: The UNFCCC and Paris Agreement provide that the Parties must stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, limiting temperature increase to 2°C maximum, and possibly 1.5°C, above pre-industrial levels. Within this context, the Sustainable Europe Investment Plan aims to mobilise at least a €1 trillion investment flow in renewable energy between 2020 and 2030 to achieve carbon neutrality in the EU by 2050 and the European Investment Bank has clarified that it will phase out support to energy projects reliant on unabated fossil fuel by the end of 2021. Bilateral and multilateral investment treaties, notably the Energy Charter Treaty, tend to protect investors via fair and equitable treatment, which has given rise to claims for compensation in investor-State disputes by both investors in fossil fuel, owing to public policies supporting carbon-neutral energy (eg, *Uniper v The Netherlands*), and investors in renewable energy, owing to the rolling back of incentive schemes for carbon-neutral investment (eg, *Eiser Infrastructure Limited and Energía Solar Luxembourg Sàrl v Spain*). This regime conflict might hamper the development of climate-friendly policies, particularly the EU Green Deal. Should therefore international investment agreements, notably the Energy Charter Treaty, be reformed so as to overcome the regulatory chill?

Bio: Dr Ottavio Quirico is Associate Professor at the University of New England, Law School, and Honorary Lecturer at the Australian National University, Centre for European Studies.

REITERER, Michael

Title: Twelve stars shining in post-COVID darkness?

Abstract: The EU entered 2020 with a heavy back-bag: just about to recover from the after-effects of the financial and sovereign debt crisis, ready to address BREXIT and the Turkey, Greece, Cyprus crisis, confronted with a new refugee and migration crisis fuelled by the unruly neighbourhood (Syria, Libya) when COVID-19 hit, when adversarial Russia (Ukraine, Biela Russia), the US-China conflict, the US-Administration as well as climate change and the WTO and its system needed attention.

Like other players the EU was not well-prepared – everything the EU stands for was put into question: the four freedoms of the Single Market, especially the freedom to move, nationalism turned into regionalism reminding of the Medieval city states.... solidarity, cooperation, multilateralism, rule of law moved backstage.

Once the shock has passed health governance moved into focus, the will for economic recovery translated into something unheard of – EU guaranteed recovery funds in addition to the multiannual budget while stressing against many odds the need for multilateral cooperation to face and overcome a pandemic.

“Failing forward”, Hamiltonian moment, strategic autonomy, taming geo-economics, operationalising soft power instruments like rule making (Brussels effect) and competition policy, walking the talk through Team Europe (international solidarity) and pushing for enhanced multilateralism and rule of law appear outdated to some but the only solution for others to maintain an international order which is able to solve the outstanding global problems. Let’s have a look, no guarantee for success!

Bio: Distinguished Professor in International Security and Diplomacy, Institute for European Studies, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB); Associate Fellow, Global Fellowship Initiative, Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP); Senior Advisor, Center for Asia Pacific Strategy (CAPS), Washington D.C.; Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Korea (retired)

RRAHMANI, Bashkim

Title: EU 2020 and Kosovo perspectives

Abstract: Kosovo is one of the newest states created at the final phase of the dissolution of former federation of Yugoslavia. Kosovo declared its independence in February 17, 2008. Since then it has been recognized by more than 100 states of the world but it didn't still manage to become a member of UN and it is still at the early stage of integration into EU. European Union as the supra national regional organization holds a neutral position regarding the Kosovo statehood, whereas there are still five member states that have not recognized Kosovo as the independent state (Romania, Greece, Cyprus, Spain and Slovakia). EU has set up a group of various conditions Kosovo has to fulfil so it could enter more deeply into the process of integrations. Among this, disputes with the neighbour state of Serbia have to be solved resulting with an agreement. The EU Special Representative for the Kosovo – Serbia Dialogue Miroslav Lajčák, has taken the responsibility to assist these two countries while/if reaching a comprehensive dialogue which is, as stated by EU, the main pre condition to EU integration of these countries. Miroslav Lajčák inherited a long lasting dialogue which remains to be ambiguous and difficult. Requested compromise pushed from outside is very difficult to be fulfilled by parties who stand far from each other, whereas EU and US Administration are not in the same wave. Author of the paper will bring up an analysis of the dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia and the role of EU has been and is playing as well as the differences between US and the EU about the process and the possible outcomes, including the positions held by the parties of this dialogue.

