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Annual Report 2023 of the EUNMUTE Research Seminars

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The EUNMUTE Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (CoE) organizes a monthly **Research Seminar Series** to feed the academic conversations which underpin the EUNMUTE project. Seminars are alternatively dedicated to the five disruptive challenges already identified: (i) safeguarding the rule of law, (ii) ensuring inclusiveness, (iii) preserving climate and natural resources, (iv) fostering a digital future for Europe and (v) strengthening democracy.

The research seminar series aims to foster an interdisciplinary conversation through the presentation of research papers on the various EUNMUTE themes. Speakers and discussants are chosen to ensure that at least two disciplines are represented at each seminar session. The Research Seminar Series is conceived as an open space where senior and junior researchers can try out ideas and present work in progress. It also provides an opportunity to present and disseminate recently published research by invited researchers, as well as members of the EUNMUTE research team.

The EUNMUTE Research Seminar Series is open to all the members of the university - academics, researchers and students - and to anyone interested in the issues addressed by the Centre of Excellence.

To ensure that the research is widely disseminated, the seminar sessions are organized in a hybrid format. Most of the sessions are also made available to the general public via the Centre of Excellence's [YouTube Channel](#).

The EUNMUTE Research Seminar Series is coordinated by Prof. Denis Duez.

<https://eunmute.eu/seminar-series/>



List of Seminars 2022-2023

- October 14, 2022
12:00-13:30
- An Un-muting Europe: Concepts et perspectives de recherches**
- Guest speakers: Prof. Antoine Bailleux, Prof. Denis Duez, Prof. Sophie Jacquot & Prof. Cecilia Rizcallah (UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles)
- Discussants: Prof. Amandine Crespy (Université Libre de Bruxelles) & Prof. Hugues Dumont (UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles)
- November 21, 2022
12:00-13:30
- The Rise of Governance by Data Infrastructure**
- Guest speaker: Prof. Stefania Milan (Professor of Critical Data Studies, University of Amsterdam)
- Discussant: Prof. Rocco Bellanova (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)
- December 5, 2022
12:00-13:30
- Judicial Activism in Climate Change Cases**
- Guest speaker: Prof. Sacha Garben (College of Europe)
- Discussants: Maxime Gaborit (UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles) & Prof. Antoine Bailleux (UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles)
- February 8, 2023
12:00-13:30
- Human Rights Framing of Abortion Debates in the EU-Figuration**
- Guest speaker: Prof. Marta Bucholc (University of Warsaw, ERC Consolidator)
- Discussants: Prof. Jogchum Vrieling (UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles) & Prof. Sophie Jacquot (UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles)
- March 21, 2023
12:00-13:30
- La Commission européenne et les Eurobaromètres : un recours politisé ou dépolitisé à l'opinion des citoyens ?**
- Guest speakers: Prof. Céline Belot (CNRS, Sciences Po Grenoble) & Prof. Sophie Jacquot (UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles)
- Discussant: Prof. Denis Duez (UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles)
- May 10, 2023
12:00-13:30
- Intersectional Discrimination and Romani Women's Rights in Europe: Pushing the Equ(al)ity Boundaries**
- Guest speaker: Dr Serena D'Agostino (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)
- Discussant: Dr Pauline Cullen (Maynooth University)
- May 16, 2023 12:00-13:30
- Unmute the Environment: Fighting Environmental Crime at the EU Level**
- Guest speaker : Dr Agathe Piquet (UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles)
- Discussants: Prof. Chloé Brière (Université Libre de Bruxelles) & Prof. Amandine Orsini (UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles)

Research Seminar #1

An Un-muting Europe: concepts et perspectives de recherches

Speakers

Guest speakers: Prof. **Antoine Bailleux**, Prof. **Denis Duez**, Prof. **Sophie Jacquot** & Prof. **Cecilia Rizcallah** (UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles)

Discussants: Prof. **Amandine Crespy** (Université Libre de Bruxelles) & Prof. **Hugues Dumont** (UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles)

