

THE MAX WEBER PROGRAMME HANDBOOK

ACADEMIC YEAR
2025-2026



THE MAX WEBER PROGRAMME HANDBOOK 2025-2026

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AIMS AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAMME

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Max Weber Programme (MWP), and congratulations on making it into one of the most selective and prestigious postdoctoral programmes in the world. The Max Weber Programme is distinctive in three main ways. First, it is a global programme located in an international institution that is dedicated to research in four core disciplines: Economics, History, Law, and Social and Political Science. Second, the next cohort is the most heterogeneous that the Programme has ever had counting 71 Fellows of over 30 nationalities. Third, it differs from most postdoctoral programmes that consist of little more than a stipend and a place to work. Instead, it offers a Programme with a dedicated philosophy of postdoctoral studies.

The philosophy of the MWP has two main components. First, a belief that intellectual community, dialogue, and scholarly synergetic exchanges within and between disciplines are fundamental to the early phase of one's academic career and significantly enhance the quality of research. Second, the conviction that a successful academic career depends not only on high quality research and publications but also on understanding the world of 'academic practice': teaching, assessment, writing and speaking well, competitive bidding for research funds, networking and the like.

Two main features of the MWP give expression to this philosophy: the **multidisciplinary research activities** (lectures, multidisciplinary research workshops organised by Fellows, roundtables, conferences aiming at enhancing and stimulating interdisciplinarity) and the academic practice activities (covering all aspects of an academic career, including support for academic writing in English, apply-

ing for research grants, the opportunity to teach in leading European universities and get the EUI Teaching Certificate, developing a strategy for a successful approach to the academic labour market).

COMPULSORY ELEMENTS

To ensure intellectual community building amongst Fellows, to enhance your appreciation of each other's disciplines and research, and to get the most personally from the advice and resources available to you within the MWP and the EUI more generally, the MWP includes the following compulsory elements.

1. **Residence** – To play an active part in the Programme and in the academic activities of the academic unit of affiliation, Fellows are required to live in the area of Florence for the duration of the Fellowship.
2. **September Presentations** – These provide an opportunity for all Fellows to showcase their research and get acquainted with each other's research but also to get individual feedback from peers and from the EUI Centre of Academic Literacies and Languages (CALL) identifying areas of potential growth in academic communication.
3. **Max Weber Lectures** – The lectures aim at opening up Fellows' intellectual horizons by exposing them to topical themes of broad academic interest and cutting-edge research across the disciplines of the Programme. They also provide a plenary gathering of all Fellows along with researchers and professors across the EUI community.
4. **Submission of a Draft Publication** – All Fellows are supposed to write articles and/or books and book chapters while at the EUI. This submission of a draft publication provides a check on progress but also an occasion to engage in a critical discussion that may help Fellows both substantively and formally in an intensive way with a key piece of research.
5. **June Conference** – This annual conference provides Fellows with a final plenary occasion to participate in the intellectual community of the MWP and an opportunity to meet with

members of the global Max Weber Fellowship network.

- 6. Individual Page for the MWP Annual Report** – This forms a core component of the MWP reporting to stakeholders on the progress of Fellows over the course of the academic year. It also offers an opportunity to showcase Fellows' achievements by providing a useful summary of what they have accomplished over their time at the EUI.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

The Multidisciplinary Research Activities aim at improving Fellows' understanding of the different disciplines and seeing the possible advantages and disadvantages of combining them in various ways within an interdisciplinary approach.

Lectures

The monthly Max Weber Lectures are a cornerstone of the intellectual life of the Max Weber Programme, offering a platform for leading and emerging scholars and public intellectuals to engage with a broad academic community at the EUI. They typically take place monthly, on Wednesdays. Fellows are invited to suggest lecturers to the MWP Director.

The June Conference

Every year in June, the MWP hosts the Max Weber Fellows' June Conference, an occasion for all current and selected former Fellows to present their work, engaging and fostering the sense of community. Fellows are encouraged to volunteer to be part of the June Conference Organising Committee, in charge of choosing the conference topic, writing the call for papers, selecting the former Fellows, designing the programme, with the support of the MWP Team.

Book Round Tables

Fellows are encouraged to organise Book Roundtables when a major new work in one or several disciplines of the EUI appears. These roundtables should involve the author(s), one or several members of the wider EUI community and one or more Max Weber Fellows to discuss the work. Fellows are welcome to make suggestions to the MWP Director for invitations.

Occasional Lectures

Apart from the monthly Max Weber Lectures, Fellows can also suggest speakers in their field of research for Occasional Lectures. These lectures should be of interest to a broad group of Fellows, Professors and researchers.

Organisation of these Lectures is subject to budgetary availability and must be discussed with the MWP Team well in advance to allow for smooth planning.

Multidisciplinary Research Workshops

Fellows have the chance to organise workshops involving other Fellows, external speakers, EUI Faculty and researchers. Such events are expected to involve Fellows from more than one discipline. This activity is not mandatory but encouraged to promote the interaction between Fellows of different academic units. Every year in November a call for proposals is published. Selected proposals will receive funding for the organisation of the workshop with the support of the MWP Team.

Communication Beyond Discipline

Fellows are encouraged to produce communication items with the potential to attract a wider audience. Such items may be social media posts (we encourage mentioning the EUI Max Weber Programme LinkedIn account when posting about activities supported

by the MWP), producing feature articles for the MWP Newsletter and/or the EUI blogs. The EUI Research Communication Service can be contacted for interviews that are published on the various EUI channels.

ACADEMIC PRACTICE ACTIVITIES

The Academic Practice Activities aim at improving Fellows' competencies in areas essential for academic excellence and career development. These include seminars and workshops, courses stretching across a term or the entire academic year, small working groups working towards similar goals, and individual feedback. The courses are provided in coordination with the English Unit of the EUI Centre of Academic Literacies and Languages (CALL). Fellows can select the most appropriate activities depending on the skills they wish to improve. The activities are presented at the beginning of each academic year during an introductory meeting. Fellows are then required to register to attend the courses.

Draft Publication

The Draft Publication is a compulsory element of the MWP. It is a way of ensuring that Fellows produce a piece of research of publishable quality that has benefited from feedback from both a substantive and formal (linguistic and presentational) point of view. Fellows are invited to view the requirement flexibly as an occasion to produce draft articles, book chapters, or working papers. **The deadline for submission is 31 March 2026.** In case of publications outside the EUI, Fellows are expected to inform the MWP Team. The MWP should also be credited within such publication. Fellows should publish on the EUI's open-access repository Cadmus. Fellows are encouraged to submit information about recent publications to Cadmus and to the MWP Newsletter and are required to list the Draft Publication in their individual page of the MWP Annual Report.

Individual feedback on September Presentations

Individual feedback on September Presentations provides the opportunity for one-on-one sessions with a member of the EUI Centre of Academic Literacies and Languages (CALL) to identify and discuss areas of potential growth in the field of academic public speaking skills. Fellows are assigned a time slot to receive feedback.

Public Speaking

This workshop offers a comprehensive guide to public speaking in a global academic setting. Fellows will learn, for example, how to conduct a target audience analysis, develop content and structure it for maximum impact, create and effectively use visual aids that support ideas, or handle tough questions. The aim is to show that public speaking in an academic setting may be an exciting, enjoyable, and energising experience.

Conference Skills

The Conference Skills workshop is designed to familiarise early-stage researchers with the core principles of effective organisation of academic conferences. It addresses both stages, planning and managing a conference, and focuses on practicalities related to diverse issues, such as writing the conference call, team development, communication before, during, and after the conference, timetabling, slot chairing or choice of conference session formats. These workshops can be particularly useful to those volunteering to be part of the Organising Committee of the June Conference.

Research Writing and Publication Courses and Support

The overarching aim of the Research Writing and Publication offerings is to help Fellows consolidate the research writing and organisational skills needed to construct and maintain a strong publishing profile, while at the same time providing timely support for

producing specific publishing outputs typically expected during the postdoc period. The taught courses are provided and coordinated by the English Unit of the EUI Centre of Academic Literacies and Languages (CALL). The registration is through the CALL website (<https://www.eui.eu/ServicesAndAdmin/LanguageCentre/Languages/English>). The Writers' Groups and one-off workshops are organised directly through the Max Weber Programme on the basis of Fellows' expressions of interest.

English 601 – From Dissertation to Book

This course supports Fellows in developing their dissertation project into a book; it thus supports a key career development need for many of our community at the EUI. This course comprises 3 'blocks' of 4 workshops that will help participants work towards the publication of a monograph based on their dissertation. The blocks are standalone, so Fellows might want to join one in their first year, then another in their second year. Attendance is expected to be in-presence. Fellows should be aware that they need to set time aside to work on these tasks to participate fully in the block they are attending. The first block focuses on the book proposal, from identifying a potential publisher to how to reframe your dissertation's contribution as a more substantial intervention in the field that will look 'marketable' to a publisher. In the second block Fellows will revise a body chapter to make its form and style more appealing to a wider scholarly audience. The third is also an opportunity to revise a book chapter but is run more as a writers' group (with peer and teacher input).

English 602 – Style in Research Writing

The overall aim of this course is to expand the expressive range and enhance scholarly 'voice' and effectiveness. By the end of this course participants will be able to: make stylistic voice sound clearly; understand how syntax and vocabulary affect style; understand how style affects the reader. Topics will include (according to participants' needs and interests): information flow and how to modulate it by using conventional and 'marked' (emphatic) sentence struc-

tures; active vs. passive voice (reasons for using or not); I/we as part of a scholar's 'rhetorical toolkit'; typical tense use in different parts of the research paper; other topic(s) indicated as relevant by participants in the pre-course task that will be sent to all participants. This course takes the participants' own research writing and that of established scholars in their fields as a starting point to explore the interface between form (grammar/syntax), style/rhetoric, and argumentative structure.

English 603 – From Draft to Submission

This course is designed to help early-career researchers turn a pre-existing draft (e.g., a conference paper, course paper, or thesis chapter) into a publishable academic journal article. The sessions address both rhetorical and stylistic issues related to drafting and revising your article. With the needs of early career academics firmly in mind, the aim of this course – inspired by Wendy L. Belcher's *Writing Your Journal Article in 12 Weeks* (Sage, 2009), but also drawing on other materials – is to get a journal article into publishable form. Participants need to be able to commit to the entire length of the course and will profit most from it if they already have an article on the go, ready to be revised, and can set aside a significant amount of time between each session (approx. 5+ hours) in order to work on articles.

English 606 – Creative Research Writing

This 8-week course is intended to help think about, refresh, and hopefully enjoy writing creatively about research. The intention is not to encourage to submit a piece of creative writing to a research journal or dissertation supervisor; it is to reflect on technical and stylistic decisions, and to equip participants to write for other audiences; even how to push the limits of scholarly prose. Participants will be reading short extracts and essays each week and thinking about style, address, mode(s) of argumentation, uses of evidence, and lots of other things. Some of the authors on the list for this year are: Ted Chiang, Kodwo Eshun, Alison Gopnik, Christina Sharpe, and Mackenzie Wark. Thanks to the collaboration with the *European Review of Books*, their editors have agreed to read and com-

ment on the end-of-course submissions, provided they're in good enough shape to send.

Writers' Groups

Supportive peer feedback can be a powerful catalyst for productive, sustained research writing and publishing. Fellows are encouraged to join Writers' Groups facilitated by the Teaching and Learning Officer to obtain regular feedback from colleagues on draft articles and chapters prior to journal submission. The groups are usually comprised of 4-5 Fellows who share a disciplinary basis and/or common research interests. The Programme provides meeting space, session facilitation, and logistical support. If you are interested in joining or forming a group, please contact the MWP Teaching and Learning Officer to get started.

Text Revision and Editing

All written work (articles, book reviews, book chapters etc.) for which Fellows would like revision/editing should be sent directly to the editor Alyson Price (Alyson.Price@ext.eui.eu). Meetings to discuss work may follow.

Individual Consultations

Individual consultations provide the opportunity for one-on-one sessions with a member of the CALL team to discuss research writing in progress. These sessions can also be used to look over your application materials, revise book or research proposals, prepare and practice 'dry runs' of conference presentations and job talks, do interview practice, or support other professional communication needs. It is possible to arrange also on-site and online teaching observation and relative feedback.

Teaching Module and Teaching Certificate

The Teaching Certificate Module reflects global trends in the domain of teaching and learning practices in the Higher Education (HE). Reconciling traditional and innovative teaching theories with the day-to-day pragmatics is often easier said than done, especially when students' and institutions' expectations grow and external factors keep changing the rules of the game unexpectedly. This is why this programme is set to enhance Fellows' ability to develop their own teaching skills set and adapt to the diverse teaching environments of national and institutional cultures in a fully flexible and professional manner.

The programme includes the creation of Fellows' own teaching portfolio that will be based on Fellows' previous formal, informal and non-formal experience and training; six face-to-face sessions focused on (a) introduction to teaching at HE institutions and course design, (b) lesson design, (c) teaching tools and methods, and microteaching practice, and (d) feedback, assessment and reflection; a Teaching Practice Week in a partner university. The Teaching Module and partner universities for the Teaching Practice Week are presented in October during the Preparatory meeting.

Grant Application Skills Workshop

This workshop is designed to familiarise early-stage researchers with essential skills that can be effectively adopted in writing project and grant applications and proposals. It offers sessions which address project and grant applications and proposals from several perspectives, such as appropriate content and style, effective organisation, clarity in structuring information and specific audience analysis. Through participative activities, Fellows will gain hands-on experience with some best practices, discuss issues and have an opportunity to reflect on their own approaches and strategies.

Job market sessions

Introductory workshop on developing an effective 'job-market package' (CV, cover letter, supporting documents) and targeting it to a specific job call/position to 'make the match' most effectively. The workshop is designed for those who anticipate being on the job market during the current academic year or are interested in general in how to strategically present their academic profiles with specific career opportunities in mind.

