



Bulletin

December Edition

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Faizi

## Editors' Report

We are excited to return to our regular ESAANZ newsletter with the assistance of our two new members - thanks Blake and Fasiha! The newsletter provides news items, calls for papers and links to important websites where you can find latest information on the activities of ESAANZ, its members, as well as activities of the EU Delegations and EU Centres of Excellence.

Gosia Klatt

## Upcoming Conferences

### *Call for papers European Union Studies Association Asia Pacific (EUSAAP) Conference*

The European Union Studies Association Asia Pacific (EUSAAP) is happy to call for papers for its 2024 international conference and postgraduate workshop, which will be held in person in Yogyakarta, Indonesia: Revisiting EU – Asia Pacific Relations

**Monday 20 & Tuesday 21 May 2024 - Yogyakarta, Indonesia**

Information about the conference and further details can be found online, and we are now welcoming paper registrations via the website [www.eusaap.org](http://www.eusaap.org) or the [Conference Website](#). For panel proposals (4 papers), panel organisers should send an email to EUSAAP and ask

each presenter to submit their paper and registration online. Deadline for registrations is 31 January 2024.

***Research Initiative on the Post-Soviet Space Conference 2024/2025 - details to be announced in early 2024***

**Title:** Expansionism in the Post-Soviet Space and its Implications for Other States. Melbourne, late 2024

## **News from the Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence**

### ***National Centre for Research on Europe - University of Canterbury***

Dr Mat Doidge and Dr Serena Kelly, together with A/Prof Gosia Klatt, delivered the second HUI-EU Doctoral Workshop on 1-3 November 2023. The HUI-EU Jean Monnet Project, supported by the *Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union*, have brought together early-stage Doctoral students in the field of EU studies in a series of inter-institutional regional workshops across the Asia-Pacific. [More information can be found here.](#)

### ***European Union Centre of Excellence - RMIT University***

The EU Centre welcomed back Curtin University's Dr Alexey Muraviev (Associate Professor of National Security and Strategic Studies) in July for a guest seminar discussing "The role of the EU and NATO in containing security risks in the Indo-Pacific". Tension exists in East-Asia as China's assertiveness grows and Kim Jong Un's nuclear ambitions persist, with the EU and NATO expressing intent to see greater involvement in Indo-Pacific regional affairs to mitigate such risks. [The seminar can be viewed here.](#)

The EU Centre also hosted a conference jointly convened by ANZRSI and the Regional Studies Association (RSA) at the end of November, bringing together scholars from various global regions to share research insights into the implications and management of 'polycrises' in different parts of the world. We will provide more details as they are made available.

### ***University of South Australia***

Anthony Elliott, Executive Director of The University of South Australia's Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in the 2023 King's Birthday Honours List. This award recognises Professor Elliott's significant contributions to education, and to social science policy and research.

Professor Elliott stated, "I have been exceptionally privileged to be given opportunities where I could make a difference – and make a difference where it counts - through interdisciplinary scholarship, mentoring and global engagement."

## **Updates from fellow European Institutes in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand**

### ***University of Auckland European Institute***

The University of Auckland European Institute hosted two events recently; the first being a 'Hot Topic' Seminar on the Future of European Languages in Aotearoa New Zealand. The seminar explored the importance of European languages in tertiary education and the responsibility of universities to train students in the areas of linguistic and cultural sensitivity, and intercultural communication for the increasingly multilingual contexts we live in.

The UoA European Institute writes:

"The recently signed NZ-EU Free Trade Agreement founded on the longstanding historical, cultural, commercial and political ties between Europe and New Zealand makes the study of European languages more relevant than ever"

The Europe Institute also hosted another 'Hot Topic' Seminar on trade relations between the EU and Aotearoa NZ with Diane Lacoste (Head of Trade at the Delegation of the European Union to New Zealand) and James Andersen (Lead Adviser in the Trade Policy and Negotiations Division at the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Manatū Aorere) discussing key points for the upcoming Ministerial Conference scheduled for February 2024.