Bios

Amandine CRESPIY is Associate Professor at Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) and researcher at ULB Centre d'études de la vie politique (CEVIPOL) and Institut d'Études Européennes (IEE). She is also Visiting Professor at the College of Europe (Bruges). Her research deals with socio-economic governance and policies in the European Union (welfare services marketization, social policy, fiscal governance) with a focus on the role of ideas, discourse and conflict. Besides publications in numerous international journals, she is the co-editor of *Social Policy and the Eurocrisis* (2015, Palgrave), *Governance and Politics in the Post-Crisis European Union* (2020, Cambridge University Press) and the author of *Welfare Markets in Europe. The democratic challenge of European Integration* (Palgrave, 2016), *L'Europe sociale. Acteurs, politiques, débats* (2019, Presses de l'Université de Bruxelles), and *The European Social Question. Tackling Key Controversies* (Agenda, 2022).



Antoine BAILLEUX has been a professor of EU law and legal theory at USL-B since 2008 and the director of the IES since 2018. He has become the president of the IES in September 2022. His main field of expertise is EU Constitutional Law (fundamental rights, competences, decision-making and enforcement, internal market and pesticides law). As member of the Brussels bar, he works in close cooperation with environmental associations that he represents before the European Court of Justice. He currently co-leads a research project on Europe's Judicial Narratives in cooperation with the University of Lille.



Denis DUEZ is a full professor of political science. He was director (2010-2016) and president (2016-2022) of the Institute for European Studies at UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles. He has been teaching for more than 20 years International Relations, European integration, Europeanization processes, political regimes and research methodology. He currently teaches more than 120 hours per year in the field of European integration studies. His research focuses on European internal security policies and the management of the EU's external borders. Denis Duez has headed the "Idées d'Europe" collection at Bruylant since 2016. He is the EUNMUTE team leader in charge of the overall coordination and supervision of the EUNMUTE project.



Hugues DUMONT is professor emeritus at the UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles (USL-B). He teaches constitutional law, legal theory and European institutional law. A former Dean of the Faculty of Law and President of the Institute for European Studies, he has held the positions of Vice-Rector for Research, President of the Interdisciplinary Research Centre for Constitutional Law (CIRC) and Co-Director of the Interdisciplinary Seminar for Legal Studies (SIEJ) at his university. The author of numerous works in the fields of public law and legal theory, he held the Francqui Chair in Belgian law at the University of Namur in 1996-1997. He is currently a member of the Scientific Council of the Mission de recherche Droit et Justice of the French Ministry of Justice, a member of the International Scientific Committee of the "Diversitas" collection at P.I.E. Peter Lang, a member of the editorial boards of the journals *Administration publique*, *Droit et Société*, *Revue internationale de théorie du droit et de sociologie juridique* and *Revue belge de droit*.



Sophie JACQUOT is Professor of political science at USL-B. She has been teaching at bachelor, master, and PhD levels for more than 15 years on EU policies and politics, EU institutional dynamics, comparative social policies, policy analysis or gender studies (USL-B, Sciences Po, University Paris Nord, Sciences Po Lille, etc.). From a background in sociology of policy analysis, she specializes in EU and gender studies. Her research interests focus on the transformation of EU gender and anti-discrimination policies, on the Europeanisation of social and gender policies, on the evolution of European social dialogue and on the influence of Eurobarometer surveys in the design of EU policymaking. Sophie Jacquot holds the [EUGENDERING](#) Jean Monnet Chair on the challenges linked to the establishment of a Union of gender equality, non-discrimination and diversity. She is also co-leader of an interdisciplinary project on Europe's judiciary narratives (USL-B and University of Lille). Sophie Jacquot is the director of the IES.



Cecilia RIZCALLAH is professor of EU law at the UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles and researcher at the KU Leuven. Her areas of interest include EU constitutional law and human rights.