ACO Conference

This conference sees the participation of EUI project managers, senior researchers and professors, and explores how to get a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship and an ERC grant. The conference is an occasion to get tips but also learn from successful (and unsuccessful) projects.

RESEARCH AND MISSION FUNDING

Fellows have at their disposal 1,000 euros for research activities such as missions (attendance at conferences and workshops, visits to archives and libraries), registration fees for events, memberships and journal submission fees, and/or hiring an EUI PhD researcher for short-term research assistance. All research activities and absences from Florence must be approved in advance by the MWP Director through a Mission Order Request on the EUI Reimbursement Platform. The request has to be submitted at least 10 working days before the intended date of departure. Fellows can discuss their planned research activities beforehand with the MWP Team, which can give advice and help with putting together the necessary forms. If the request is not approved or the mission order request is not filled in on time, it will not be possible to claim a refund.

In the case of two-year Fellowships, Fellows may carry over up to 500 euros from their first year, giving a maximum of 1,500 euros in the second year.

If Fellows are on the job market, it is possible to apply for an additional amount of up to 1,000 euros to cover the costs of attending major job market meetings, or for attending job interviews. Fellows will need to provide the appropriate evidence that the additional funds are used for this purpose and confirm that the prospective employer has not covered the expenses for the job interview.

EXTERNALLY-FUNDED FELLOWSHIPS, EXTENSIONS FOR A SECOND YEAR AND CIVICA EXCHANGES

The Max Weber Programme believes it is in Fellows' interest to move on and find a permanent job elsewhere. However, for some Fellows an externally-funded continuation of the MWP Fellowship provides a suitable next step in their career. Those Fellows considering this possibility should discuss it first with the Director and get a support statement from their mentors and Head of Academic Unit they are affiliated to. The deadline for application is in the spring. The procedure for applying as well as the criteria for an externally funded position are described on the [MWP web page](#). Externally funded Fellows do not have mission/research funds.

The EUI is a partner in the CIVICA network of European universities in the humanities and social sciences. Max Weber Fellows can apply for a postdoctoral exchange of 10 months in one of the partner universities after their Fellowship. The call will be published in the spring (if funds are available).

Those Fellows not successful in the job search by the end of the Fellowship or with a short gap between finishing at the EUI and starting your new position, can request the status of Visiting Fellow (temporarily). This does not give access to any grant or mission

funds, but it will allow Fellows to present themselves with an EUI affiliation, use the library, and attend all the activities of the MWP. Only in extraordinary cases support be extended to a third year. For non EU fellows, assistance on Visa and Immigration matters is not automatic and will be provided only under specific conditions.

DEPARTMENTS AND MENTORS

Each Fellow is attached to either an academic unit, the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (RSC), or the Florence School of Transnational Governance (STG). Fellows are allocated a mentor within the academic unit of affiliation. Departments and different fields operate in different ways, some having closer and others looser involvement with Fellows. Fellows should actively seek and meet their mentors at least twice a term and report to mentors regularly. Mentors typically read and comment on the Draft Publication and research proposal, they may offer career advice concerning publication strategies and job and grant applications.

All Departments have a professor responsible for co-ordinating links with the Max Weber Programme, who sits on the MWP Steering Committee. For 2025-2026 they are:

Economics

Leonardo Melosi (Leonardo.Melosi@eui.eu)

History and Civilisation

Mónica Bolufer Peruga (monica.bolufer@eui.eu)

Law

Martijn Hesselink (martijn.hesselink@eui.eu)

Political and Social Sciences

Simon Hix (simon.hix@eui.eu)

Robert Schuman Centre

Erik Jones (Erik.Jones@eui.eu)

School of Transnational Governance

Tommaso Nannicini (tommaso.nannicini@eui.eu)

REPRESENTATIVES AND GOVERNANCE

Director

The Academic Director represents the Max Weber Programme on the Executive Committee (EC) and in the Academic Council (AC) and is responsible for communication and coordination of activities with the EUI and Max Weber Representatives. The Director meets Max Weber Representatives regularly.

A Steering Committee

The Steering Committee for Post Graduate Fellowships (SC) is chaired by EUI's President and consists of representatives of the Departments (the Departmental Leads), the RSC, and the STG. The SC meets typically twice a year: once in late November or early December, to agree the selection of Fellows for the following year and discuss the Annual Report, once at the end of June/early July to discuss the feedback from the surveys and self-assessment and to launch the call for applications and discuss and agree on any changes that might be necessary.

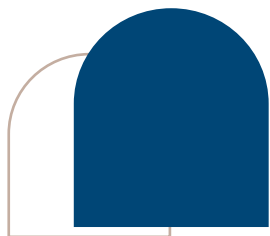
Representatives

Postdoctoral Fellows have an elected representative at the Executive Committee and the Academic Council. In addition, each Department and the RSC and STG group choose a Representative who also attends the departmental meetings and those of the RSC and the STG. All in all, there are six, possibly seven, Max Weber Representatives (Reps). The Reps also meet with the MWP Director regularly. The Reps should talk with their disciplinary colleagues on a regular basis and raise any issues

with either the MWP Director, the Departmental Leads, or the EC and AC Representative, and of course bring issues up at the regular meetings. The Reps may also wish to organise an informal or formal consultation with all Fellows on particular issues. Representatives of the Fellows meet with the Research Council every year. Fellows also sit on EUI committees, e.g. the Ethics, Gender or Social Welfare Committees.

Quality Assurance

All Fellowships need to be approved by the Executive Committee. The MWP presents a more detailed self-assessment on a regular basis, which involves external assessors from outside the EUI, such as funders of other major postdoctoral programmes, and which is presented to the Research Council.



THE MAX WEBER PROGRAMME TEAM

The MWP Team is happy to help you with any information you may need and will try its best to ensure the Programme is tailored as closely as possible to Fellows' requirements.

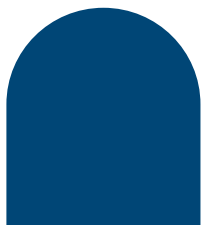


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Academic Director of Programme

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Katie Fry

Teaching and Learning Officer

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Alyson Price

MWP Editor

Email: Alyson.Price@ext.eui.eu

Compulsory

- September Presentations and Feedback
- MWP Lectures
- Max Weber Fellows' June Conference
- Draft publication
- Individual page for the MWP Annual Report

Strongly recommended to select at least three

- From Draft to Submission
- Teaching Module
- Public speaking
- Creative writing
- Conference skills
- Job market sessions
- Dissertation to Book
- Style in Research Writing
- Grant application skills and ACO Conference

Suggested

- Writers Groups
- Individual consultations with CALL
- Communication Beyond Discipline
- MWP Masterclasses
- Representatives of the Fellows

Mandatory Activities, Deadlines and Closures 2025-26

| When | What |
|--|---|
| 2 September 2025 | Registration Day |
| 8 September 2025 | Start of the Year meeting with MWP team and welcome reception |
| 17-18-19-22-23-24 September 2025 | September Presentations |
| 12 September 2025 | Informative meeting on MWP missions and funding |
| 12 September 2025 | Kick-off session on Academic Practice Activities |
| 13 October 2025 | Preparatory meetings for the Teaching Module and Teaching Practice Week |
| 23 October 2025 | Expression of interest in the MWP Teaching Module |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 October 2025 - 5 November 2025 – Kholi Award - 19 November 2025 - 14 January 2026 - 4 February 2026 - Other dates TBC | MWP Lectures Series |

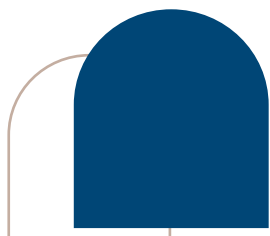
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| 31 October 2025 | Institute closed – All Saints’ Day |
| 2 November 2025 | Early-Stage Researcher (ESR) research funding call |
| 17 November 2025 | Proposals for Multidisciplinary Research Workshops |
| 24 November 2025 | Expression of interest to be part of the MWP June Conference Organising Committee |
| 22 December 2025 - 4 January 2026 | Institute closed – Winter closure |
| 23 February 2026 | ACO Conference |
| 16 March 2026 | Submission of proposal for the June Conference |
| 31 March 2026 | Applications for externally funded Fellowship |
| 31 March 2026 | Draft publication submission |

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| 2-7 April 2026 | Institute closed – Easter break |
| 1 May 2026 | Institute closed – Labour Day |
| 10-11 June 2026 | MWP Fellows' June Conference |
| 1 July 2026 | Individual pages for the MWP Annual Report |
| 20 July 2026 | Fellows are free to leave the Programme |
| 4-17 August 2026 | Institute closed – Summer break |

Please regularly check our [I-Calendar of MWP Activities](#), you can access/import the calendar from any device and/or client supporting the iCalendar (.ics).

To import the I-Calendar onto your device please follow the instructions below:

- 1- Login to your Webmail
- 2- Open the Calendar tab by clicking the Calendar icon on the top left
- 3- Click on 'Add calendar' and select 'Subscribe from web'
- 4- Paste the following link:
<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/ea36795a382b-4d60a64d7c5b9a7309fe@EUI.eu/e3655901000043a7afc7f-c74147a30bf17363478618796458695/calendar.ics>
- 5- Rename your calendar and click on 'Import/Save'.



MAX WEBER FELLOWS 2025-2026

- Akcaguner Yasemin (HEC)
- Alsajdeya Dima (SPS)
- Arango Olaya Monica (LAW)
- Baitsym Polina (HEC)
- Bakan Ronay (RSC)
- Bargellini Elettra (LAW)
- Bayley Imogene Alexandra (STG)
- Beauvais Michael (LAW)
- Biliotti Carolina (ECO)
- Biskup Bartosz (LAW)
- Bougrea Anissa (RSC)
- Canestrini Flavia (HEC)
- Carrano Lelis Rafael (LAW)
- Cavallotti Enrico (ECO)
- Cossu Elena (RSC)
- Crespi De Valldaura Virginia (SPS)
- De Coninck Joyce (RSC)
- De La Vega Noa (ECO)
- Endrejat Vanessa (RSC)
- Eslami Mohammad (SPS)
- Ganter Flavien (SPS)
- Gramc Martin (SPS)
- Grzeskowiak Maciej (LAW)
- Gulczynski Michal Jerzy (SPS)
- Hamjediers Maik (SPS)
- Hatano Ayako (LAW)
- Heimpel Daniela (STG)
- Heinkelmann-Wild Tim Philipp (SPS)
- Heinrich Elisa (HEC)
- Hussain Dima (LAW)
- Isaksson Zeth (SPS)
- Jaar Daniel (ECO)
- Kawasaki Rachael Kei (RSC)
- Kong Mengjing (LAW)
- Kortendiek Nele (RSC)
- Kotevska Biljana (RSC)
- Kuang Yingqiu (RSC)
- Loli Miranda (RSC)
- Lopez Alejandro (SPS)
- Macanovic Ana (SPS)
- Maideu Morera Gerard (ECO)
- Mallick Vasundhara (ECO)
- Marotta Achille (HEC)
- McGee Thomas (RSC)
- Mézes Ádám Gergely (HEC)
- Milano Annaliese (RSC)
- Minetto Francesca (RSC)
- Navarro-Ugé Garance (LAW)
- Olsson Filip (SPS)

- Peragovics Tamas (SPS)
- Pereira Lopes Ana Mafalda (HEC)
- Pierret Laura (RSC)
- Pollini Irene (LAW)
- Quagliati Noemi (HEC)
- Ramirez-Ruiz Sebastian (SPS)
- Rathore Khushi Singh (HEC)
- Rupesinghe Natasja (SPS)
- Sahoo Rajkumar (STG)
- Sarkar Ghosh Diya (LAW)
- Schürmann Lennart (SPS)
- Schweers Julia (RSC)
- Shi Siyu (ECO)
- Soler-Buades Llorenç (SPS)
- Termine Lorenzo (RSC)
- Truong Loi Blaise (HEC)
- Vaccaro Andrea (STG)
- Valli Roberto (SPS)
- Wassum Moritz (STG)
- Wilson James (LAW)
- Zalar Vita (HEC)
- Zhang Qiaochu (STG)



FELLOWS' BIOSKETCHES



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

- BILIOTTI Carolina
- CAVALLOTTI Enrico
- DE LA VEGA Noa
- JAAR Daniel
- MAIDEU MORERA Gerard
- MALLICK Vasundhara
- SHI Siyu



Biliotti, Carolina (ITA/USA)

Mail: carolina.biliotti@eui.eu

Mentor: Prof. Fabrizia Mealli

Carolina Biliotti is a PhD candidate in Economics, Networks and Business Analytics at the IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca, where she is expected to defend her dissertation in June 2025. She holds a Master's degree in Economics from the University of Florence and is an affiliate researcher at the Knowledge Lab at the University of Chicago.

Her research interests lie at the intersection of causal inference, policy evaluation, and the science of science. Her work primarily focuses on gender dynamics in authorship and recognition within scientific publishing, particularly in scientific innovation and rapidly evolving research fields. Her methodological expertise includes quasi-experimental causal inference, as well as supervised machine learning, text-analysis and natural language processing.

During her Max Weber Fellowship, she aims to pursue

new research opportunities, finalize and disseminate on-going work, and continue building her academic profile through both research and teaching.

Her past experience includes serving as a teaching assistant for machine learning courses offered to first-year PhD students in Economics at IMT and to Master's students.



Cavallotti, Enrico (ITA)

Mail: enrico.cavallotti@eui.eu

Mentor: Prof. Francesco Drago

Enrico Cavallotti is a PhD Candidate in Economics at Trinity College Dublin. During his PhD studies, he was a visiting PhD scholar at Columbia University in spring 2025 and at CER-GIC-ENS Lyon in autumn 2024.