Bio: Professor at the AAB College – Prishtina/Kosovo

SŁUPEK, Anna

Title: Debate on Poland's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention as ritual chaos in public discourse

Abstract: 2020 was full of important political events in many European countries. For Poland, it was the second year of the right-wing populist Law and Justice government's second term. In addition to struggling with the effects of the epidemic, it was a time of a fierce election campaign and the re-election of a candidate supported by the ruling party, as well as a time of internal disputes and crises in the ruling coalition. Cultural and human

rights themes, especially LGBT + rights and women's rights, returned to the political debate with great force.

In Poland, one of the most controversial events of 2020 was the unexpected idea of the Polish government to withdraw from The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, ratified in 2015. The purpose of this paper is to analyze the debate on leaving the Istanbul Convention by Poland in the context of the theory of public discourse. As an interpretative model for explaining the course of this debate, I adopt the theory of ritual chaos.

Bio: Ph.D. student at the Doctoral School in the Social Sciences at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow interested in political theory and Polish political scene.

SHAO, Jingkai

Presentation Title: “Positive Other”: Japan’s Perceptions and Expectations towards the EU in 2020

Abstract: This study examines Japan’s perceptions and expectations to the European Union (EU) through the content analysis and textual analysis of Japanese traditional media and social media. Totally 872 EU-related articles from three influential Japanese national dailies, and 298 posts from two official Twitter accounts during March 1st-June 30, 2020 were collected, coded, and analyzed. The preliminary findings of the study suggest that: (1) the major topics that Japan concerns about the EU are: the COVID-19 pandemic in Europe, the Brexit negotiation process, and the economy in the eurozone; (2) Japan and the EU have shared destiny, shared values, and shared self-images; while (3) there are perception gaps between the two actors. Based on the findings, this study concludes that in regard to identity and world order in 2020, the EU is viewed as a “positive Other” to Japan under the shadow of two “negative Others” (China and the United States): (1) Japan shares the common goals of maintaining the declining liberal order and enhancing multilateralism with the EU; (2) Japan’s attitudes towards the EU becomes increasingly positive as the region gradually recovered from the shock of COVID-19 crisis; and (3) Japan expects the EU can be more resilient internally and more proactive globally.

Bio: Jingkai Shao is a second-year PhD student in international relations at Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University, Japan. His research interests focus on strategic narratives, security in East Asia, and comparative regionalism.

SHORTIS, Emma and WARD, Chloe

Title: Teaching the European Green Deal in Australia

Abstract: The election of Joe Biden as the 46th President of the United States has the potential to dramatically shift global climate politics. In Australia, it has already sparked a renewed focus on the Morrison government’s lack of commitment to climate action. Europe—already welcoming Biden’s election and his commitment to return to the Paris Accords—has long been at the forefront of global efforts to implement the Paris Agreement and the UN’s 2030 Agenda more broadly. The confluence of global events—Biden’s election, renewed scrutiny of Australia, the stepping up of European climate policy and the negotiations for an EU-Australia FTA—mark a unique opportunity to encourage engagement with European environmental policy, and particularly radical environmental and economic reform like the European Green Deal. This paper explores that potential,

and how teaching the EGD in Australia might open opportunities to scrutinize the role of universities, academic research, and public engagement with the local and international politics of climate change.

Bio: Chloe Ward and Emma Shortis are Research Fellows in the Jean Monnet EU Centre of Excellence at RMIT University and the hosts of the Barely Gettin' by Podcast

SOWDEN, Michaela

Title: Austria's unconventional Approach to Eurovision

Abstract: This year saw the cancellation of Eurovision due to COVID 19 so therefore the results are unknown. Whether Austria would have done well or stayed in the semi final in 2020 remains an unknown quantity. Austria has had mixed results from the very start, finishing last at their first attempt in 1957 before Liane Augustin gave the country the first of its eight top five results in 1958 with fifth. Udo Jurgens finally won the contest in 1966 on his third attempt after finishing sixth in 1964, and fourth in 1965. This would be Austria's only top three result of the 20th century. Another win would have to wait until 2014 48 years later, the longest period for any country between wins. I would like to discuss Austria throughout the years, particularly looking at Austria's sometimes unconventional and quite surprising selections, their results and reasons for Austria's absences. To do this I will discuss some of the songs and singers in more detail, in particular 2014 and also look at the use of dialect

Bio: Michaela Sowden is an Austrian born Australian, living in QLD who has been following Eurovision since 1971. She is a member of various fan clubs, has volunteered on the OGAE desk in Stockholm and Kiev when accredited as fan and is a moderator at Eurovision Café and INFE Australia. She has been going to every Eurovision live shows since 2014 and transferred her love for the contest to her children.