Abstract

#EuropeanYearOfYouth. #TimeToUnmute. It is with these hashtags that the European Commission has launched the digital platform supporting the 2022 Year of Youth. The rationale for this initiative is to give a voice to the youth as a specific part of the population, considering that this voice is insufficiently heard at the national level. This idea that the European Union (EU) could 'unmute' some actors is the starting point of this research project. It triggers two main questions: To what extent does the EU constitute an alternative political arena for different categories of 'voiceless', namely those categories of people and other living beings who are traditionally silenced, outnumbered, outpowered or otherwise marginalized in the political decision-making process? And to what extent does this supposed (and self-proclaimed) empowering and voicing capacity participate in the creation and existence of an 'unmuting narrative' which contributes to the legitimacy of the EU?

Date

October 14, 2022

Research Seminar #2

The Rise of Governance by Data Infrastructure

Speakers

Guest speaker: Prof. **Stefania MILAN** (Professor of Critical Data Studies, University of Amsterdam)

Discussants: Prof. **Rocco BELLANOVA** (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

Bios

Stefania MILAN is Professor of Critical Data Studies at the Department of Media Studies, University of Amsterdam. She is also Faculty Associate (2020-2022) at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society, Harvard University. Her work explores the interplay between digital technology and data, political participation and governance, with a focus on infrastructure and agency. Stefania Milan leads the project “Citizenship and standard setting in digital networks” (in-sight.it), funded by the Dutch Research Council. She is also Co-Principal Investigator in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network “Early language development in the digital age” (e-ladda.eu). Among others, she is the author of *Social Movements and Their Technologies: Wiring Social Change* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013/2016), co-author of *Media/Society* (Sage, 2011), and co-editor of *COVID-19 from the Margins. Pandemic Invisibilities, Policies and Resistance in the Datafied Society* (Institute of Network Cultures, 2021).



Rocco BELLANOVA is a Research Professor at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (interdisciplinary research group Law, Science, Technology & Society-LSTS). He is the PI of the ERC Starting Grant project DATAUNION - *The European Data Union: European Security Integration through Database Interoperability*. He is a Co-editor of *Big Data & Society* and a member of the Editorial Board of *Tecnoscienza-Italian Journal of Science & Technology Studies*. His work sits at the intersection of politics, law, and science and technology studies. He studies how digital data become pivotal elements in the governing of societies. His research focuses on European security practices and the role of data protection therein.



Abstract

Digital tools like contact tracing apps and vaccination certificates have become a staple of the pandemic “new normal”. They generate data that result in real-time monitoring or decision-making, thus exercising regulatory power (“regulatory data infrastructure”). They increasingly take up functions that once pertained almost exclusively to governmental agencies and public administrations. They are at the core of a “new” mode of governance boosted by the pandemic, which I term “governance by data infrastructure”. Governance by data infrastructure elevates regulatory data infrastructure to the preferred mode of governance of complexity and is characterized by the growing penetration of the private sector into state institutions, including the welfare system. With the COVID-19 crisis overriding public concerns over privacy risks, data infrastructures are creeping further into public and private space—at high societal costs.

This talk interrogated the advance of regulatory data infrastructure in the welfare state. It explored two cases: vaccination certificates, focusing on the European Union Digital COVID-19 Certificate (European Commission, 2021), and digital identity schemes, looking at the plans for “EU Digital Wallets” (European Commission, 2022). Both are interesting cases to observe the datafication of the welfare system, as, among others, they create a digital scaffolding for identity verification that may be used to “nudge” people’s behavior (Milan et al., 2021).

References

European Commission (2021), “Coronavirus: Commission proposes a Digital Green Certificate”. Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1181.

European Commission (2022), “European Digital Identity: Online consultation platform on European Digital Identity Wallets”. Available at: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/european-digital-identity-online-consultation-platform-european-digital-identity-wallets>.

Milan S., Taylor L., Gürses S., et al. (2021), “Promises made to be broken: digital vaccine certification as hyperrealistic immunity theatre”, *European Journal of Risk Regulation*, 12, pp. 382-392.