Prior to his PhD studies, he obtained an MSc in Economics and Social Sciences from Bocconi University and a BSc in Economics, Markets and Institutions from the University of Bologna.

Enrico's research lies at the intersection of political economy, environmental economics, and the economics of crime. He investigates the economic and institutional drivers of criminal behaviour alongside the determinants of green voting and citizen support for environmental policies.

As a Max Weber Fellow, Enrico will examine how climate shifts influence criminal groups and how those groups adapt. He plans to investigate how they tap into natural resources and sway environmental regulations

for their own benefit. More broadly, he will trace the connections between changing climate conditions, resource availability, and patterns of criminal behaviour.



De la Vega, Noa (ISR/ITA)

Mail: Noa.Delavega@eui.eu

Mentor: Prof. Alessandro Tarozzi

Noa de la Vega earned her PhD from the Eitan Berglas School of Economics at Tel Aviv University, under the guidance of Dr. Analia Schlosser. She also holds an MA in Economics, *cum laude*, and a BA in Economics and Psychology, *summa cum laude*, from Ben-Gurion University. Noa specializes in labor economics and applied econometrics, focusing on gender economics and inequality. During her fellowship, she conducts research projects that examine the impact of the gender division of caregiving and financial responsibilities on labor supply.

Noa has received numerous accolades for her achievements. She was awarded the Israel Polak Fellowship for outstanding PhD students and prestigious scholarships from the Israeli Council for Higher Education. Her paper, 'The differential effect of childbirth on men's and women's careers,' published in *Labour Economics* (2022, Vol. 78), examines the impact of first childbirth on parents' la-

bour supply and life satisfaction as a function of their pre-birth earnings. Noa also serves as a referee for various economic journals, such as *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*; *Journal of Population Economics*; *Labour Economics*; *The International Labour Review (ILR)*; and *The Journal of the Economics of Ageing*.

In addition to her research, Noa has been a lecturer for the undergraduate core course 'Introduction to Econometrics' at Tel Aviv University since 2020. She has been able to share her expertise and teaching experience to guide students in the field of applied econometrics.



Jaar, Daniel (CHL/ITA)

Mail: daniel.jaar@eui.eu

Mentor: Prof. Leonardo Melosi

Daniel Jaar holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania and an MSc in Economics from Universidad de Chile. His research lies at the intersection of macroeconomics, labour, and development economics, with a focus on how limited state capacity affects household behaviour, labour market outcomes, and government policy in developing countries.

During his Max Weber Fellowship, Daniel aims to collaborate with other MW Fellows and members of the EUI Department of Economics to further develop and expand his research agenda on macroeconomic issues in emerging economies.

Following the Fellowship, he will join the Instituto de Economía at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile as an Assistant Professor.



Maideu-Morera, Gerard (ESP)

Mail: gerard.maideumorera@eui.eu

Mentor: Prof. Leo Kaas

Gerard Maideu-Morera holds an MSc and PhD in Economics from the Toulouse School of Economics, and a BSc in Economics at Universitat Pompeu Fabra.

He is a macroeconomist with research interests in economic growth and technical change, labour economics, dynamic contracting theory and applications, and public finance. His current work studies how to incorporate non-wage job amenities, such as job safety or schedule flexibility, into macroeconomic aggregates to improve our measurements of economic growth and its sources.

As a Max Weber Fellow, Gerard aims to collaborate with other MW Fellows, faculty, and PhD researchers of the EUI Economics Department to further develop his research agenda and start new projects.

**Mallick, Vasundhara (IND)**

Mail: vasundhara.mallick@eui.eu

Mentor: Prof. Özlem Bedre-Defolie

Vasundhara Mallick completed her PhD in Economics from Pennsylvania State University. Her primary research interest lies in the field of microeconomic theory, with a focus on Mechanism Design and Organizational Economics. Her work focuses on issues of limited commitment and control in mechanism design, and investigating its implications for markets and organisations. As a Max Weber Fellow, Vasundhara aims to further her understanding of intermediation in markets with asymmetric information, which is also the focus of one of the papers from her dissertation. Vasundhara has experience serving as a teaching assistant for graduate game theory and the first year PhD microeconomics at Penn State.



Shi, Siyu (CHN))

Mail: Siyu.Shi@eui.eu

Mentor: Prof. Alexander Ludwig

Siyu Shi completed his PhD in Economics at Arizona State University in 2023. He is a quantitative macroeconomist with research interests in technological change and inequality. He develops dynamic models to answer the questions at hand, uses microdata to document facts and parameterizes models. In his dissertation, he studies the impact of technological usage on life-cycle earnings. He develops a life-cycle model with a college decision, technology choice, and human capital investments to quantify the contribution of technology to earnings growth and earnings inequality.

As a Max Weber Fellow, Siyu has been completing his ongoing projects and submitting working papers. He plans to develop new ideas with other researchers at the EUI.

Siyu has experience teaching undergraduate-level macroeconomics and as a teaching assistant for PhD-level macroeconomics at Arizona State University

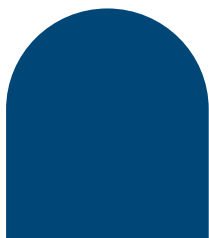


FELLOWS' BIOSKETCHES



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND CIVILISATION

- AKCAGUNER Jasemin
- BAITSYM Polina
- CANESTRINI Flavia
- HEINRICH Elisa
- MAROTTA Achille
- MÉZES Ádám Gergely
- PEREIRA LOPES Ana Mafalda
- QUAGLIATI Noemi
- RATHORE Kushi Singh
- TRUONG LOI Blaise
- ZALAR Vita



Akçagüner, Yasemin (TUR)

Email: yasemin.akcaguner@eui.eu

Mentors: Prof. Giancarlo Casale and Prof. Lauren Kassell

Yasemin Akçagüner is a historian, specialising in the history of medicine in the late Ottoman Empire. She recently completed her PhD in Columbia University's History Department with the dissertation 'Şanizade Ataullah Efendi and the Making of an Ottoman Medical Canon (1789-1826).' Her dissertation was a book history of the first Ottoman Turkish printed medical book (*The Pentalogy of Şanizade*, 1820) and investigated how medical knowledge production transformed in the Ottoman Empire amid the rise of nationalism, the popularisation of print technology and the centralisation of Ottoman state power at the turn of the nineteenth century.

At the EUI, Yasemin will be part of the interdisciplinary research cluster 'Expert Knowledge and Authority in Transformative Times' and will be working on her book manuscript, tentatively titled 'Anatomy of a

Counter-Revolution: Medicine, Knowledge, and Power in the Ottoman Empire (1789-1826).'



Baitsym, Polina (UKR)

Mail: polina.baitsym@eui.eu

Mentor: Prof. Monika Baar

Polina Baitsym is an art historian and curator specializing in the history of Ukrainian Soviet visual arts. She is a co-author of two books on Ukrainian Soviet Mosaics: [*Art for Architecture. Ukraine. Soviet Modernist Mosaics from 1960 to 1990*](#) (Berlin: DOM Publishers, 2020) and [*The Chips: Ukrainian Naïve Mosaics, 1950-1990*](#) (Kharkiv: ist publishing, 2024).

Recently, Polina co-curated a Ukrainian contribution to the exhibition, [*Retrotopia. Design for Socialist Spaces*](#) (2023) at the Kunstgewerbemuseum, Berlin, Germany, and co-edited a special issue for Konstruktörernas Riksorganisation (The Artists' Association of Sweden). Currently, she is working on her manuscript on Ukrainian Soviet art historiography.



Canestrini, Flavia (ITA)

Mail: flavia.canestrini@eui.eu

Mentor: Prof. Emmanuel Mourlon-Druol

Flavia Canestrini is an international and economic historian working at the intersection of globalisation, US foreign policy, and transatlantic relations. She is particularly interested in the dynamics of global markets and how they became spaces of political contestation and competition. She holds a PhD in History from Sciences Po, Paris.

Flavia is currently completing her first monograph, based on her dissertation and under contract with a university press, which examines how expanding markets in the 1970s and 1980s transformed economic sanctions into key instruments of international diplomacy. During her doctorate, she was a visiting fellow at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL.

Before joining the EUI, she was a postdoctoral fellow at LUISS University in Rome, where she researched how non-state actors participated in and challenged the expansion of financial markets. She has taught global and

economic history at both LUISS and Sciences Po Paris.

As a Max Weber Fellow, Flavia will examine the European response to US extraterritorial legislation between the 1980s and 1990s. Her research will explore how European institutions developed legal and diplomatic strategies to protect internal competition and assert economic sovereignty, contributing to the EU's emergence as both a regulatory power and a competitive ally of the United States in global markets.



Heinrich, Elisa (AUT)

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Mentor: Prof. Monika Baar

Elisa Heinrich is a historian working at the intersection of gender history, queer history, and disability studies. Before joining the EUI, she was visiting professor for queer history and biographical studies at Vienna University and a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Innsbruck. Elisa obtained her PhD from the University of Vienna in 2021 with a dissertation on friendship and homosexuality in German women's movements around 1900. Her first monograph, based on her PhD and published in 2022, by conceptualizing intimacy as an analytical tool, not only provides a fresh look at the multifaceted relationships between feminist activists but also helps to better understand the functioning of social movements in general.

Elisa is the co-author of a collaborative biography on radical feminist and German nationalist Kaethe Schirmacher, and a member of the DFG-funded research network 'Queer contemporary history in German-speak-

ing Europe', which aims to introduce a general audience to queer history.

In her second year as a Max Weber Fellow, Elisa will continue working on her new research project on disability rights activism, knowledge practices, and self-representation of people with disabilities in Central Europe from the 1970s to 1990s. As in all of her projects, Elisa works towards placing the experiences and representation of marginalised subjects at the centre of history and historical debate.

Fields of expertise: gender and sexuality, queer history, gender history, history of disability, social movements, 19th century, 20th century, oral History, cultural History.



Marotta, Achille (ITA)

Mail: achille.marotta@eui.eu

Mentors: Prof. Giancarlo Casale and Prof. M'hamed Oualdi

Achille Marotta is a historian of the early modern Mediterranean (1500-1800), specialising in the history of slavery in the region and in the history of Muslims in Europe.

He earned his PhD from the University of Bologna in 2024 with a thesis on enslaved and freed Muslims in the Republic of Genoa, now being revised into a monograph.

He is currently working on two further projects related to Mediterranean slavery. The first is a study of 'merchant slaves' who engaged in trade, sometimes accumulating enough capital to purchase their own freedom. A second, longer-term project deals with slavery and kinship in Southern Europe and North Africa. Methodologically, his work engages with Italian microhistory, legal history, and social anthropology.



Mézes, Ádám Gergely (HUN)

Mail: adam.mezes@eui.eu

Mentor: Prof. Lauren Kassell

Ádám Mézes earned his PhD in History from Central European University (Budapest) in 2020 with the dissertation, 'Doubt and Diagnosis: Medical Experts and the Returning Dead of the Southern Habsburg Borderland (1718-1766)'. He is interested in intersections between religion and science, and has researched the ways early modern surgeons, physicians, and lay healers dealt with unnatural afflictions, such as demonic possession, bewitchment, and vampirism. Finding themselves at the crux of clashing interests between local communities, imperial administration, and various churches, these experts produced knowledge on the borders of the natural, and influenced social practices of the discernment, manipulation, and disciplining of patients and supernatural entities alike.

Ádám's research combines historical anthropology with science and technology studies to study the Enlightenment in a Central European context, as-

sessing questions of laicization, professionalization, and governance. Before joining the EUI, Ádám was a research analyst at Altrata, a wealth intelligence company and taught courses on culture, gender, and critical thinking to high school students at the Milestone Institute. Earlier, he also taught BA and MA seminars at Eötvös Loránd University and at CEU on historiography and the history of science and magic.



Pereira Lopes, Ana Mafalda (PRT)

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Mentors: Prof. Mónica Bolufer and Prof. Alexia Yates

Ana Mafalda Lopes is a historian whose work combines socio-economic history, gender, and family history, with a focus on the eighteenth century and the transition to the Liberal period in Portugal.

In 2024, she completed her FCT-funded PhD in History at the Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon, with a thesis titled 'As viúvas do Porto: património, negócios e família (1700-1832)'. Her dissertation examined legal changes affecting the status of widows and explored their involvement in various aspects of everyday life, particularly in relation to family, property, business, the labour market, and the empire. The study also considered whether widowhood constituted a disruption or marked a significant shift in social, familial, and economic structures.

As a Max Weber Fellow, Ana Mafalda will revise the manuscript for her first monograph titled 'In Search of Continui-

ty: Widowhood, Property, and Family in Portugal (1700–1832)', under the mentorship of Professor Mónica Bolufer and Professor Alexia Yates. Her research compares women of different marital statuses to assess the impact of widowhood on their lives and to identify the social and economic resources they mobilised. The project adopts an interdisciplinary approach, analysing widowhood not only from a historical perspective but also incorporating insights from sociology, gender studies, and cultural anthropology.



Quagliati, Noemi (ITA)

Mail: noemi.quagliati@eui.eu

Mentors: Prof. Glenda Sluga and Prof. Corinna Ruth Unger

Noemi Quagliati is an art and visual historian whose work lies at the intersection of environmental humanities, history of science and technology, and animal studies. Before joining the EUI, she was a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellow at Ca' Foscari University of Venice with the project 'Bird's-Eye Views of the Venetian Lagoon. Planetary Visions and Birdscapes of an Aquatic Ecosystem.'

At the EUI, her current research explores how visual practices shape planetary thinking. By drawing on archival records from the European Space Agency (ESA) and conducting interviews with its members, she is developing innovative critical methodologies to analyse remote sensing imagery used to represent and communicate climate and environmental challenges.