SOLOMON, Russell

Title: "Pushed off the agenda? Rights protection and institutional inadequacy in a post-Brexit UK"

Abstract: With EU/UK negotiations over a post-Brexit deal staggering on towards the end of 2020 departure date, the protection of rights in a post-Brexit UK has been largely absent, save around Northern Ireland and citizen rights, from either the negotiations or the internal debate. COVID-19, the Johnson parliamentary majority and the understandable focus of negotiations on trade and economic relations will likely mean the UK leaves the EU with little certainty as to how various rights, now 'brought home', will be protected and enforced. This will have implications for not only the protection of rights in the UK but also the EU's own human rights regime. The protection of rights in the UK is dependent on a multi-layered framework of which EU institutions have formed an important part. Regardless of any Brexit deal the UK's withdrawal will produce gaps in this overall institutional framework. At the same time, an unsettling of constitutional arrangements and a rights-averse government at Westminster look likely to further dilute rights protection. This paper adopts an institutional approach to assess the protection of rights in a post-Brexit UK and argues that even with some regulatory alignment between the EU and the UK, inadequate institutional arrangements risk undermining current levels of protection.

Bio: teaches at RMIT University and his current research interests include economic and social rights in Australia and globally and the impact of Brexit, particularly in relation to the UK and the EU rights regimes.

STYCZYNSKA, Natasza

Presentation Title: Polish Eurosceptic and Europhobes and the Future of the EU

Abstract: The White Paper on the Future of Europe generated discussion about possible scenarios for reform of the EU and possibility of introducing the idea of multi-speed Europe. In recent years the whole concept of differentiation has gained even more prominence, especially in the light of recent developments, such as the migration crisis, covid-19 pandemic and Brexit. Currently one of the main challenges is also rising populism and Euroscepticism that is visible on both left and right side of the political arena. So-called delayed transformation fatigue resulted in establishing new anti-establishment and anti-European movements in Central and Eastern Europe while the aftermath of economic crisis and the austerity measures became a fertile ground for this kind of organisations in the European South. The main aim of this paper is to analyse if Eurosceptic and Europhobe political actors in Poland only contest the status quo or do they propose any future scenarios for the EU and how/if does it relate with the positions taken by anti-European parties in the region (Visegrad Group)? In order to answer these questions, both manifestos and party documents will be examined together with MEPs speeches during the Future of Europe debates in the European Parliament (2018-2019).

Bio: Dr Natasza Styczynska holds a PhD in Political Science from the Jagiellonian University. Her doctoral thesis tackled the issues of European discourse of Polish political parties and Euroscepticism. She obtained MA degrees in Political Sciences (from Pedagogical University of Krakow) and in European Studies (from Jagiellonian University). Currently, she is a researcher in two H2020 projects entitled "Populist rebellion against modernity in 21st-century Eastern Europe: neo-traditionalism and neo-feudalism" (POPREBEL) and "EU Differentiation, Dominance and Democracy" (EU3D). She is also engaged in the 'Negotiating Brexit: national governments, EU institutions and the UK', project funded by UK Economic and Social Research Council.

SU, Hungdah

Title: Development of the European Union Studies in Taiwan

Abstract: EU Studies did not emerge in Taiwan's academia until the early 1980s when Europe-Taiwan trade boomed, and Europeans started to accelerate their integration. Since then, Taiwanese universities have established numerous undergraduate programs, modules, master's degrees, and even doctoral degrees in the EU Studies. This institutional development milestone was the foundation of the EU Center in Taiwan in 2009, which has now constituted a high-profile identity in international academia and a national network in the EU Studies. Over the past four decades, on European integration, nearly 1,300 journal articles were published, and some 700 degree theses were completed. One-third of this publication focused upon trade and economic integration while nearly one-fifth were interested in normative issues, echoing that the EU is first perceived as an economic, trade, and normative power in Taiwanese eyes. Taiwan's EU Studies was once dominated by the American epistemological community, which is now also influenced by European publications and emerging Asian approaches. In prospect, European integration after Brexit, accelerating Asian regionalism, and rising EU-Asian inter-regionalism will shape the next wave of EU Studies in Taiwan.

Bio: Hungdah Su, Professor and Jean Monnet Chair at National Taiwan University, Director General of European Union Centre in Taiwan.