Date

November 21, 2022

Research Seminar #3

Judicial Activism in Climate Change Cases

Speakers

Guest speaker: Prof. **Sacha GARBEN** (College of Europe)

Discussants: **Maxime GABORIT** (UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles) & Prof. **Antoine BAILLEUX** (UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles)

Bios

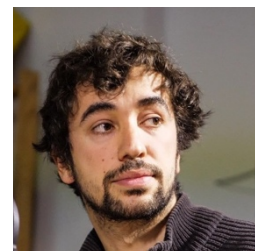
Sacha GARBEN is Professor of EU law at the Legal Studies Department of the College of Europe. She is furthermore an official in the European Commission, currently on leave to be at the College of Europe full-time. From 2020, she also sits as a replacement Judge at the Amsterdam Court of Appeal. She has published widely on a range of constitutional and substantive aspects of EU law. Her recent work explores the legitimacy of the EU as a transnational Constitutional Democracy.



Antoine BAILLEUX has been a professor of EU law and legal theory at UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles since 2008 and the director of the IES since 2018. He has become the president of the IES in September 2022. His main field of expertise is EU Constitutional Law (fundamental rights, competences, decision-making and enforcement, internal market and pesticides law). As member of the Brussels bar, he works in close cooperation with environmental associations that he represents before the European Court of Justice. He currently co-leads a research project on Europe's Judicial Narratives in cooperation with the University of Lille.



Maxime GABORIT is a PhD student in political science at CRéSPo (UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles) and CEE (Sciences Po Paris). His research focuses on ecological democracy, climate movements and catastrophist perspectives.



Abstract

The seminar explored the role of the judiciary in general, and of the CJEU in particular, in the context of climate change litigation. The Dutch Supreme Court in the Urgenda ruling held that fundamental human rights (Articles 2, 8 and 13 ECHR; rights to life, family life and access to justice) obliged the Dutch State to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases from Dutch soil by at least 25% compared to 1990 in 2020. On the other hand, the CJEU rejected the People's Climate Case in Carvalho and others. Several crucial cases are currently pending before the ECHR. This begs the question about the appropriate level of judicial review in a (transnational) constitutional democracy in relation to the environment. Sacha Garben argued that democratic constitutionalism warrants an active role for both national and transnational courts to correct the democratic failures inherent in (nation-based) majoritarianism.

Date

December 5, 2022

Research Seminar #4

Human Rights Framing of Abortion Debates in the EU-Figuration

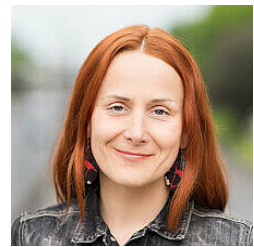
Speakers

Guest speaker: Prof. **Marta BUCHOLC** (University of Warsaw, ERC Consolidator)

Discussants: Prof. **Jogchum VRIELINK** (UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles) & Prof. **Sophie JACQUOT** (UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles)

Bios

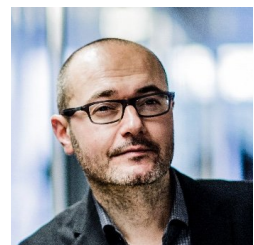
Professor **Marta BUCHOLC** graduated from the University of Warsaw majoring in sociology, philosophy and law. She holds the position of associate professor at the Department of the History of Social Thought, the Faculty of Sociology, the University of Warsaw. She is also an associate researcher at the Centre de Recherche en Science Politique at UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles. Between 2015-2020 she was employed at the University of Bonn as a research professor at the Käte Hamburger Center for Advanced Study in the Humanities “Law as Culture”. She specialises in the sociology of law, historical sociology and sociological theory. She is an expert in Norbert Elias’s figurational sociology, and her current work aims at expanding the figurational paradigm on the area of socio-legal studies and in particular the research of legal cultures.