Noemi earned her PhD in 2021 from Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich and the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, where she focused

on landscape photography in WWI Germany. She has taught courses on German eco-aesthetics (Junior Year in Munich, LMU, and Wayne State University) and North American photography and art (Amerika-Institut, LMU). She has had visiting research stays at the University of California, Berkeley (2018), the University of Georgia (2023), and KTH Royal Institute of Technology (2025). She has been offered research grants by the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles and the Käte Hamburger Kolleg: Cultures of Research at RWTH Aachen University. She contributed to the modernisation of the Deutsches Museum's aviation section by researching early aerial photography.



Rathore, Khushi Singh (IND)

Mail: khushisingh.rathore@eui.eu

Mentor: Prof. Glenda Sluga

Khushi Singh Rathore is a Feminist International Relations (IR) scholar specializing in Indian foreign policy and postcolonial diplomacy. Her research integrates feminist and decolonial approaches to diplomacy and international politics, focusing on gender in diplomacy, women diplomats, and foreign ministries. Her interests encompass diplomatic history and Asian foreign relations. She holds a PhD from Jawaharlal Nehru University, India, and serves as an Associate Editor for *The Hague Journal of Diplomacy*.

As a Max Weber Fellow, she will be part of the Decentering Eurocentrism cluster. She will advance her research on postcolonial women diplomats and the idea of Asia, aiming to reshape conventional understandings of global diplomacy.

Khushi's doctoral thesis, 'Women in Early Years of India's Foreign Policy: Evaluating the Role of Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit,' critically examined Pandit's pi-

oneering role as India's first woman diplomat. Her recent publications critically intervene in Gender and Diplomacy and Feminist IR, including co-edited volumes: [*Gender and Diplomacy: Critical Junctures, Innovations & Future Research Directions*](#) (with Elise Stephenson, 2025) and the *Routledge Contemporary Reader of Feminist International Relations* (with Catherine Goetze, forthcoming 2025).

Committed to scholarly engagement, she holds leadership roles as Program Co-Chair (2025-2026) for ISA's Feminist Theory and Gender Studies Section; At-Large Representative for its South Asia World Politics Section. She also co-convenes BISA's Gendering IR Working Group and hosts the New Books Network podcast.



Truong-Loi, Blaise (FRA)

Mail: blaise.truongloi@eui.eu

Mentors: Prof. Glenda Sluga and Prof. Alexia Yates

Blaise Truong-Loi received his PhD in history from Sciences Po in 2024 with a dissertation titled 'Bringing Capital (Back) to Life: A History of International Financial Control Institutions between Sovereignties, Imperialisms and Capitalist Globalisations (1870–1914)'.

His research explores the social, political, and environmental dimensions of financial globalisation and global economic governance. Drawing on insights from other disciplines (economics, political science, law, sociology), his work emphasises the significance of the late nineteenth century for understanding contemporary debates on capitalism. His first article on the subject was recently published (in French) in the *Revue d'histoire moderne et contemporaine*.

As a Max Weber Fellow, Blaise intends to develop his dissertation into a monograph and to publish peer-reviewed articles on topics such as the transna-

tional bondholders' movement of the 1900s and the environmental implications of international capital flows. He is also keen to launch a new research project on the global fight against wine phylloxera and other agricultural pests in the final decades of the nineteenth century.

Prior to joining the EUI, Blaise was a junior lecturer at Paris Nanterre University, where he taught nineteenth-century history, the history of global economic governance, and quantitative methods for social sciences.



Zalar, Vita (SVN)

Mail: vita.zalar@eui.eu

Mentor: Prof. Monika Baar

Vita Zalar is a historian and labour organizer with a particular interest in the history of capitalism, racialized and gendered primitive accumulation, and racialized labour regimes. She earned her PhD at the Postgraduate School ZRC SAZU at the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts. In her dissertation, she wrote about anti-Roma racism during the transition to capitalism in the Habsburg and Yugoslav monarchies from the 1840s until the 1940s.

As a Max Weber Fellow, Vita will be working on her first monograph, tentatively titled 'The Political Economy of Anti-Roma Racism: Habsburg and Post-Habsburg Perspectives', for which she received the 2023 Prize for Best First Book Proposal awarded by the BASEES Study Group for Minority History. At the EUI, Vita will also be developing a postdoctoral project that looks comparatively at the abolition of slavery and serfdom in Central Europe.

Before joining the EUI, Vita worked as an assistant at the University of Ljubljana and the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, a doctoral fellow at the Leibniz Institute of European History in Mainz, and a visiting researcher at the University of Graz and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.



FELLOWS' BIOSKETCHES



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

- ARANGO OLAYA Monica
- BARGELLINI Elettra
- BEAUVAIS Michael
- BISKUP Bartosz
- CARRANO LELIS Rafael
- GRZESKOWIAK Maciej
- HATANO Ayako
- HUSSAIN Dima
- KONG Mengjing
- NAVARRO-UGÉ Garance
- POLLINI Irene
- SARKAR GHOSH Diya
- WILSON James



Arango Olaya, Monica (COL/ESP)

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Mentor: Prof. Silvia Suteu

Monica Arango Olaya is a socio-legal scholar specialising in constitutional law, international human rights law, and law and technology. Her work critically explores how rights are conceived, mobilised, and contested within courts, through legal systems, and by transnational social movements. Across these three research streams, she applies a sustained focus on gender, legal mobilisation, and social movements.

She holds a DPhil in Law from the University of Oxford. Her thesis, 'Digital Feminism in India', examined how digital activism reshaped justice claims for sexual harassment, transformed legal consciousness, and influenced governance practices during India's #MeToo movement. Monica also earned an LLM from Harvard University and an LLB from the University of Los Andes in Colombia.

Prior to her doctoral studies, she served as Deputy Justice at the Colombian Constitutional

Court, contributing to key rulings on equality, reproductive rights, and transitional justice. She was also regional director for Latin America and the Caribbean at the Centre for Reproductive Rights, where she opened and led the Bogotá Office. At Oxford, she was a graduate research resident at the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights and collaborated with the Oxford Human Rights Hub.

As a Max Weber Fellow, Monica will investigate how reproductive rights litigation in Latin America informs constitutional recognition of uncodified rights, engaging with theories of living constitutionalism and responsive law.



Bargellini, Elettra (ITA)

Mail: elettra.bargellini@eui.eu

Mentor: Prof. Sergio Puig

Elettra Bargellini was awarded a PhD in EU Law and International Trade Law from Dublin City University (2025), under the supervision of Professor Federico Fabbrini. She holds an LLM in EU Law from King's College London (2020) and a combined LLM and LLB (Laurea Magistrale) from the University of Bologna (2020). In 2024, she joined Princeton University as a visiting researcher, where she was affiliated with the School of Public and International Affairs.

Elettra's PhD thesis investigates the subsidy control regime established under the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA), assessing its ability to maintain a level playing field between the EU and the UK through a comparative analysis with WTO subsidy law and EU State aid law. While grounded in legal doctrine, her analysis adopts a law-in-context approach, examining the influence of political and economic dynamics on the drafting and implementation of the TCA.

As a Max Weber Fellow, Elettra will work on an interdisciplinary project that seeks to identify potential strategies for managing the increased use of subsidies at the global level, focusing on how EU anti-subsidy rules can be designed to effectively support climate change mitigation while safeguarding EU competitiveness.

She has taught at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, delivering lectures and visiting lectures on EU law, EU competition and trade law, climate change law, and research methods in EU law and policy.



Beauvais, Michael (CAN/USA)

Mail: m.beauvais@eui.eu

Mentor: Prof. Thomas Streinz

Michael's research interests revolve around the governance of technologies, privacy, and young people. Interdisciplinary approaches to law interest him most. Childhood studies, media studies, bioethics, and relational feminism have been central to his recent work.

Michael recently finished his doctoral work at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Law where he examined the informational privacy of adolescents from their parents in the digital environment. He has previously been a student of law and of urban planning at McGill University, Oxford University, and University College London. He has also been affiliated with the Schwartz Reisman Institute for Technology and Society (Toronto), the Information Law Institute (NYU), and the Centre of Genomics and Policy (McGill). Between periods in academia, Michael has worked in regulatory compliance, publishing, construction, real estate, and web design. (Draw what conclusions

you may).

At the EUI, Michael will research the governance of infrastructure that underlies youth online safety law and policy. (Think age verification, parental controls, encryption, and so on.) His research is also supported by a postdoctoral fellowship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.



Bartosz, Biskup (POL)

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Mentor: Prof. Silvia Suteu

Bartosz Biskup's research focuses on the philosophy of family law, Queer & Law, and the philosophy of housing. Prior to joining the EUI, Bartosz was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Tours, France, where he studied the intersection of housing rights with privacy and other social rights, applying empirical methods (Natural Language Processing) to analyse court cases related to housing.

His current research objective is to conduct legal and philosophical analysis, critique, and comparison of theories justifying Legal Partiality in family law; the reasons and norms allowing individuals to treat groups of people differently based on special relationships. He focuses specifically on 'close' relationships, including non-conjugal families and networks of care.

Bartosz received his PhD (cum laude) in Philosophy of Law from Jagiellonian University in Kraków with a dissertation criti-

cally analysing the received view about the right to marry in the European Convention on Human Rights. The thesis argued that marriage functions as an imperfect proxy for caring relationships, being both under- and over-inclusive by focusing solely on sexually affiliated partners rather than broader care and dependency relationships.

Bartosz is an alumnus of the Summer School on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in International Law at Leiden University and completed his Masters in Law and Philosophy at Jagiellonian University. He has held visiting research positions at various universities including Bologna, Heidelberg, and Helsinki.



Carrano Lelis, Rafael (BRA)

Mail: rafael.lelis@eui.eu

Mentor: Prof. Gráinne De Búrca

Rafael Carrano Lelis conducted his doctoral studies at the Geneva Graduate Institute (defence scheduled for September 2025), where he also worked as a teaching assistant for three years. His thesis '(Re)imagining a queer human: subject-making in international human rights law' is based on archival research and ethnographic fieldwork and examines the mobilisation of human rights by transnational LGBTI+ activists. Rafael holds a master's degree in State Theory and Constitutional Law from the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio) and a postgraduate certificate in Gender and Sexuality Studies from the State University of Rio de Janeiro (UERJ). He is a member of the editorial board of the *Australian Feminist Law Journal* (AFLJ) and a contributor to the Queer Judgments Project. His latest book, published in 2023, analyses advocacy efforts by the Brazilian LGBTI+ movement in the 1980s.

work on the project 'Contesting Gender in International Legal Discourse: Consequences of the Institutionalisation of Anti-Gender Groups at the United Nations,' which investigates the transnational mobilization against 'gender' at global governance fora, and in particular at the United Nations Human Rights Council. Rafael's research interests broadly include international human rights law, queer and feminist approaches to international law, transnational activism, and anthropology of human rights.

AsaMaxWeberFellow, Rafael will



Grześkowiak, Maciej (POL)

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Mentor: Prof. Gráinne De Búrca

Maciej Grześkowiak holds a PhD in law from the University of Warsaw, where he also lectured in human rights law. He is a Research Affiliate at the Refugee Law Initiative of the University of London. His research focuses on international and EU migration and asylum law. He has published extensively on aspects of international, European, and national refugee protection frameworks. His work often employs empirical legal research, leading him to conduct fieldwork in Lebanon, Uganda, and Poland.

Maciej's doctoral thesis examined the shift from durable asylum to temporary forms of protection for refugees and other forcibly displaced persons. In situations of large-scale influx, states increasingly resort to temporary and limited protection statuses which, over time, tend to become entrenched beyond the immediate crisis. He introduced the concept of 'the gap between temporary refuge and asylum' to describe this phenomenon.

Before joining the EUI, Maciej was also active as a practitioner. He spent over two years in the Lebanese-Syrian borderlands implementing humanitarian programmes with the Polish Center for International Aid. He worked at the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights and, since 2022, served as chief coordinator at the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Polish Ombudsman). He was closely involved in responding to the Polish-Belarusian border crisis and the situation of refugees from Ukraine.

At the EUI, Maciej's project explores border walls in Europe, examining their legal status and impact on access to rights.



Hatano, Ayako (JPN)

Mail: ayako.hatano@eui.eu

Mentor: Prof. Gráinne De Búrca

Ayako Hatano is an international law scholar specialising in international human rights law. She is a DPhil candidate in Law at the University of Oxford, where she was awarded the Clarendon Scholarship and actively contributed to the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights and the Public International Law Group.

Her research addresses urgent and evolving challenges in human rights law, including hate speech, business and human rights, racial discrimination, and gender equality. She is particularly interested in how global human rights standards are interpreted, adapted, and mobilised in diverse local contexts.

As a Max Weber Fellow, Ayako is conducting a research project on international human rights and technology. The project examines the vernacularisation of rights and legal mobilisation in digital spaces, with a particular focus on the responsibilities of states and corporations in online regulation of harmful contents. She investigates how local

actors engage with international legal norms to shape content moderation and digital governance.

Ayako holds degrees from the University of Tokyo (BA, MA, JD) and New York University School of Law (LL.M., as a Fulbright Scholar). She has extensive teaching experience, including at the University of Oxford and Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, and has delivered guest lectures across multiple continents. Her recent publications include: 'Regulating Online Hate Speech through the Prism of Human Rights Law' (2023) 41 *Australian Year Book of International Law* 127.



Hussain, Dima (SYR)

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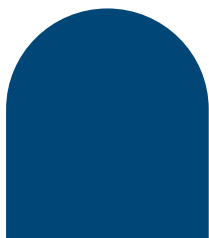
Mentor: Prof. Sarah Nouwen

Dima Hussain completed her PhD in Law at the European University Institute. Her research interests include living law and non-state legal systems, tribal justice and Shari'a, the concept of indigenous law, gender dynamics in societal legality, and the codification of law.