SUGIONO, Muhadi

Title: Under the Shadow of Global Pandemic: EU Studies in Indonesia

Abstract: The global pandemic Covid-19 has significant impacts on all aspects of life, including in the academic world. European Studies in Indonesia is no exception. For the Indonesian Community of European Studies (ICES), the newly established EU studies in Indonesia, the impact of the global pandemic takes two different forms. Many academic activities or gatherings such as conventions, meetings or seminars had to be rescheduled, postponed, or even cancelled. Some research collaboration plans have also been reviewed due to reallocation of fundings. Apart from organisational impact, the pandemic has also influenced the view on the EU. It added the belief of the EU as an unsuccessful political project following its failure to address effectively the economic and migrant crisis as well as increased Euroscepticism as exemplified especially with Brexit. Many began to be very sceptical of the EU and to question its relevance and significance as a model of regional integration and as a unique actor in international relations. This sceptical view can probably lead to the lower interest on European studies.

Bio: Muhadi Sugiono is a lecturer at the Department of International Relations and the convenor of the European Studies, Universitas Gadjah Mada. He is also the president of the EU Studies Association in Indonesia (Indonesian Community of European Studies).

SUETYI, Lai and YIJIA, Huang

Title: Resilient or Irrelevant: How does rising China perceive EU?

Abstract: The current decade witnesses not only series of crises weakening the post-world war neo-liberal world order built by the West, but also the continuous rising power of emerging countries especially China. Supported by substantial first-hand empirical data, this research assesses how perception of the EU in China is affected after series of crises, including the most recent hit by Covid19. It traces how China's narrative of the relationship and relative power balance between China and the EU has evolved from 2006 to 2020, a period of turbulence testing the resilience of the EU. This analysis of traditional media, public opinion data as well as netizens' responses in social media provides the most up-to-date shift of how an increasingly self-confident China perceive the role of the EU as a bilateral and international trade partner of China.

Bio: Guangdong University of Foreign Studies

TALAY, Louis

Title: "The Validity of Symbolic Threat: Actual and Perceived Value Incongruence between Natives and Forced Migrants."

Abstract: Multiple conservative parties in Europe and Australia have enjoyed a considerable level of electoral success in recent times on the back of their restrictionist asylum agendas. These agendas are often justified by the symbolic threat argument, which asserts that forced migrants hold values that represent a threat to host societies. However, despite the immense consequences of this belief, its empirical validity has rarely been investigated in previous literature. We addressed this problem by comparing the responses of forced migrants (N = 163) and both Australian and European (French, British, Polish and Spanish) locals (N = 816) to the same 10-item value questionnaire in two

studies. Our findings revealed that 5 forced migrant values appear to be at odds with established host society liberties and that natives underestimated the extent of these incongruities. We interpret these results as an indication that the symbolic asylum restrictionist argument has an element of truth to it, but stress that further research needs to be conducted on the topic of forced migrant value assimilation before stronger conclusions are drawn.

Bio: Louis is about to submit his PhD at Sydney University and his research interests include the barriers to forced migrant resettlement, the relationship between demographic traits and prejudice, and exclusionist discourse. He speaks fluent Spanish, Dutch and French in addition to his native English and has previously worked as an MP speechwriter and high school English teacher.

TUBERY, Alan

Title: Eurovision through strikes, natural disasters, wars and Covid 19

Abstract: In 2020 due the COVID-19 situation, the Eurovision song contest, like many other events could not take place for the first time in its history. Eurovision is a lot more than just a singing contest and is finally getting the recognition it deserves. How did it affect the broadcasters, the artists and the fans? But it was not the first time that the contest was in trouble, from broadcasters refusing to host the competition for financial reason, strikes, natural disasters, buildings issues and war like in 1990 Zagreb and in 2017 Ukraine. The humble beginning started in Lugano, Switzerland in 1956 and grew steadily in in the 60's. The 70's ended being one of the most challenging decades. From introduction to color television, new voting system to avoid the 1969 drama 4 winners, the arrival of ABBA, Julio Iglesias, Olivia Newton John, Baccara, Vicky Leandros, Al Bano & Romina Power and the return of Gigliola Cinquetti and Cliff Richard, the banal title "Ding-dinge Dong" by Teach-In in 1975, the Disco invasion late 70's! Another wave of participating new countries arrived including Greece, Turkey, Malta, and Israel with the 1979 contest taking place in Jerusalem. And let's not forget Portuguese singer Paulo de Carvalho. Despite finishing last in the contest, his song "E depois do adeus" gained notability for being used as the radio musical signal to begin the Carnation Revolution against the Estado Novo regime, being played at 22:55 on the 24th of April 1974.