Sophie JACQUOT is Professor of political science at UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles. She has been teaching at bachelor, master, and PhD levels for more than 15 years on EU policies and politics, EU institutional dynamics, comparative social policies, policy analysis or gender studies (USL-B, Sciences Po, University Paris Nord, Sciences Po Lille, etc.). From a background in sociology of policy analysis, she specializes in EU and gender studies. Her research interests focus on the transformation of EU gender and anti-discrimination policies, on the Europeanisation of social and gender policies, on the evolution of European social dialogue and on the influence of Eurobarometer surveys in the design of EU policymaking. Sophie Jacquot holds the [EUGENDERING](#) Jean Monnet Chair on the challenges linked to the establishment of a Union of gender equality, non-discrimination and diversity. She is also co-leader of an interdisciplinary project on Europe’s judiciary narratives (USL-B and University of Lille). Sophie Jacquot is the director of the IES.



Jogchum VRIELINK is a professor at the UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles and the KULeuven. He holds a doctorate in law and has also studied public administration and anthropology. His research focuses mostly on non-discrimination law, fundamental rights (freedom of expression and freedom of religion in particular), the legal implications of diversity/multiculturalism and the anthropology of law.



Abstract

Abortion laws are the crux of human rights diversity today. They evidence best how differently human rights' meanings are construed in various local settings. However, we know very little about how this diversity is generated in practice. This project scrutinizes the communication processes that use human rights as arguments to change abortion laws. It contrasts abortion debates from the last ten years in pairs of countries that represent three regional human rights systems: Mozambique and Senegal (the African Union), Poland and Ireland (the Council of Europe), and Argentina and Honduras (the Organization of American States). These debates show the ambivalence of human rights: they were used successfully to argue both for more liberal and more restrictive abortion laws. To explain this ambivalence, we apply concepts of argumentative architecture and involvement patterns based on Norbert Elias's theory of the process of civilization. Using a mixed-methods approach that combines qualitative sociology, legal analysis, and corpus linguistics, the project offers a multi-dimensional model for a globally comparative, interdisciplinary socio-legal study of human rights. We study the structure, composition, and embedding of arguments, along with group perspectives, emotions, and circles of identification of arguing actors so as to arrive at a heat map that shows the distribution of involvement in argumentative architectures. By constructing a global meta-typology of argumentative architectures and involvement patterns in abortion debates, we explore the integrative, civilizing potential of human rights and identify the centrifugal forces in human rights figuration that comprise the local, regional, and global levels. Finally, we revisit the role of human rights as a universal toolbox for ideologies in order to plead for their conditional rehabilitation.

References

Bucholc M. (2023), "Tactical Boundary-Setting in the Struggle for Recognition", in Piotr Kulas, Andrzej Waśkiewicz, Stanisław Krawczyk (eds) *Understanding Recognition. Conceptual and Empirical Studies*, Routledge, pp. 83-100.

Date

February 8, 2023

Research Seminar #5

La Commission européenne et les Eurobaromètres : un recours politisé ou dépolitisé à l'opinion des citoyen·nes ?

Speakers

Guest speakers : Prof. **Céline BELOT** (CNRS, Sciences Po Grenoble) & Prof. **Sophie JACQUOT** (UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles)

Discussants: Prof. **Denis DUEZ** (UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles)

Bios

Céline BELOT is a researcher at *Pacte* and has taught at Sciences-Po Grenoble since October 2003. She has also taught and done research at the universities of Durham, Amsterdam, Geneva and Cologne. In 2017 she was a visiting researcher for four months at the Montreal Centre for International Studies (Cerium) and the Jean Monnet chair at Montreal University (Udem). Her work focuses mainly on the formation of civic opinion on remote political objects, in particular European integration, on the allowance for European issues in the national political arena, and the relation between public opinion and public policies in France and the European Union, in particular with regard to foreign policy. She is also interested in mixed methods' contribution to political science.