As a Max Weber Fellow, she continues to explore the relationship between state and non-state law, particularly Shari'a and tribal legal systems, and the impact of codification and central state pressures during and after the colonial Mandate era in the Arab region. She is also developing a research project documenting tribal women's narratives about transformations in tribal history and culture over recent decades. This project aims to integrate women's perspectives into the broader discourses on tribal justice, challenging the traditional gender hierarchies.

Previously, Dima was a CIVICA postdoctoral fellow at the Cen-

tral European University, where she researched the historical relationship between tribal justice and Islamic law in Syria and their contemporary interconnection. She is also a scientific collaborator with the Center for Legal History and Legal Anthropology at the Université Libre de Bruxelles and an Associate Researcher with the Mediterranean Platform at Luiss University.



Kong, Mengjing (CHN)

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Mentor: Prof. Joanne Scott

Mengjing's research interest lies in international economic law, in particular international financial governance, and international human rights law. In her work, Mengjing explores a human rights-based approach to global economic governance, using mixed methods including doctrinal analysis, empirical research, and law and political economy.

Mengjing received a JSD from New York University (NYU), where her doctoral dissertation focuses on China's Belt & Road Initiative. She has also conducted research on the rise of sovereign investors in today's global economy, with a particular focus on new challenges they may present to international law. At the EUI, Mengjing will write a book proposal based on her doctoral dissertation, and work on a research project on the regulation of sovereign investors in the field of energy transition.

Mengjing holds LLMs from NYU, Renmin University of Chi-

na, where she exchanged at the Center for Transnational Legal Studies in London, and the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and an LLB from Northwest University of Political Science and Law. Before starting her JSD, Mengjing worked as a junior legal analyst at World Trade Organization, and interned with UN Trade and Development in Geneva, and UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok. Mengjing practiced law in Beijing.



Navarro-Ugé, Garance (FRA)

Mail: garance.navarrouge@eui.eu

Mentor: Prof. Martijn Hesselink

Garance Navarro-Ugé holds a PhD in Public Law from the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, jointly supervised by the École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS) in Paris.

Her doctoral research engaged with legal pluralism in the thought of Georges Gurvitch. After situating Gurvitch's conceptual framework within its historical and intellectual context and critically assessing its limitations and shortcomings, she investigated the contemporary relevance of this theory for public law. Her work specifically addressed questions related to democracy within social organisations, the demands of vulnerable populations, and the legal recognition of commons.

In her postdoctoral research, she focuses on legal theory, particularly the impact of environmental issues on the definition and methods of law. She is currently examining the effectiveness of fundamental

rights and freedoms from a socio-legal perspective, with particular emphasis on rights that are collectively exercised: freedom of association, the right to petition, and dignity considered in its collective dimensions. During her tenure, she will explore the intersection of judicial remedies and democratic practices in the context of climate change litigation. This research will involve a detailed analysis of three landmark cases: *Urgenda* (Netherlands), *L'Affaire du Siècle* (France), and *Klimaatzaak* (Belgium).



Pollini, Irene (ITA)

Mail: irene.pollini@eui.eu

Mentor: Prof. Loic Azoulai

Irene Pollini specialises in the field of comparative constitutional law, with a particular focus on the interaction between international and EU law and national norms that embody certain moral or cultural values.

As a Max Weber Fellow, her current project focuses on the role of international and supranational courts in upholding the rights of marginalised and politically underrepresented groups, including sex workers, through the lens of transnational democracy. Her work combines legal analysis with sociological insights, engaging with the broader debate on the legitimacy and the evolving role of international and supranational courts.

She holds a PhD in European and Comparative Legal Studies from the University of Trento. Her thesis, titled 'A job like any other, yet not as any other job. Sex work and human dignity from a comparative constitutional law perspective', explored the complex relationship between

human dignity, socio-economic constraints and freedom of choice in the context of voluntary prostitution. During her doctoral studies, she was a visiting researcher at the Institute for European Law at KU Leuven, the Hertie School in Berlin and the Department of Gender Studies at Lund University. Before pursuing her PhD, Irene practised as a lawyer and is admitted to the Italian Bar. She also worked at the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, contributing to the assessment and evaluation of Tuscany's public health policies on pathological gambling.



Sarkar Ghosh, Diya (IND)

Mail: diya.sarkarghosh@eui.eu

Mentor: Prof. Deirdre Curtin

Prior to joining the Max Weber Programme, Diya Sarkar Ghosh was a guest researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition, Munich (March–August 2025). Her doctoral research, at the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), India, focussed on privacy and data protection (2024).

As a Max Weber Fellow, Diya is pursuing her research on the theme of technological change and society. Her research focusses on a critical evaluation of the application of facial recognition technology by law enforcement bodies with a special emphasis on the European Union.

Diya's keen interest in information technology led her to pursue a Post Graduate Diploma in Cyber Law and Cyber Forensics from the top ranked National Law School of India University (2023-2024). She completed her master's degree in law with a specialization in Constitutional Law and Governance at the National University of Study and

Research in Law, India (2014). Subsequently she worked as faculty at the School of Law, KIIT between 2014-2021 where she was involved in both academic and administrative roles.



Wilson, James (GBR)

Mail: james.wilson@eui.eu

Mentor: Prof. Grainne De Búrca

James S. F. Wilson studies comparative administrative and constitutional law, and legal and political theory. He is currently studying how courts and administrative decision makers resolve conflicts about the use of public authority, and how the forms of reasoning they use while doing this can integrate respect for people's dignity with respect for democracy.

James was educated at Harvard University (*AB magna cum laude* 2000) and the University of Toronto, Faculty of Law (*JD* 2009), where he was a co-editor-in-chief of the *University of Toronto Faculty of Law Review*. After graduating from law school, James completed his articles with the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General, Constitutional Law Branch, and practiced regulatory and business litigation in Toronto, where he appeared at all levels of court in Ontario as well as the Supreme Court of Canada. He is also called to the bar in New York.

James returned to the University of Toronto, Faculty of Law as a recipient of the Nathan Strauss Q.C. Graduate Fellowship in Canadian Constitutional Law (LLM 2018) before continuing his graduate studies at NYU School of Law (JSD 2025). He also currently serves as the senior associate editor for the *International Journal of Constitutional Law* (I-CON). Before attending law school, James worked in the book publishing and film industries, in New York, and as a speechwriter for the Rt. Hon. Paul Martin, prime minister of Canada.



FELLOWS' BIOSKETCHES

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

- ALSAJDEYA Dima
- CRESPI DE VALLDAURA Virginia
- ESLAMI Mohammad
- GANTER Flavien
- GRAMC Martin
- GULCZYNSKI Michal
- HAMJEDIERS Maik
- HEINKELMANN-WILD Tim Philipp
- ISAKSSON Zeth
- LOPEZ Alejandro
- MACANOVIC Ana
- OLSSON Filip
- PERAGOVICS Tamas
- RAMIREZ-RUIZ Sebastian
- RUPESINGHE Natasja
- SCHÜRMANN Lennart
- SOLER-BUADES Llorenç
- VALLI Roberto



Alsajdeya, Dima (PSE/FRA)

Mail: dima.alsajdeya@eui.eu

Mentor: Prof. Raffaella Del Sarto

Dima Alsajdeya earned her PhD in Political Science from Paris-Panthéon Assas University in France. Prior to joining the EUI, she was a grantee of the Arab Council for the Social Sciences (ACSS) Early Career Fellows Program (ECFP) Cycle 11 and a postdoctoral researcher affiliated with the Institut français du Proche-Orient (Ifpo) in Beirut. She is a research fellow at the Chair of Contemporary History of the Arab World at Collège de France and the Centre Thucydide at the University of Paris-Panthéon-Assas. Dima is also a member of the editorial board for the French journal *Confluences Méditerranée*

As a Max Weber Fellow, she is working on publishing a book derived from her PhD dissertation, for which she received two prestigious awards, the Best Francophone Thesis Award from the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) and the Distinction Prize from Paris-Panthéon-Assas University, titled 'The Egyptian Foreign Policy un-

der Mubarak and the Israeli-Palestinian Question (1981-2011): Beyond Mere Leverage.'

Dima is embarking on a new project exploring the political dynamics of Palestinians in Lebanon's refugee camps, particularly in Ein el-Hilweh. Her current work aims to examine Palestinian power beyond the existing regime of the Palestinian Authority and its institutions located in Palestine. This project focuses on the reconfiguration of Palestinian power in Lebanon, considering both local dynamics and the development of relationships with national and regional actors.



Crespi de Valldaura, Virginia (ESP)

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Mentor: Prof. Waltraud Schelkle

Virginia Crespi de Valldaura's research examines how partisan preferences shape financial reforms and the role played by financial markets in states' growth strategies. Her PhD dissertation focused on why left parties undertook financial liberalisation reforms in the 1980s in the context of the demise of Keynesianism, and why they persevered down this route once its adverse electoral and economic effects became clear. During her Max Weber Fellowship, Virginia will work on developing a book proposal based on her PhD thesis and expand her research to focus on the role of finance in industrial policy.

Virginia received her PhD from the London School of Economics and Political Science in 2025. She holds an MA in International Public Management (*summa cum laude*) from Sciences Po Paris, as well as a BA in Ancient and Modern History (First Class Honours) and an MSt in Modern British and European History from the University of

Oxford. Her work has been published in *New Political Economy* and *Información Comercial Española* (ICE).



Eslami, Mohammad (IRN/PRT)

Mail: mohammad.eslami@eui.eu

Mentor: Prof. Raffaella Del Sarto

Mohammad Eslami holds a PhD in International Relations. His research focuses on international security, arms control, nuclear proliferation, emerging military technologies, the global arms trade, and Middle East security. He has published widely in journals such as *International Affairs*, *Third World Quarterly*, *Global Policy*, *Review of International Studies*, *Journal for Peace and Nuclear Disarmament*, and the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, among others. He is the co-editor of academic books such as *The Arms Race in the Middle East* (Springer) and *AI and International Security* (Manchester University Press), and the author of *Drones, Race, and International Security* (Springer).

In 2024 and 2025, he served as an assistant professor of International Relations at the University of Minho in Portugal, where he was also an integrated member of the Research Center for Political Science (CICP). In 2025, he was a visiting fellow at Dublin City University. He has also

been a fellow of the Arms Control Negotiation Academy (ACONA), led by the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University.

As a Max Weber Fellow, Mohammad will explore the emergence of three Middle Eastern states – namely Iran, Turkey, and Israel – as international arms suppliers. His project will examine the intersection of global arms networks with regional power dynamics, contributing to broader debates in international security and foreign policy.



Ganter, Flavien (FRA/CAN)

Mail: flavien.ganter@eui.eu

Mentor: Prof. Valentina Di Stasio

Flavien Ganter is a PhD candidate and Paul F. Lazarsfeld Fellow in the Department of Sociology at Columbia University, where he is expected to defend his dissertation in the summer of 2025. Before coming to Columbia, he studied at the École normale supérieure of Paris-Saclay and earned a BA in Sociology and Economics from Sorbonne University, an MA in Quantitative Sociology and Demography from Paris-Saclay University, and an MSc in Econometrics and Statistics from ENSAE.

Flavien's research lies at the intersection of race and ethnicity, international migration, social stratification, and cultural sociology. He is broadly interested in the relationship between cognitive processes of classification and macro-level patterns of inequality and segregation. He is also an applied quantitative methodologist, with expertise in statistical modelling, computational methods, and experimental designs.

In his dissertation, Flavien develops an original methodology to explore how people think about their own society – how they see it structured and patterned – and proposes a systematic topography of the US social space as perceived by Americans. As a Max Weber Fellow, he plans to explore how social cleavages that cut across ethnoracial categories reshape ethnoracial boundaries in the United States, and to study the long-term residential trajectories of immigrants and their children in France.



Gramc, Martin (SVN)

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Mentors: Prof. Silvia Suteu and Prof. Juho Härkönen

Martin Gramc is a social science researcher specializing in interdisciplinary approaches to medical sciences and gender studies. Prior to joining the European University Institute (EUI), Martin earned their PhD from the University of Zürich, where they were also awarded a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship. Their doctoral research focused on the collaboration between healthcare professionals, peer support groups, children, and parents in the context of intersex care.

Martin has previously held research fellowships at the Peace Institute (Ljubljana, Slovenia), Liverpool John Moores University, and the University of Ljubljana, contributing to projects centred on human rights, political philosophy, and trans and queer studies. Beyond academia, Martin has been actively involved in LGBTI+ activism and migration advocacy.

At the EUI, Martin will build upon their earlier research into

intersex and transgender issues. Their current project investigates how the intersection of medical and legal frameworks in intersex and gender-affirming care impacts the visibility and autonomy of intersex and transgender individuals. The project particularly examines how sex and gender-based evidence is utilized in medical guidelines and legislation amid an increasingly hostile and transphobic political climate in Western countries.



Gulczyński, Michał (POL)

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Mentor: Prof. Juho Härkönen

Michał Gulczyński earned his PhD in Political Sociology from Bocconi University in 2024. During his PhD, he visited Brown University and the European University Institute.

Michał studies various aspects of gender inequalities, applying perspectives from demography, political science, and sociology. His dissertation includes chapters on sex-selective rural-urban migration, men's issues in the European Union's gender equality policies, and gender gaps in voting behaviour. In other projects, he uses causal inference methods to study politicians' attempts to increase voter turnout and various consequences of electoral reforms. He has published in *Population and Development Review*, *Journal of European Social Policy*, *Political Studies* and *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties*.

As a Max Weber Fellow, Michał aims to explain why education gender gaps are larger in rural

areas, and find solutions to the underachievement of boys and men.