Bio: His Swiss German mother introduced him to Eurovision. An avid collector of Eurovision 45 T, he has been following every contest since 1961 and is an official DJ at the Euro Village and EuroClub since 2013. He has produced some official remixes for the artists and a yearly podcast. He is writing a book about Eurovision in the 70's. He participated at the Eurovision International Conference Amsterdam 26 May 2020

van LEEUWEN, Hans

Title: Reporting the EU in Australia

Bio: Hans van Leeuwen has been The Australian Financial Review's Europe correspondent, based in London, since 2018. He was previously a senior policy adviser at the Australian High Commission in London for 10 years. Before that, he worked as a journalist and policy adviser in Sydney, Canberra and Hanoi. He has a BA in philosophy, politics and economics from Oxford University and an MA in international studies from Sydney University.

WARD, Chloe

Title: Socio-ecological innovation: lessons for Australia from Europe

Abstract: This paper explores potential lessons for Australia in harnessing innovation to social and environmental objectives, based on recent developments in innovation policy in Europe. In Australia, innovation policy continues to focus on scientific and technological development, with commercialisation as its object and with a limited, enabling role for government. In Europe regional policy today emphasises place-based approaches focusing on the development of regional innovation systems, embodied by the EU's commitments to Smart Specialisation (S3). In this paper, I firstly argue for an expanded view of 'socio-ecological' innovation, following recent work and emerging case studies in Europe that build on findings from the first years of S3 implementation. Applying a wider lens on innovation, as not only technological development but also 'technology in use', sheds light on challenges and opportunities for socio-ecological innovation. This is particularly the case in so-called 'lagging regions' where, typically, large proportions of regional economies are made up of activities in the 'Foundational Economy' of material needs and services. Drawing on examples of Foundational Economy initiatives from Wales, Europe and New Zealand, this paper then considers how their lessons could be applied in Gippsland, Victoria, where a Smart Specialisation Strategy has been underway since 2018.

Bio: Research Fellow in the Jean Monnet EU Centre of Excellence at RMIT University

WILLIAMS, Katarzyna

Presentation Title: Migrants and migration debate in Europe – a fresh start or an old rift?

Abstract: The Visegrád states' rejection of mandatory quotas of migrants and refugees waiting to be relocated from Greece and Italy throughout EU member states in 2015, was received as an act of blatant defiance. Alarm was raised about the un-European behaviour of the V4, who were reproached for approaching solidarity as an "à la carte dish", as Jean-Claude Juncker phrased it in his letter to Viktor Orbán. The recent EU Migration Pact, proposed by the European Commission in September 2020 after long "in-depth consultations with the European Parliament, all Member States, civil society, social partners and business", also met with V4 opposition. This time, it did not provoke howls of outrage as the division is no longer clear-cut and new nuances have emerged. It did, of course, complicate already sour negotiations, but also showed that "a careful balance integrating [different] perspectives" (EC) is a much more complex objective to reach. In the meantime, while showing that there is little agreement on the meaning of 'solidarity' in a wider context, the EU migration debate seems to have strengthened the partnership between the V4 states and contributed to the emergence of various local and regional "solidarities" and bottom-up initiatives. This paper reflects on these recent developments and on what "a European solution" and "a fresh start" might mean.

Bio: Dr Kasia Williams is Deputy Director at the ANU Centre for European Studies and Jean Monnet Research Fellow currently working on projects focused on migration, cultural diplomacy and the politics of memory.

WILSON, Bruce

Title: S'4': Regional Innovation to Achieve the UN Global Agenda

Abstract: Since 2014, discussions about European Union's (EU) Regional Policy have been influenced widely by the introduction of 'S3', the requirement that EU regions should prepare a Smart Specialisation Strategy in order to be eligible to receive part of the EU Structural Funds. The introduction of this ex ante conditionality reflected two decades of learning about the potential significance of regional innovation systems in enhancing regional prosperity. More particularly, it reflected a policy agenda that sought to strengthen the connection between science and business by developing the cross-sectoral collaboration by diverse stakeholders in a place-based context.