Sophie JACQUOT is Professor of political science at UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles. She has been teaching at bachelor, master, and PhD levels for more than 15 years on EU policies and politics, EU institutional dynamics, comparative social policies, policy analysis or gender studies (USL-B, Sciences Po, University Paris Nord, Sciences Po Lille, etc.). From a background in sociology of policy analysis, she specializes in EU and gender studies. Her research interests focus on the transformation of EU gender and anti-discrimination policies, on the Europeanisation of social and gender policies, on the evolution of European social dialogue and on the influence of Eurobarometer surveys in the design of EU policymaking. Sophie Jacquot holds the [EUGENDERING](#) Jean Monnet Chair on the challenges linked to the establishment of a Union of gender equality, non-discrimination and diversity. She is also co-leader of an interdisciplinary project on Europe's judiciary narratives (USL-B and University of Lille). Sophie Jacquot is the director of the IES.



Denis DUEZ is a full professor of political science. He was director (2010-2016) and president (2016-2022) of the Institute for European Studies at UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles. He has been teaching for more than 20 years International Relations, European integration, Europeanization processes, political regimes and research methodology. He currently teaches more than 120 hours per year in the field of European integration studies. His research focuses on European internal security policies and the management of the EU's external borders. Denis Duez has headed the "Idées d'Europe" collection at Bruylant since 2016. He is the EUNMUTE team leader in charge of the overall coordination and supervision of the EUNMUTE project.



Abstract

In this research project, we analyse polls commissioning by the European Commission in an era of politicisation. Through a content analysis of Eurobarometer reports and interviews with policy officers, we show these polls are used as policy instruments which participate to the EC's politicisation strategies. Our findings are threefold: First, contrary to what is expected by the democratic responsiveness literature, surveys do not mainly participate to politicisation through the gathering of citizens' preferences, but rather through information on how they assess policies or the world around them. As such they are versatile policy instruments which can be used as politicised but also as de-politicised tools. Second, even when used as de-politicised tools at the issue level, polls can participate to politicisation strategies at a more macro-level. Third, the context of politicisation – the aims and targeted audiences – is an essential factor to understand the linkages between politicisation strategies, policymaking and public opinion.

References

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Belot C., Jacquot. S. (2023), "Commissioning Eurobarometers in order to 'give voice to the voiceless'. Producing women and young people's opinions, a two faces legitimizing strategy", *CES, 29th International Conference of Europeanists*, Reykjavik, 27-29 June 2023.

Belot C., Jacquot. S. (2022), "When, why and how does the European Commission use polls in day-to-day decision-making?", *CES, 28th International Conference of Europeanists*, Lisbon, 21-25 June 2022.

Date

March 21, 2023

Research Seminar #6

Intersectionality Mainstreaming in EU Equality Policies: Reflections on the Promises and Perils of a Novel Approach

Speakers

Guest speaker: Dr **Serena D'AGOSTINO** (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

Discussant: Dr **Pauline CULLEN** (Maynooth University)

Bios

Serena D'AGOSTINO (she/her/hers) is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Centre for Migration, Diversity and Justice (CMDJ) at the Brussels School of Governance (BSoG), Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB). She is the coordinator of the VUB Strategic Research Programme *Enhancing Democratic Governance in Europe* (EDGE). She regularly serves as a commissioned expert to the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) for its annual Fundamental Rights Report (chapter on Roma Equality and Inclusion, Belgium). Her research interests lie at the crossroads of (political) intersectionality, activism/social movements and minority politics and rights, with a focus on Romani (gender) politics and Roma (women's) rights in Europe. Her work has been published or is forthcoming in *Politics, Groups, and Identities*, the *European Journal of Politics and Gender*, the *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, the *Journal of Diversity and Gender Studies*, and the *Journal of Women, Politics & Policy*, among others.



Pauline CULLEN is Associate Professor of Sociology at the Centre for European and Eurasian Studies, Maynooth University. Her work examines civil society mobilization on social justice and gender equality at national and European Union level, women's movements and gender and political representation. She has also worked as a gender expert for advocacy organisations working on gender justice and equality issues and have supervised postgraduate student research on the mobilization of sexual minorities in Ireland and ethnic minority women and gender roles.