Michał has gained teaching experience as a teaching assistant for several courses at Bocconi, and as an educator collaborating with several organizations in Poland. Before his PhD, Michał obtained BA degrees in International Economics and Iberian Studies from the University of Warsaw and MA degrees in East European Studies from the Free University Berlin and in European Interdisciplinary Studies from the College of Europe. He spent exchange semesters in Santiago de Chile, Bogotá, Barcelona, Moscow and Padua. He also completed traineeships at the European Commission and four Polish embassies.



Hamjediers, Maik (DEU)

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Mentors: Prof. Juho Härkönen and Prof. Herman van de Werfhorst

Maik Hamjediers received his PhD in Sociology from Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, where he also served as a substitute for the Professorship of Microsociology during the summer term 2025. Previously, he was a visiting graduate student at Brown University and a visiting fellow at Haifa University.

Maik's research focuses on social stratification and the methodology of empirical social research. Combining advanced quantitative methods with large-scale data, he investigates inequalities in the labour market, such as the unequal distribution of women and men across occupations. Beyond research, he obtained extensive teaching experience, including undergraduate lectures in quantitative methods, independent seminars in sociology and methodology, and the supervision of Bachelor's and Master's theses.

As a Max Weber Fellow, Maik builds on his research on the gendered sorting of workers

across occupations by exploring dynamics surrounding men's likelihood and reluctance to work in female-typed occupations. Additionally, he will expand his agenda to study how (mandatory) social services influence individual careers, perceptions of civic responsibility, and broader social cohesion.



Heinkelmann-Wild, Tim Philipp (DEU)

Mail: tim.heinkelmannwild@eui.eu

Mentor: Prof. Stephanie Hofmann

Tim Heinkelmann-Wild is a post-doctoral researcher and lecturer at LMU Munich's Geschwister-Scholl-Institute of Political Science. He previously was a Visiting Scholar at the Department of Politics and International Studies (POLIS) at the University of Cambridge and a Junior Visiting Fellow at Nuffield College and the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Oxford. His doctoral thesis "After Exit: Alternative Leadership and Institutional Resilience after Hegemonic Withdrawal" was awarded "summa cum laude" honours at LMU Munich and he received the John McCain Dissertation Award of the Munich Security Conference 2025 and the Dissertation Award of the Munich University Society. It was supported by scholarships from the German National Academic Foundation and the Marianne-Plehn-Programme of the Elite Network of Bavaria.

Tim Heinkelmann-Wild is a political scientist who specialises in

International Relations (IR) and European politics. His research inter alia focuses on the contestation of multilateral institutions and the relationship between power and international order. Its results appeared in journals such as the Review of International Organizations, International Studies Quarterly, the Review of International Studies, the European Journal of Political Research, and the Journal of European Public Policy. His co-authored book "European Blame Games" was published in 2024 by Oxford University Press. At the EUI, he will investigate how major powers' (dis-)engagement in key multilateral institutions affects the international orders they underpin.



Isaksson, Zeth (SWE)

Mail: Zeth.ISAKSSON@eui.eu

Mentor: Prof. Filip Kostelka

Zeth Isaksson is a PhD candidate at Stockholm University, specialising in Historical Political Economy, Political Sociology, and Comparative Politics. His research investigates how historical institutions shape contemporary political behaviour, with particular focus on electoral support for far-right parties in Sweden and Germany. His work combines quantitative methods with archival and historical analysis. He has been a visiting researcher at the WZB in Berlin and the EUI. Zeth holds a double Master's degree in Political Science and Current Democracies from LMU Munich and UPF Barcelona, as well as a double Bachelor's degree in Political Science and History from Uppsala University. His research has been published or is forthcoming in *Party Politics*, *Electoral Studies*, *Acta Politica*, and other peer-reviewed journals.

As a Max Weber Fellow at the EUI, Zeth aims to finalise and publish the remaining studies from his PhD dissertation while

expanding his research agenda to examine how experiences of authoritarian rule leave lasting imprints on electoral behaviour across time and space. He is particularly interested in how exposure to autocratic regimes shapes political engagement in emerging democracies following democratisation. By integrating historical and archival evidence with causal inference techniques, his project seeks to uncover the long-term mechanisms through which authoritarian legacies influence political behaviour. Through this work, he contributes to ongoing debates on democratic resilience, voter formation, and the deep historical roots of contemporary political dynamics.



López Peceño, Alejandro (ESP)

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Mentor: Prof. Elias Dinas

Alejandro López Peceño is working on publishing his existing papers while also starting new projects on topics such as the origins of social democracy, the deep roots of religious cleavages, and the role of exiled populations in shaping the political behaviour of natives. He is a part-time assistant professor in the SPS Department. Before coming to the EUI, he received a PhD from New York University.

Alejandro applies tools from causal inference to study a range of issues in political economy, comparative politics, and economic history. He is particularly interested in understanding the emergence of modern politics, including phenomena such as contentious politics, the origins of political cleavages, or the rise of national identities. His dissertation examines how the expansion of education and voting rights shaped some of these processes in the canonical case of 19th-century France.



Macanovic, Ana (SRB)

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Mentors: Prof. Arnout Van de Rijt, Prof. Herman G. Van De Werfhorst, Prof. Juho Härkönen

Ana is a sociologist working at the intersection of economic sociology, sociology of science, and the study of trust and cooperation. At the EUI, she is exploring how social networks affect individual outcomes, thereby sustaining or moderating structural social inequalities. She is also studying how processes of cumulative advantage and gender dynamics lead to inequalities in science. Finally, Ana works on a project studying how social influence affects group decision making. To understand these processes, she relies on formal models, computer simulations, experimental research, and computational analyses of large empirical datasets.

Ana completed her PhD in Sociology from Utrecht University in 2024. In her PhD project, she explored mechanisms that support cooperative relations in contexts where legal assurances are largely absent. She also studied cultural innovation by analysing community-level social norms and shared language

emergence. Before joining the EUI, Ana was a postdoctoral researcher at Radboud University, where she studied gender representation of scientists in traditional and online media. She received a BA in Sociology from the University of Belgrade and an MSc in Economics from the University of Amsterdam. Ana has taught a BA-level advanced sociological theory course and supervised bachelor and master students' theses. She has also taught workshops on text mining for social scientists.



Olsson, Filip (SWE)

Mail: filip.olsson@eui.eu

Mentor: Prof. Valentina Di Stasio

Filip Olsson is a Max Weber Fellow at the Department of Political and Social Sciences. He holds a PhD in Sociology from Stockholm University, with a background in psychology and political science. He was most recently employed as a post-doctoral researcher at the Institute for Future Studies in Stockholm. As a PhD student, he also spent time at Waseda University and UCLA.

His work broadly focuses on the contextual nature of implicit attitudes, studying how individuals internalize, use and reproduce various attitudes and beliefs beyond conscious control. To this end, he has used laboratory, field, and natural experiments to study phenomena such as implicit nationalism, right-wing populism, and prejudice. Much of this research focuses on how large-scale events—from terror attacks to the World Cup—affect prejudiced and nationalist sentiments.

At EUI, Filip will study how long-

term trends and sudden crises shape the relationship between explicit and implicit attitudes, aiming to better understand the stability or malleability of such attitudes in shifting political and cultural landscapes.



Peragovics, Tamás (HUN)

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Mentor: Prof. Stefano Guzzini

Tamás Peragovics is research fellow at the Institute of World Economics (CERS, HUN-REN) and assistant professor at ELTE University Budapest, Hungary. He earned his PhD in Political Science from Central European University in 2022, has two MA degrees in International Relations, and a BA degree in French language and literature. His dissertation established a novel analytical framework to understand the process of diplomatic normalization, which he fruitfully applied to the case of US-China rapprochement in the 1960s and 1970s.

During his second year as a Max Weber Fellow, Tamás plans to continue his work on multiple article-length projects and on turning his dissertation into a book manuscript, which refines and presents his theoretical innovation. He is also editing an upcoming special issue on diplomacy, to be published in the journal *Diplomatica* in 2027.

Besides diplomacy and criti-

cal diplomatic history, Tamás is interested in the dynamically changing relations between China and the European Union, with particular focus on the Central and Eastern European (CEE) region. In 2023, he was a visiting fellow at the Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS) in Berlin, Germany, studying China's Belt and Road Initiative in Hungary.

Tamás has experience teaching a range of subjects at both undergraduate and graduate levels. These include International Relations theory, Critical Security Studies, and other courses related to diplomacy, conflict management, and foreign policy analysis



Ramirez-Ruiz, Sebastian (COL)

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Mentors: Prof. Simon Hix and Prof. Kevin Munger

Sebastian Ramirez-Ruiz is a Research Associate at the Hertie School Data Science Lab in Berlin. His research applies tools from computational social science to study how policymakers engage with academic research and how scientific evidence informs public decision making. His dissertation draws on several large-scale empirical projects, combining diverse data sources – from online behavioural traces to legislative records – with advanced computational and causal inference methods to examine the conditions under which policymakers interact with research and expertise. His broader interests include causal inference, measurement, opinion and preference formation, and the role of evidence in democratic governance.

As a Max Weber Fellow, he plans to further investigate policymaker–researcher interactions across digital and institutional settings. He also aims to contribute to the ‘Expert Knowledge and Authority in Transformative

Times’ cluster and the broader programme’s academic community through his expertise in computational and quantitative methods – including automated data collection, statistical modelling, and causal inference – and his commitment to collaboration, multidisciplinarity, and open science. He has extensive experience teaching data science, programming, and causal inference to both students and policymakers, and is passionate about bridging technical expertise with policy practice.



Rupesinghe, Natasja (NOR, LKA)

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Mentor: Prof. Jeffrey Checkel

Natasja Rupesinghe studies conflict and political violence. Her thesis examined how communities responded to a local jihadist rebellion in central Mali and investigated why some communities collaborated with jihadist rebels, while others violently resisted them. This research drew on in-depth interviews with war-affected civilians during fieldwork in Bamako between September 2021–April 2022.

At the EUI, Natasja will continue to research the role of civilian agency in war, shifting the focus to high-risk behaviour in communal conflicts. This research explores how communities use informal social institutions to promote non-violence over violence and how leaders pursue dialogue with armed groups to foster peace locally.

Natasja obtained her DPhil in International Relations in 2024 from Nuffield College, University of Oxford. She has a BA in European Social and Political Stud-

ies, specialising in International Relations, and French from University College London, and an MSc in Conflict Studies from the London School of Economics and Political Science. She has previously been a research fellow at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, in Oslo. In addition to academic positions, Natasja was seconded to the African Union in the Peace Operations Division between 2016-2017. She has worked in non-governmental organisations, such as Human Rights Watch in London and Relief International in Colombo. She is currently also a [fellow](#) at the Centre on Armed Groups based in Geneva.



Schürmann, Lennart (DEU)

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Mentor: Prof. Simon Hix

Lennart Schürmann's research examines how people engage in political and social change, with a special focus on legislative and protest politics. His work lies at the intersection of comparative politics and political sociology. During his Max Weber Fellowship, Lennart will investigate how social movement activists claim representative functions in contemporary democracies (supply side), and how citizens perceive these representative claims (demand side). By emphasising the performative dimension of representation, his project bridges the gap between innovative theoretical literature on representation and research focused on social movements. To that end, he applies a variety of methods, with a particular focus on computational text and video analysis tools, as well as survey experiments

Before coming to the EUI, Lennart was a postdoctoral fellow at the Minda de Gunzburg Centre for European Studies at Harvard University and at the WZB Ber-

lin Social Science Centre. He received his PhD from the University of Cologne and was a member of the Cologne Graduate School in Management, Economics and Social Sciences. During his PhD, he was also a visiting researcher at the University of Amsterdam, the WZB Berlin Social Science Centre, and Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona.

His work has appeared in the *British Journal of Political Science*, *European Journal of Political Research*, *Electoral Studies*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, and the *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties*, among others.



Soler-Buades, Llorenç (ESP)

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Mentor: Prof. Anton Hemerijck

Llorenç Soler-Buades is currently completing his PhD in Political Science at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), where he also earned a MA in Social Policy, Work and Welfare in 2020. During his doctoral studies, he has been a visiting fellow at the University of Milan and the University of Edinburgh.

His research interests lie at the intersection of comparative welfare state research and party politics. His research agenda is twofold: first, examining the politics of welfare state change, and second, investigating how social policy reforms can both mitigate and reproduce the distributive conflicts they seek to address.

In his dissertation, Llorenç has explored the political and institutional drivers behind policy divergence in minimum income reforms in Europe's south. Methodologically, he combines quantitative and qualitative methods, ranging from Principal Component Analysis to com-

parative historical analysis and process tracing. His doctoral research has been funded by an FI-SDUR (AGAUR) fellowship from the Generalitat de Catalunya.

As a Max Weber Fellow at the EUI, Llorenç aims to develop two projects on the politics and distributive effects of labour market reforms. The first will examine the political economy of active labour-market policies in a comparative EU context, while the second will investigate the distributive outcomes of recent changes to labour market regulations through a case study.



Valli, Roberto (CHE)

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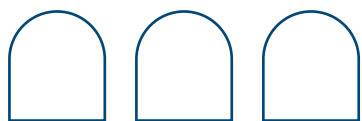
Mentors: Prof. Elias Dinas and Prof. Sascha Riaz

Roberto Valli is by training a political scientist specializing in the political economy of identity, conflict, and religion. He was postdoctoral research associate at Princeton University during the 2024-2025 academic year. He earned his PhD in 2024 in the International Conflict Research group at ETH Zurich. In the summer of 2025, he was a visiting researcher at the University of Konstanz, and in 2022 he visited the Institute for Eastern European and Eurasian Studies at UC Berkeley.

His first research agenda focuses on the political economy of nation building and identity formation. His dissertation examined how border changes shaped ethnolinguistic behaviour in Europe between 1816 and 1938. The second research agenda is concerned with the changing role of religion in politics, with a focus on the Catholic Church. His work combines spatially explicit observational data and computational methods to investigate political phenomena

in novel settings and with innovative research designs.