### ***Updates from the European Union Delegation in Australia***

The Secretary General of the European External Action Service (EEAS), Stefano Sannino, visited Australia in July to discuss the increasingly important ties between Australia, the EU, and the broader Indo-Pacific region. He presented the 2023 Schuman lecture at the Australian National University's Centre for European Studies. [Watch the lecture here.](#)



In July, his Excellency Mr. Gabriele Visentin was appointed the EU Ambassador to Australia. Prior to his arrival in Australia, Ambassador Visentin was the first-ever EU Special Envoy for the Indo-Pacific. Mr. Visentin previously served as the Head of the Parliamentary Affairs Division in the European External Action Service (EEAS) in Brussels. Earlier in his career, he was an official of the European Commission and served in the Directorate General for External Relations. A message from the Ambassador can be accessed on the [Delegation website](#).

His Excellency Mr. Gabriele Visentin  
Image Source: EU Delegation website.

## The University of Melbourne's Graduate School of Education - European Study Tour

As part of the Melbourne Graduate School of Education Jean Monnet Erasmus + project, post-graduate students interested in educational policy had the opportunity to tour three European cities (Brussels, Venice, and Warsaw) with ESAANZ Vice-President Dr Gosia Klatt and Dr Stanley Koh. They visited a number of institutions, including primary and secondary schools, universities, ministries, and multinational organisations (i.e., UNESCO and the European Commission) to explore a variety of topics ranging from teacher shortages to educational reform. For a more detailed account of the study tour, visit [Fasiha's blog here.](#)



Graduate School of Education students at the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium.

## **New issue of Australian and New Zealand Journal of European Studies (ANZJES)**

The Australian and New Zealand Journal of European Studies (ANZJES) provides a forum for discussion of contemporary European issues and fosters links among those working in the field both in Australia and New Zealand and internationally.

The second issue for 2023 has been recently published is largely compiled from the selection of papers presented at the 16th bi-annual conference of Australasian Association for Communist and Post-Communist Studies (AACaPS), hosted by the School of Social Science at University of New South Wales in February 2023. This ANZJES Issue represents a mix of papers from Australian and foreign scholars with European perspectives on issues of civilization clashes and world order, security, and politics related to war in Ukraine, but also on the important aspects of Australian-Europe relationships in politics and trade. Visit the [ANZJES website](#) to access the latest and archived issues.

***Recent publications by ESAANZ members and colleagues***

Author	Article
Dr Martin Holland, Dr Paul Bacon & Dr Suetyi Lai	Three Decades on: Still a Capability–Expectations Gap? Pragmatic Expectations towards the EU from Asia in 2020 <a href="#">Click here to read article</a>
Dr Gosia Klatt	Resisting Europeanisation: Poland’s education policy and its impact on the European Education Area. <a href="#">Click here to read article</a>

## Europe and Australia News

### *Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations with Australia*

In November 2015, Prime Minister of Australia Malcolm Turnbull, together with European Council President Donald Tusk and the European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, agreed to initiate the process of launching Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations. The negotiations were formally launched by European Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström, Prime Minister Turnbull and Trade Minister Ciobo in June 2018 in Canberra. The FTA negotiations have experienced a number of roadblocks, with the Australian agriculture trade remaining a significant obstacle in reaching agreement. The recent collapse in negotiations does not paint a hopeful picture for the future of the trade deal. An in-depth analysis of the negotiations has been published in the Issue 2/2023 Australian and New Zealand Journal of European Studies (ANZJES), authored by Armillei, Mascitelli and Wilson from RMIT University.

## Recent News from the EU

### *Harmonised rules on Artificial intelligence in Europe*

The Council presidency and the European Parliament's negotiators have reached a provisional agreement on the proposal on harmonised rules on artificial intelligence (AI), the so-called artificial intelligence act. The draft regulation aims to ensure that AI systems placed on the European market and used in the EU are safe and respect fundamental rights and EU values. This landmark proposal also aims to stimulate investment and innovation on AI in Europe. For details see the [Council Press Release](#) from 9 December 2023.

## Other interesting themes from Europe

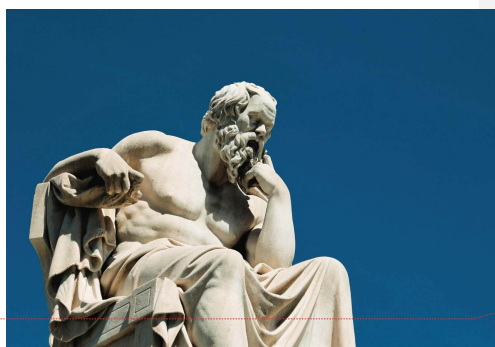
### *Contemplating Identity: UNESCO takes a philosophical journey on World Philosophy Day*

16 November, 2023

As the world celebrates World Philosophy Day, questions about our essence and the potential of artificial intelligence to mirror human reality take center stage. UNESCO's initiative, established in 2002, urges us to engage in "free, reasoned, and informed thinking on the major challenges of our time."