Over the past 6 years, much has been learned about the possibilities of this approach, and its effectiveness in different kinds of spatial contexts. Ironically, its focus on science and competitiveness, promoting innovation-capability as a means for building economic strength, has worked better for those regions already advanced rather than those poorer regions that were the primary target of the new approach.

However, as experience has developed, the implementation of S3 has increasingly come to encompass ecological and social inclusion objectives. The European Commission's Joint Research Centre has developed a strong program of cooperation with the United Nations, exploring the role of Smart Specialisation in addressing the Sustainable Development Goals. The potential of the existing ('foundational') economy to support socioecological innovation has also received increasing attention.

With the recent commitment by the EU institutions to the European Green Deal, the centrepiece of the EU's program for the next decade, the Joint Research centre and regional development scholars have begun to focus on 'S4': Smart Specialisation Strategies for Sustainability. This paper will review the evolution of S3 methodology to encompass the more comprehensive agenda of S4, and the potential role of regional innovation systems in addressing the UN Global Agenda in a place-based context.

Bio: Bruce Wilson is Director of the European Union Centre of Excellence at RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia.

WINTER, Bronwyn

Title 1: The new Charlemagne: Emmanuel Macron's European ambitions

Abstract 1: On 10 May 2018, the day after Europe Day, French president Emmanuel Macron was awarded the Charlemagne Prize, considered the most prestigious prize awarded to those who work for European unification. Inaugurated in 1950 in the now German town of Aix-La-Chapelle, seat of the medieval Carolingian emperor for whom the prize is named and who was considered the "father of Europe" through his imperial unifications and the cultural renaissance over which he presided. Macron today wishes to position himself as the primary architect of a new European renaissance, seeking in particular to upload his own foreign policy positions to EU level—a position most recently evidenced in his pronouncements on Lebanon, criticised by some as neocolonialist. Macron also came under fire for his criticism, during an interview with *The Economist*, of NATO as a 'brain-dead' organisation. This paper will take a critical look at Macron's European and foreign-policy ambitions, and consider the political agenda that underpins his much-discussed "technocrat" approach to both French and European governance and to EU foreign relations.

Title 2: "European values" and substantive equality for women

Abstract 2: The EU today positions itself as a leading values actor in the world. One of its core values, encoded in various directives and policy statements and indeed the Charter of Fundamental Rights, is “gender equality”. This equality has been championed through, among others, various parity measures in political representation; high-level appointments such as those, in 2019, of two women to top EU posts: Ursula von der Leyen at the helm of the Commission and Christine Lagarde in charge of the European Central Bank; national policy priorities, such as Emmanuel Macron’s “great cause” of his five-year presidential mandate in France; and even foreign policy positions: the “feminist foreign policy” originally put forward by Sweden in 2014. However, beyond the symbolic importance of such appointments and policy framings, what do they mean for women in concrete terms? In this year of pandemic, the disjuncture between rhetoric and reality has become painfully apparent, as longstanding structural and systemic socioeconomic inequalities between men and women are being exacerbated, and largely remain unaddressed by states. This paper, then, asks how well or badly placed the EU is today to move beyond rhetoric, symbolism and descriptive representation to the advancement of substantive equality.

Bio: Professor of Transnational Studies in the Dept of European Studies at the University of Sydney. Recent publications include the coedited anthology (with Cat Moir) *Reform, Revolution and Crisis in Europe: Landmarks in History, Memory and Thought* (Routledge 2019), and the monograph *The Political Economy of Same-Sex Marriage: A Feminist Critique* (Routledge, December 2020).

XHAFERI, Perparim (Rimi)

Title: Challenges and opportunities of joining the EU: Albania”

Abstract: Following the EU enlargement policy, The European Commission has published the Albanian progress Report in October 2020. This Report highlights the progress and difficulties that the Albanian government is facing. The EU conditions on political criteria, rule of law, economic development and good neighbourhood seem to be challenges for Albania and other Western Balkan countries. The Western Balkan countries have become middle democracies while the region is under economic, ethnic, religious and nationalistic pressures. Lack of reforms from the Albanian government is counteracted by reluctance of some European governments to accept Albania and other Western Balkan countries as part of the EU. The reluctance of the EU to include Western Balkans is a perfect space for other powers such as Russia, China, Turkey and the USA; creating more difficulties for the Western Balkans to join the EU. The paper argues that Chinese investments, Russia’s ambitious plans to return to the Balkans but also Turkey’s platform of “neo-Ottomanism” are all alternatives to Western Balkan countries that may diminish their real desire to join the EU in the future.