As part of his Max Weber Fellowship, he plans to continue work on both agendas, with various projects that investigate how changing states in nineteenth and twentieth century Europe contributed to the formation of ethnically homogenous populations, and how domestic politicians interacted with religious authorities.



FELLOWS' BIOSKETCHES



**ROBERT SCHUMAN CENTRE
FOR ADVANCED STUDIES**

- BAKAN Ronay
- BOUGREA Anissa
- COSSU Elena
- DE CONINCK Joyce
- ENDREJAT Vanessa
- KAWASAKI Rachael Kei
- KORTENDIEK Nele
- KOTEVSKA Biljana
- KUANG Yingqiu
- LOLI Miranda
- McGEE Thomas
- MILANO MERFIELD Annaliese
- MINETTO Francesca
- PIERRET Laura
- SCHWEERS Julia
- TERMINE Lorenzo



Bakan, Ronay (TUR)

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Mentor: Prof. Simone Tholens

Ronay Bakan completed her PhD in the Department of Political Science at Johns Hopkins University. Ronay specializes in political violence, urban politics, and critical methodologies. Her research employs ethnographic methods to investigate the socio-spatial dynamics of everyday warfare, particularly focusing on racialized and ethnicized populations in the Middle East. Ronay earned her BA and MA degrees in Political Science and International Relations from Bogazici University in Turkey. In 2018-2019, she was a Fox Fellow at the MacMillan Center at Yale University.

Her book project, titled 'Counterinsurgent Urbanism: Weaponizing Land and Heritage in the Kurdish Region of Turkey', examines why and how states use urban development and heritage making as tools in counterinsurgency strategies. Grounding her theory in the civil war between the Turkish state and Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), she argues that in addi-

tion to military tactics, counterinsurgent states employ legal practices and developmentalist strategies to destroy the environment of existing insurgencies while constructing the symbolic and material environment of future wars. She terms such processes 'counterinsurgent urbanism.'

As a Max Weber Fellow, Ronay plans to finalize her book manuscript. In addition, she aims to finalize an article-length methodological piece provisionally titled 'Fieldwork as Carework' while revising existing submissions.



Bougrea, Anissa (BEL/MAR)

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Mentor: Prof. Stephanie Hofmann

Anissa Bougrea is a Belgian-Moroccan scholar with a PhD from Ghent University. Her dissertation examined how financial instruments, private capital mobilisation, and guarantees increasingly drive EU external action, often under the guise of 'equal partnership,' developing a three-layered analytical framework to highlight and assess the extent and unevenness of financialization in EU development policy in/on Africa.

Her current research interests lie in the geopoliticization of aid, the interplay of development and security logics, and the re-configuration of coloniality within North-South relations through development finance. Her work has been published in the *Journal of Economic Policy Reform*, *Competition & Change*, and *European Foreign Affairs Review*, and in edited volumes with Routledge and Oxford University Press.

Anissa has taught extensively on political economy, EU-Africa re-

lations, and decolonisation, and is committed to bridging critical research with public engagement. She has provided policy analyses for the Belgian foreign affairs ministry and OACPS crisis committee, and has contributed to public discourse on the genocide in Gaza and the EU's complicity, through talks, interviews, and policy critique.

As a Max Weber Fellow, she examines how development and security logics (from China's rise to critical raw materials) intersect, are negotiated and operationalised through financialised aid, and reshape both development and the EU's global role. She is deeply invested in questions of epistemic justice, academic care, and co-creating research spaces that are both politically and intellectually grounded.



Cossu, Elena (ITA)

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Mentor: Prof. Lorenzo Cicchi

Elena Cossu is a political scientist who applies natural language processing, machine learning, and quasi-experimental methods to conceptualise and measure deviations from democratic norms. She recently completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Sciences Po Paris within the Centre for European Studies and Comparative Politics and the European Union's AuthLib project, where she employed large language models to identify illiberal discourse in textual data.

She received her PhD from Corvinus University of Budapest in 2024, co-supervised by University College London and funded by the Marie-Sklodowska-Curie Horizon 2020 FATIGUE project. The project examined the political divergence of Central and Eastern Europe. Her thesis, *'Essays on Conceptualising Policies Linked to Populist Rhetoric in Europe and Measuring Their Effects in Hungary'*, applied causal-inference techniques to analyse rhetoric and policy in the

Hungarian context.

As a Max Weber Fellow, she will apply NLP methods to a corpus of European election manifestos to identify the parties using the most illiberal language and to trace emerging populist trends. She also plans to develop methodological papers comparing automated and human coding approaches in NLP, map illiberalism through social media analysis, and forecast illiberal tendencies across Europe.



De Coninck, Joyce (BEL)

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Mentors: Prof. Joanne Scott and Prof. Gráinne De Búrca

Joyce is a transnational law scholar whose research critically examines the evolving relationship between non-state actors and human rights law. She explores how such actors are bound by human rights obligations yet also actively shape human rights law. With a focus on the EU, she investigates the legal frameworks through which human rights law is articulated, interpreted and contested in relation to EU entities. Her work covers border management, free trade, environmental and planetary governance, artificial intelligence, and platform regulation.

Drawing on theories of experimentalism and relationality, Joyce is developing a model of EU human rights governance that is more adaptive, responsive and participatory, and better suited to the complexities of contemporary transnational regulation.

She was an Emile Noël Fellow (2021–2022) and a Scholar in

Residence at the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at NYU School of Law (2022–2024), where she also served as an Adjunct Professor of EU Law. Having completed her PhD at Ghent University on the EU's human rights responsibility gap (Hart Publishing, 2024), she was awarded a three-year FWO Postdoctoral Fellowship to conduct research on 'relational human rights responsibility' in environmental law, trade, AI, and platform governance.

She has taught courses on international law, EU law, and migration/asylum law at NYU, Ghent University, the University of Amsterdam, the University of Leiden, the University of Minnesota, and the College of Europe.



Endrejat, Vanessa (DEU)

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Mentors: Prof. Erik Jones and Prof. Waltraud Schelkle

Vanessa's research examines how European fiscal and financial governance adapts to financial crises, pandemics, and rising geopolitical tensions. As a political economist and sociologist, her curiosity thrives at the intersection of technocratic influence, political interests, and market developments that shape European integration.

During the first year of her Max Weber Fellowship, Vanessa published research from her PhD thesis on European government debt statistics and off-balance sheet liabilities. She will continue this work in her second year, while also developing a new research project on the capacity of the European insurance sector to adapt to multiple crises.

Before coming to the EUI, Vanessa was a postdoctoral researcher at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies (MPIfG) in Cologne, where she worked on the political economy of European off-balance sheet policies, mapping and

comparing national and European-level differences.

Vanessa received her PhD from the University of Cologne and was a member of the International Max Planck Research School on the Social and Political Constitution of the Economy (IMPRS-SPCE). Prior to her PhD, she conducted research on European shadow banking regulation and insurance regulation. Her work has been published in *Competition & Change* and *the Journal of Economic Policy Reform*.

Fields of expertise: European integration, fiscal governance, financial regulation, insurance, public debt, off-balance sheet, shadow banking, financial markets.



Kawasaki, Rachael Kei (JPN)

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Mentor: Prof. Erik Jones

Rachael Kei Kawasaki researches migration, integration, and public attitudes towards immigrants. Her current work examines the relationship between community attitudes and migrants' multidimensional integration processes in the UK context.

Rachael earned her PhD from Kyoto University's Graduate School of Advanced Integrated Studies in Human Survivability, focusing on cross-national determinants of attitudes towards immigrants, expanding the study area to include non-European and developing countries. Her research experience spans both academic and policy contexts, including positions at the OECD International Migration Division, where she contributed to research on labour migration in Asia, and UNESCO Bangkok, where she analysed learning outcomes for migrant children in non-formal education settings.

As a visiting scholar at the University of Cambridge Department of Land Economy and a

matriculated member of Pembroke College, she investigated income and life satisfaction inequalities between immigrant and UK-born populations, as well as disparities among different immigrant groups. Her work bridges quantitative analysis with policy-relevant research on migration and integration outcomes.



Kortendiek, Nele (DEU)

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Mentor: Prof. Stephanie Hofmann

Nele is a political scientist who specializes in International Relations (IR). Generally, her research focuses on contestation and change in global governance. Her key interests include policymaking in international organisations, the influence of non-state actors on global politics, the implementation of international rules on the ground, European and international migration and asylum politics, and normative questions of borders and democracy beyond the state. At the EUI, she will investigate new forms of policymaking in times of global transformation as well as crisis governance by international organizations.

Nele Kortendiek is a postdoctoral researcher at the Chair of International Institutions and Peace Processes at Goethe University Frankfurt. She is a principal investigator in the research group Transborder Mobility and Institutional Dynamics (transMID), where she directs the sub-project 'International Organisations: Norm-Setting and

Norm Implementation for the Protection of Refugees'.

For her PhD on the role of international organisations in migration and asylum governance, Nele conducted field research at the European external border in Greece as well as in Brussels, Geneva, Valletta, and Warsaw. Her dissertation was awarded the best dissertation prize by the German Political Science Association (DVPW) as well as an honourable mention by the European International Studies Association (EISA). Her book *Global Governance on the Ground – Organizing Migration and Asylum at the Border* was published by Oxford University Press in 2024 and received the Chadwick-Alger-Award.



Kotevska, Biljana (MKD)

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Mentor: Prof. Jelena Dzankic

Biljana Kotevska is a socio-legal feminist scholar specialising in equality and non-discrimination law, international human rights law, legal history, and research methodology. As a Max Weber Fellow she is preparing a monograph on intersectional discrimination and equality law in the post-Yugoslav context. Her research also examines political and class discrimination as pressing contemporary issues.

Biljana holds a PhD in Law from Queen's University Belfast, an LLM (Distinction) in International Human Rights Law from the University of Essex, an MA in Democracy and Human Rights in South-East Europe from the Universities of Sarajevo and Bologna, and an LLB from Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje.

Her academic work is grounded in extensive field and archival research across Europe. She has led multiple research projects as Principal Investigator, including the ongoing **FOLIO** project,

supported by an EUI Early Stage Researcher grant. Her teaching spans EU law, human rights, gender equality, and includes professional training for MPs, public officials, and equality bodies.

Biljana also engages in public policy and legal reform. She has consulted for the European Commission, EIGE, FRA, OSCE, and the Council of Europe, contributing to reforms in North Macedonia. She currently serves as expert coordinator for enlargement countries in the European Commission's Network of Legal Experts on Gender Equality and Non-discrimination Law.



Kuang, Yingqiu (CHN)

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Mentor: Prof. Bernard Hoekman

Yingqiu Kuang's research interests lie at the intersection of technology, law, and global governance in East Asia and beyond. Her book project, 'A Mosaic of Mundane Innovations: Emerging Powers, Multinational Firms, and Global 5G Technology Rules,' examines the emergence of latecomer economies such as China and South Korea as key agents in the global technology governance regime. Using mixed research methods and an original, novel dataset, the project aims to explain why East Asian firms appear more effective in 5G rule-making on transnational platforms than traditional technology giants, and how the diverse behaviour of these firms is reshaping global institutions.

At the EUI, Yingqiu will continue expanding and revising her book manuscript. She will also pursue her scholarly agenda on how technological unpredictability is changing the landscape of economic governance in Asia, Europe, and the wider world.

Yingqiu completed her PhD in Political Science at the University of British Columbia. She also holds master's degrees in political science from UBC and Leiden. She developed her interest in East Asian politics and economy while an undergraduate student at Peking University and Waseda University in China and Japan. As a policy specialist, she has also worked with the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, the National Energy Board of Canada, and others.



Loli, Miranda (ALB)

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Mentors: Prof. Jelena Dzankic and Prof. Simone Tholens

Miranda Loli is a political scientist, specializing in international relations. Her research explores the role of international organizations; she has a keen interest in how local non-governmental actors make space for themselves in the international arena. At the EUI, Miranda is revising her PhD dissertation into a book, and preparing publications for her new project examining how recovery during a war is contested and negotiated in practice.

Miranda completed her PhD in 2023 at the University of Darmstadt with a dissertation titled 'The Translocality of Anti-Corruption Practices: Encounters between the Local and the International in Kosovo and Ukraine', exploring the intersection between the global fight against corruption and security. Bridging political geography and IR, she introduces a framework to study interactions between different localities and how they affect global governance. For her project on international cooperation and resilient

recovery initiatives in Ukraine, she was selected for the Charlemagne Prize Academy. Her research has been supported by grants from the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST), the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Studies Association (ISA).

Prior to her PhD, Miranda studied political science, peace and conflict studies, and sociology at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich and the University of Frankfurt. She has designed and taught several courses on the politics of expertise in global governance, international organizations, and the European Union



McGee, Thomas (GBR)

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Mentor: Prof. Maarten Vink

Thomas McGee is an interdisciplinary researcher working at the intersection of legal and social studies of the Middle East, with a focus on Syria, Kurdish dynamics and the wider Levant region. Thomas obtained his PhD at Melbourne Law School on 'Syria's Changing Statelessness Landscape: 2011 as Critical Juncture'. In 2024, he was a Visiting Fellow at the University of Oxford's Refugee Studies Centre. He holds an MA in Kurdish Studies from the University of Exeter and a BA in Modern and Medieval Languages from the University of Cambridge. His academic work has been published in the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, *International Migration Review*, *Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication*, *Citizenship Studies*, *Genocide Studies International*, the *Statelessness & Citizenship Review* and the *Kurdish Studies Journal*. Thomas speaks Arabic and Kurdish and has worked for a decade as an analyst and advisor for humanitarian and development programmes in Syria.