Philosophy, often hailed as the original academic discipline, traces its roots to Ancient Greek societies, where scholars of various fields were dubbed philosophers. In today's complex world, where specialisation prevails, philosophy endures as a realm for pondering life's fundamental aspects.

The scope of philosophy extends far beyond abstract musings; it delves into the practical implications of evolving technologies. Take, for instance, the emergence of artificial intelligence. As AI becomes integral to our society, philosophical inquiries arise concerning its sentience and the ethical considerations surrounding its rights.



**Commented [1]:** we need to make sure these images are open access and acknowledge the source.

The central question revolves around individual identity. What makes you, you? Neurologists may point to the unique design and alignment of our brains, suggesting that a perfect copy of one's brain and body would replicate memories, thoughts, and mannerisms. But does this copy truly constitute the same person?

British philosopher Derek Parfit's groundbreaking work in ethics, particularly his 1984 book 'Reasons and Persons,' delves into this question. Parfit's thought experiment involves a



teletransporter, akin to those depicted in Star Trek. The device scans and replicates every atom of your body, obliterating the original. Characters in the show continue their lives, sparking debate about personal identity.

Parfit introduces a twist: an improved transporter that recreates you without destroying the original. This ethical quandary challenges perspectives on identity, material continuity, and the persistence of non-physical elements like the soul.

On World Philosophy Day, these inquiries serve as a reminder of the discipline's enduring relevance. Philosophy, as the love of knowledge, persists as a guide through the complexities of our ever-evolving world. Whether contemplating the nature of self or grappling with the implications of advancing technologies, philosophy remains a timeless beacon for fostering free and critical thought.

### ***Empowering Minds: A Beacon of Literacy in Spain's Challenged Neighbourhood***

In a district of Spain grappling with economic hardship and elevated crime rates, one primary school is rewriting the narrative by championing literacy among its students. Los Tres Mil Viviendas, situated in Seville, has garnered a reputation as Spain's poorest and most perilous neighborhood, with crumbling tower blocks plagued by drug-related issues and sporadic electricity cuts.



However, amid these challenges, the Fantasy Library, nestled within the Public College of Andalusia, stands out as a beacon of hope. Aptly named by the children it serves, the library recently clinched the Spanish government's National Prize for Development of Reading, accompanied by a noteworthy €30,000 award. The recognition celebrates the school's commitment to inspiring disadvantaged pupils and their parents to embrace literary classics, from Oscar Wilde's works to Homer's *The Odyssey* and Miguel de Cervantes' *Don Quixote*.

Against a backdrop where the average annual earnings in Los Tres Mil Viviendas hover at a mere €5,600, a fraction of the national average of €28,660, and school absenteeism surpasses 70%, the Fantasy Library emerges as a catalyst for positive change. Natalia Aronja, the librarian, notes the challenges posed by high unemployment rates in the area. Still, the library endeavors to normalize reading, providing an essential life skill even to parents who may not know how to read.

At the heart of this success is a dedicated teaching staff's 16 years of hard work, fostering a love for reading among the 120 pupils aged three to 12. The library sessions, occurring weekly, extend beyond the school walls, teaching children how to utilise libraries in their communities. Acknowledging the stereotypical image of Los Tres Mil Viviendas, Angela Molina, the school director, emphasises the library's role in showcasing the neighborhood's positive side. The commitment to education and the joy of reading among the students and their families challenge prevailing stereotypes.

In echoing efforts across Europe, the European Commission's inclusion project, *Pathways to School Success*, aims to empower learners irrespective of their social background. Initiatives in Italy and Sweden, such as the *Scuola Viva* program and the *Storytelling Ministry*, respectively, underscore the importance of extending school hours and enriching curricula to support disadvantaged children.

As Los Tres Mil Viviendas defies expectations, the Fantasy Library stands as a testament to the transformative power of education and community engagement, proving that even in the face of adversity, a commitment to literacy can illuminate the path to a brighter future.

#### **Future Contact**

If you wish to have something included in a future ESAANZ bulletin, please contact Fasiha Faizi or Blake Ellul-Thorn.

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