Bio: Dr Perparim (Rimi) Xhaferi completed his PhD from The University of Sydney in 2019. His thesis explored Albanian identity and the tendency of escaping the Ottoman heritage in the twenty-first century. His areas of interest are EU enlargement in Western Balkans, nation-building theories, language and culture. He is an active member of ESAANZ and currently works for RMIT University.

ZHANG, Li

Title: EU’s Digital Public Diplomacy in the Shadow of Coronavirus: A Comparative Study of EU Delegations’ Social Media Practice in China and Japan

Abstract: The spreading of coronavirus in Europe and the discoordination of closing national borders by the member states have brought challenges to the EU solidarity. This also harms the international images of the EU as an integrated Union and a global actor. Adopting the approach of digital public diplomacy, this study compares the social media practice of the EU Delegations in China and Japan. By examining the Weibo messages and tweets posted by the two Delegations from March to June 2020, the study finds that although both Delegations have focused on the policy priorities on “promoting our European way of life” and “a stronger Europe in the world” to Chinese and Japanese netizens, their focuses are different. The EU Delegation in China puts more effect in spreading EU values and EU’s crisis management, whilst the EU Delegation in Japan emphasized more on the research capacity and international partnership of the EU. The themes of the most liked, most commented and most shared messages in the two countries also differ. The study concludes with a discussion on the public diplomacy role of the EU Delegations and their communication strategies in individual countries.

Bio: Dr. Li ZHANG is associate professor and director of Institute of Public Relations and Strategic Communication at the School of Journalism and Communication, Tsinghua University, China.

Panel Presentations List

ITALY AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

Panel Presenters: Jessica Quirk, Marco Brunazzo and Bruno Mascitelli

UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CHANGES IN POLAND – FOCUS ON EDUCATION

Panel Presenters: Gosia Klatt and Alexandra Dunwill

Abstract: Year 2020 has been a turbulent time on a global scale and posed interesting questions related to social, economic and political developments in Europe. It added to the uncertainty of Brexit and growing populism in post-communist European states. Poland, well known for its successful transformation from communism to liberal democracy has recently succumbed to the wave of populism and nationalism. The proposed panel will focus on social and political transformations in Poland through the prism of changing role and place of education. The way education is seen by the Polish 'elites' and how education policy and reform has been implemented will be scrutinised through two papers.

EUROVISION IN THE EU

Panel Presenters: Alan Tubery, Jessica Carniel, Vincent Colagiuri, Michaela Sowden, Kurtis Carter

EU-WESTERN BALKANS: PROBLEMS OF EU ACCESSION

Panel Presenters: Dr Nina Markovic Khaze, Dr Perparim (Rimi) Xhaferi, Danica Jenkins, Leandrit Mehmeti

Abstract: The Western Balkan countries are far from joining the EU. The panel will discuss challenges faced by countries such as Serbia, Kosovo and Albania. While these countries are making progress individually in different fields, the political criteria and the rule of law remain the main concerns for the EU. Not until all perpetrators and war criminals are brought to justice, Western Balkans will fulfil the good neighbourhood criteria and live in peace. The panel will also discuss the role of cinema as a powerful tool for Western Balkan societies to come to the grips with the past and move forward in the future.

THE V4 AND THE EU IN TIMES OF TURBULENCE

Panel Presenters: Dr Kasia Williams, Dr Natasza Styczynska, Lenka Bustikova, Nicolas de Sadeleer and Ivana Damjanovic

Abstract: The Visegrad states are seen as standing at the forefront of a conservative movement pulling away from the EU's universalism towards more traditionalist — or hesperialist as David Engels called it — Europe. With continuing disagreements over migration policy and resistance towards the new EU migration plan, the V4 has become the symbol of severity and perpetuity of European divisions. Recent debates over the EU's 2021-2027 budget — particularly over the payments being dependent on the rule of law criterion — inflamed ongoing disputes over the threats to the rule of law, on the one hand, and the suffocating grip

of Brussels, on the other. Meanwhile, disagreements over the EU climate policy have disclosed more rifts, not only between the EU and the V4, but also among the V4 states themselves.

The panel of four speakers will address these issues, focusing on the V4 as a group and on its individual members. Speaking from within and from outside of the V4 states, the panel will reflect on the current alliances and ruptures, and the future of Europe in turbulent times.