During his Max Weber Fellowship, Thomas intends to work on preparing his PhD for publication as a book, while continuing to theorise the legal landscape and exploring legal reform dynamics in Syria, as well as working on a project to develop a case law database relating to statelessness and nationality issues in the Middle East and North Africa.



Milano Merfield, Annaliese (USA)

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Mentors: Prof. Giacomo Calzolari, Prof. Erik Jones, Prof. Pier Luigi Parcu

Annaliese Milano Merfield is an anthropologist whose research concerns two of the largest cryptocurrency communities – Bitcoin and Ethereum – and the blockchain technologies they have developed. She holds a PhD in anthropology from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

Her doctoral thesis, titled 'The Social Layer: An Ethnography of Two Cryptocurrency Communities in the United States,' is based on two years of ethnographic research conducted in New York City and online. The thesis argues that the Bitcoin and Ethereum communities are making important contributions to debates on economic and democratic governance in the United States. Likewise, it explores how these communities have undermined the state's role in mediating the value of money and the flow of capital, and created new strategies of accumulation in the pursuit of 'generational wealth'.

As a Max Weber Fellow, Annaliese is working to convert her thesis into a monograph. She continues to develop her doctoral research, preparing articles for publication, while also developing her next research project. Prior to completing her PhD, Annaliese received an MRes and MSc in anthropology from LSE. Her research interests include digital ethnography, decentralised communities, capitalism, digital finance, financial inclusion, governance, value, money, and memes.



Minetto, Francesca (ITA)

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Mentor: Prof. Marco Buti

Francesca Minetto is a doctoral candidate at the Jacques Delors Centre, Hertie School in Berlin. Her research combines mixed methods, including modern computational and statistical techniques alongside in-depth qualitative analysis, to examine the dynamics of European and global governance. Her dissertation challenges the prevailing view of the EU as a unilateral policy exporter by investigating the role of non-EU actors in shaping European policy-making. She draws on several large-scale empirical projects, integrating diverse data sources ranging from computational analysis of policy documents to manual coding of legislative files. Her broader research interests include global and European governance, policy diffusion and learning, and the functioning of international institutions.

As a Max Weber Fellow, she plans to expand her research agenda by exploring the evolution of the EU's approach to multilateral governance, particularly

in response to the erosion of the rules-based international order. She aims to contribute to the interdisciplinary 'Decentring Eurocentrism' cluster by bringing a multilateral governance perspective to the study of Europe in the world. She also seeks to engage actively with the programme's academic community through her methodological expertise in mixed methods research, and her commitment to interdisciplinary dialogue and collaborative scholarship. Francesca has teaching experience in areas related to the EU's external action and the European Union as a global actor.



Pierret, Laura (FRA/ESP)

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Mentor: Prof. Erik Jones

Laura Pierret's research is at the crossroads of political economy and EU studies. She works on the political power of economic ideas and the role of expertise in policymaking. Laura is particularly interested in the search of political actors for credibility and trustworthiness, and how these processes of legitimization affect macroeconomic policies. Her dissertation was on the concept of moral hazard and its domination of the EU's response to the Great Recession. Her research has been published in leading academic journals, such as the *Journal of European Public Policy* and the *Journal of Common Market Studies*.

As a Max Weber Fellow, Laura is developing her work on the social construction of moral hazard to include a longer historical period and a transatlantic comparative perspective. She will also start a new project on the variation over time of economic expertise as a source of political legitimacy.

Prior to joining the EUI, Laura was a doctoral researcher at the University of Luxembourg (2020-2024), an academic assistant at the College of Europe (Bruges, 2019-2020), an economist at the Embassy of the Argentine Republic (Brussels, 2018), and a junior analystist at France Stratégie (Paris, 2016-2017). Laura holds a PhD in political science (University of Luxembourg), an MA in European political and governance studies (College of Europe), an MSc in economics (Paris-Dauphine University), and a double BSc in economics (Paris-Dauphine University and Autonomous University of Madrid).



Schweers, Julia (DEU)

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Mentor: Prof. Maarten Vink

Julia Schweers is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Oxford's Refugee Studies Centre, where she is interested in autocratic regimes and their refugee politics. She holds a DPhil in Migration Studies from the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society, Oxford, and has been a guest researcher at the Social Science Research Centre of Berlin (WZB), the Free University of Berlin, and the University of California, Berkeley.

At the EUI, Julia will work on two projects related to citizenship: one investigates the socio-economic benefits of dual citizenship acquisition for return migrants, the other investigates UNHCR's policies on naturalisation in protracted refugee situations.



Termine, Lorenzo (ITA)

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Mentor: Prof. Giulio Pugliese

Before coming to the EUI, Lorenzo Termine was a postdoctoral researcher at Sapienza University of Rome and an adjunct professor at both the University of International Studies of Rome (UNINT) and the American University of Rome. He is currently a non-resident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council's Europe Center and research coordinator at the Center for Geopolitical and IR Studies *Geopolitica.info*.

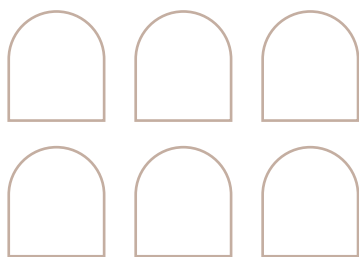
He holds a PhD in Political Studies from Sapienza University of Rome and has served as a contributor to the Italian Ministry of Defence's Institute for Research and Analysis (IRAD). He has also held visiting positions at Georgetown University, the Université Internationale de Rabat, and the University of Pittsburgh.

Lorenzo has extensive teaching experience across academic and professional platforms, including institutions such as Sapienza, UNINT, AUR, IULM, the Universities of Teramo, Tor Vergata, and Perugia, as well as

the Italian Center for Higher Defence Studies and the think tank *Geopolitica.info*.

In addition to his doctoral training, he has completed advanced courses and programmes at IPSA, ECPR, East China Normal University, TOChina, Torino World Affairs Institute, the Stimson Center, the International Public Policy Association, and the EU Non-Proliferation Consortium.

His research interests include international politics and security, with a focus on Italy's foreign and security policy engagement with the Indo-Pacific, US-China competition, and nuclear weapons.



FELLOWS' BIOSKETCHES

SCHOOL OF
TRANSNATIONAL
GOVERNANCE

- BAYLEY Imogene Alexandra
- HEIMPEL Daniela
- SAHOO Rajkumar
- VACCARO Andrea
- WASSUM Moritz
- ZHANG Qiaochu



Bayley, Imogene Alexandra (NZL/IRL)

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Mentors: Prof. Kristin Fabbe and Prof. Diane Stone

Imogen Bayley earned her PhD (Comparative History), *magna cum laude*, at the Central European University. Since completing her doctorate, Imogen has worked as a freelance editor and copywriter with international organizations and renowned think tanks. She is a co-founder of the Centre for Policy Writing (CEPOW), a training consultancy for policy communication.

Imogen is a practice-oriented academic in the field of migration studies. During her first year as a Max Weber Fellow, she successfully published her first book, *Postwar Migration Policy and the Displaced of the British Zone in Germany, 1945-1951* (2024). The book is based on her doctoral research and presents the multi-layered historical processes that have impacted practices of migration in the postwar period and its political containment. She has further co-authored a second book, *Policy Communications: How to Write an Effective Policy Brief* (2025), designed to help policymakers,

researchers, advocacy professionals, communications specialists, and anyone who needs to turn complex ideas into clear, compelling, and actionable policy communications.

During the second year of her Max Weber Fellowship, Imogen aims to make a theoretical and empirical contribution to both the policy entrepreneurship and Narrative Policy Framework (NPF) literatures. She plans to investigate how policy entrepreneurs use historical narratives as a part of their policy entrepreneurship strategies in the field of migration policy.



Heimpel, Daniela (DEU)

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Mentor : Prof. Kalypso Nicolaidis and Prof. Claudio Radaelli

Daniela Heimpel is a political scientist, specialising in European studies. Her research focuses on citizenship education, European citizenship, democratic innovations, transnational democracy, pluralism, and European integration. Her upcoming monograph investigates the idea of European citizenship education and critically analyses related EU education policies and discourses. She co-directed a collaborative research project on 'Challenges of Pluralism' in contemporary liberal societies in Europe and North America.

At the EUI, Daniela works on citizen participation in Europe. In particular, she is interested in experiments in deliberative and participatory democracy at the EU level. She investigates whether, how, and when participation in such transnational experiments can enhance the capacity of the involved citizens to take part in Europe's transnational democracy and foster European citizenship education in practice. The project includes

two case studies: the Conference on the Future of Europe (2021-2022) and the European Citizens' Panels organised by the European Commission since 2022. Daniela is part of the Democratic Odyssey team.

Before joining the EUI, Daniela was a postdoctoral researcher and co-director of the research group 'The State, Norms, and Political Conflicts' at the Centre Marc Bloch. Previously, she worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the Montreal Centre for International Studies (CÉRIUM) and as a research associate at the Institute for Sustainability Studies in Potsdam (RIFS). She holds a PhD in Political Science from the Université de Montréal and the Université de Nantes (2021).



Sahoo, Rajkumar (IND)

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Mentor: Prof. Josephine Van Zeben

Rajkumar is trained in interdisciplinary social sciences. He was a Blue Charter Fellow working on marine plastic pollution facilitated by The Association of Commonwealth Universities and spent three months at Cardiff University. There, he designed a survey to measure behaviours, attitudes, and perceptions around plastic pollution in Indian cities, culminating in his doctoral work. He was awarded a PhD in Law and Governance by the Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, India (2024).

Rajkumar's doctoral work explored the various forms of regulatory institutions enabling individuals, households and communities in urban neighbourhoods to adapt behaviour changes around household recycling practices. The work involved ethnographic fieldwork in western India (Aurangabad, Maharashtra) and Delhi in 2021.

As a Max Weber Fellow, he in-

tends to explore the relationship between regulation of sustainable consumption behaviours or consumer-extended environmental cooperative behaviour (recycling) and its broader contribution to a 'circular economy society' in the global south. He wishes to understand the mechanisms that facilitate the moral and social values of the sovereign consumer to be aligned with the normative transitions required for a 'circular economy society'. The interdisciplinary work borrows analytical frameworks from law and economics and draws inspiration from Elinor Ostrom's approach to understanding institutional diversity among real world social dilemmas. Rajkumar attempts to live a frugal lifestyle and connect with surrounding nature and animals.



Vaccaro, Andrea (ITA/FIN)

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Mentor: Prof. Kristin Fabbe

At the time of writing, Andrea is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford, and an associate member of St Antony's College. Previously, he was a visiting researcher at the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER), a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Insubria, and adjunct professor of Theories and Policies of Economic Development at the Sapienza University of Rome.

Andrea's research interests lie at the intersection of comparative politics and global development. He studies the state and political regimes, their measurement, their interaction, and their relationship with human wellbeing, especially in challenging situations like fragile Global South contexts, increasing instability in the Global North, and major crises like COVID-19. His work is ultimately driven by the desire to understand better how strong, democratically governed

states that are well-equipped to respond to contemporary challenges can flourish.

As a Max Weber Fellow at the EUI, Andrea will investigate the underlying mechanisms and pathways to effective democratic governance, focusing on the specific, disaggregated characteristics of democracy and state capacity, and their interplay.

Andrea completed his PhD at the Sapienza University of Rome in October 2021, with a dissertation titled 'On the Measurement of State Capacity: Quantitative Questions and Conceptual Considerations'.



Wassum, Moritz (ITA/FIN)

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Mentor: Prof. Michael Bauer and Prof. Claudio Radaelli

Moritz Wassum completed his PhD at the University of Strathclyde's School of Government and Public Policy in Glasgow. In his PhD thesis he explores and tests the role of international, institutional, and political economy factors in explaining temporal and cross-country variation in formal competition laws and enforcement activities. Before his PhD, he studied Public Administration and International Political Economy at the University of Konstanz and the University of Warwick (MA) and obtained a BA in Political Science from Goethe University Frankfurt. His primary research interests are in the areas of public policy, regulatory governance, and regulation.

As a Max Weber Fellow, Moritz will work towards publishing his PhD thesis and develop a new research project on the relationship between regulation (including competition policy) and socio-economic inequalities with a focus on public infrastructure sectors. Specifically, he will ex-

plore the effects of regulatory agencies and regulations on sectoral development and the reduction of socio-economic inequalities. The main research questions ask whether existing regulatory institutions improve the functioning of markets and reduce socio-economic inequalities and how the regulatory state may be designed to better contribute to equal economic development. Moritz also has experience as a teaching assistant covering undergraduate classes in International Relations and Comparative Politics.



Zhang, Qiaochu (CHN)

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Mentor : Prof. Trine Flockhart

Qiaochu Zhang is a postdoctoral researcher on the European Research Council-funded project 'Weaponised Artificial Intelligence, Norms, and Order (AutoNorms)' at the University of Southern Denmark. Her research focuses on China's approach to two key areas of global governance: artificial intelligence (AI) and human protection. She is particularly interested in how China influences the transformation of international norms and global order. Her work has been published or is forthcoming in *International Affairs*, *International Peacekeeping*, and *The Oxford Handbook of Norms Research in International Relations*, among others.

Qiaochu completed her PhD in Politics at the University of Manchester in 2024. She also holds an MA in International Relations from King's College London and a BA in International Politics from Fudan University in China. She also manages the social media presence of the *Journal of Global Security Studies*, a jour-

nal of the International Studies Association (ISA), and previously served as a convenor of the Early Career Researcher Workshop at the Manchester China Institute.

As a Max Weber Fellow, Qiaochu is continuing her research on China's role in global AI governance. In particular, she is examining how China's approach to AI governance is constituted through the practices and interactions of various domestic actors, how it is perceived at both regional and international levels, and what these dynamics imply for the evolution of international orders.



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