REPORTING THE EU IN AUSTRALIA

Panel Presenters: Antonia Mochan, Ben Lewis, Hans van Leeuwen

Abstract: Understanding the European Union in Australia is limited and mostly to the few that take an active interest. Many Australians have a limited comprehension of the European Union and mostly that of a sensational kind or news which might relate to the United Kingdom. According to one view who reports the EU in Australia “The demand constraint is that Australian readers largely have limited bandwidth for European news, particularly news on the EU. They’re interested in big picture stories, stereotype-confirmation stories, personal/biographical stories, and stories that relate to Australia either directly or thematically.

Another hurdle is to get past the Anglo-Saxon lens and see Europe in its own terms - which means overcoming geographical and language barriers - and then find a way to convey that while having to put the lens back on for an Australian readership”.

Hear the challenges which our three speakers experience and have experienced in the past. This conference is pleased to present a panel of qualified speakers which will include: Hans van Leeuwen, Antonia Mochan and Ben Lewis. Their short biographies follow.

PANEL TITLE: EUROPE-CHINA RELATIONS IN TIMES OF CHANGE: BEYOND THE TRUMP FACTOR

Panel Presenters: Dr Remy Davison, Dr Nina Markovic Khaze, Dr Gorana Grgic, Dr Matteo Bonomi, Ivana Damjanovic, Prof. Nicolas de Sadeleer

Abstract: This interdisciplinary panel brings together Australian and European experts who will deliberate on the future of Europe-China relations in the turbulent times – which are further eroded by an increasingly belligerent rhetoric between the Trump administration and China’s Presidency. Paper 1 by Dr Remy Davison and Dr Nina Markovic Khaze discusses the EU’s 2019 Strategic Outlook and the EU’s foreign policy responses to the so-called ‘China threat’ in several fields: technological, strategic and defence and security. Dr Gorana Grgic takes this conversation to a global level, discussing the Transatlantic partnership (in light and beyond the Trump factor) and possible areas of convergence between key European states (Germany, France and the United Kingdom) and the United States on countering the ‘China threat’ in the Indo-Pacific region, which may prove to be more challenging. Dr Matteo Bonomi takes us back to Europe where accession negotiations between the EU and non-member states have been stalling in recent years. The China factor prompted the European institutions to become more vocal supporters of the Western Balkan integration into EU security and other institutions, reaching a level of strategic competition. Finally, Ivana Damjanovic and Professor Nicolas de Sadeleer will examine the legal aspects of China’s intrusion into Europe’s traditional backyard, the Western Balkans, providing some final remarks on the future of EU-China relations from a legal standpoint.

EUSAAP PRESIDENTS SESSION

Panel Presenters: Bruno Mascitelli (Australia), Muhadi Sugiono (Indonesia), Hungdah Su (Taiwan), Paulo Canelas de Castro (Macau)

FROM “PERCEPTIONS” TO “EXPECTATIONS”: TRACING THE EU’S INTERNATIONAL ROLE IN 2020

Panel Presenters: *Lai Suetyi, Huang Yijia, Jingkai Shao, Li Zhang, Serena Kelly & Suet-Yi Lai*

Abstract: EXPECT traces the impact of recent “global disruption” context since the 2016 launch of the EUGS on expectations towards the EU from the perspective of four key EU Asian partners – China, Indonesia, Japan and Korea. Methodologically, EXPECT analyses:

- Asian press and e-media news,
- Communications by officials, think tanks and opinion-shaping elites,
- EU Delegations social media communication of EUGS priorities

EXPECT’s conceptual innovation is from “perceptions” to “expectations” and will trace how the EU’s international role is being redefined through internal (the EUGS and leadership renewal) and external (the global disruption of Trump, Brexit and Russia) drivers. The Asian focus reflects the EUGS ambition to “deepen economic diplomacy and scale up our security role in Asia” in light of “the economic weight that Asia represents for the EU” – “peace and stability in Asia are a prerequisite for our prosperity” (EUGS 2016). Change will be studied in each country and comparatively – across locations and time

CORRUPTION IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Panel Presenters: Jan Pakulski and Les Holmes

Special Panels

THE EU AMBASSADORS TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Panel Presenters: EU ambassador to Australia Dr. Michael Pulch and EU Ambassador to NZ Nina Obermaier

THE IRISH AMBASSADORS TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Panel Presenters: Irish Ambassador to Australia Breandan O’Cailly and Irish Ambassador to New Zealand Peter Ryan

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- The European Studies Association Australia and New Zealand (ESAANZ)
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