Abstract

In the last decade, intersectionality has become increasingly present in the EU equality agenda. From a very embryonic, implicit and often misunderstood concept in European policy-making in the early 2000s, intersectionality is now a core cross-cutting principle in political and policy debates about equality, anti-discrimination and human rights. At first glance, one could even dare to talk about a novel approach based on intersectionality mainstreaming. Yet, it is crucial to remain cautious, as a substantial mainstreaming of intersectionality might not be as easy as it seems. Serena D'Agostino's presentation stimulates reflection on the mainstreaming of intersectionality in contemporary EU equality policies. In particular, she built on past and current academic debates about the application of intersectionality to (European) policy-making to think critically about both the promises (e.g. improving the quality of policies) and perils (e.g. increasing the risk of depoliticization and co-optation of intersectionality) of this approach. Doing so, she used illustrations from the recently adopted "Union of Equality" strategies, with particular emphasis on the policies addressing Romani women – where a lack of "intersectional thinking" was previously acknowledged (D'Agostino 2015).

References

D'Agostino S. (2015), "Consolidated Criteria for Assessing Intersectionality Operationalization in European Equality Policies: The Case of Roma Women", *DiGeSt. Journal of Diversity and Gender Studies*, 2(1-2), pp. 95-110.

Hankivsky O., Kordan-Zachery J. S. (Eds.) (2019), *The Palgrave Handbook of Intersectionality in Public Policy*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Date

May 10, 2023

Research Seminar #7

Unmute the Environment: Fighting Environmental Crime at the EU Level

Speakers

Guest speaker: Dr **Agathe PIQUET** (UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles)

Discussants: Prof. **Chloé BRIÈRE** (Université Libre de Bruxelles) & Prof. **Amandine ORSINI** (UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles)

Bios

Agathe PIQUET is a FNRS Research Fellow at the Institute for European Studies, UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles. Her current research compares the cooperation between law enforcement and NGOs in the regulation of environmental crime in different member states of the EU. She was previously a postdoc at Queen Mary University of London and a member of the NEXTEUK project about the future relationship between the EU and the UK, including the impact of Brexit on public policies. Her research interests are the transformations of internal security in Europe at the crossroads with EU studies and public policies.



Chloé BRIÈRE is associate professor of EU law at the Centre for European Law and an affiliated member of the IEE (Université Libre de Bruxelles). Since 2019, she has been holding the chair in European law, teaching, researching and supervising students in the Faculty of Law and Criminology. Since 2020, she is Director of the Centre for European Law. She holds a PhD in law delivered jointly by the Université Libre de Bruxelles and the University of Geneva in September 2016. Her doctoral research focused on the European legal framework in relation to the fight against Trafficking in Human Beings and its promotion outside the European Union's borders. Her current research interests expand to other aspects of European Union Law, such as EU Criminal Law, EU external relations law and the protection of the EU's financial interests.



Amandine ORSINI is Professor of international relations at the UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles (USL-B), Belgium, where she teaches International Relations and International Organizations. She is the director of the Research Center in Political Science (CReSPo) at USL-B. She specializes in global environmental politics and is, among others, Jean Monnet Chair [EUGLOBALGREEN](#) (2022–2025), and the principal investigator of the FSR-FNRS funded Youth Earth research project (2021–2024) on youth participation in the international negotiations related to climate change, biodiversity, and sustainable development issues. She is also a member of the EUNMUTE research project (2022–2025) and in particular its research package on the environment.



Abstract

While serious damage to the environment is not new, their criminalization is recent. Considering that national regulatory and enforcement activities were not sufficient to effectively fight environmental crime, the European Union (EU) has adopted since the 2000s a wide range of instruments to this end, including the 2008 Environmental Crime Directive. Recent evaluations have shed light on the mitigated results of this directive, leading the European Commission to propose in 2021 its replacement. Yet, while the EU has positioned itself as the champion of the protection of the environment and of the voiceless, little is known about its concrete capacity to un-mute the victims of green crime, including the environment itself, marginalized groups or voiceless victims (e.g. future generations or individuals who do not know they have been impacted by environmental crime). The communication will explore this question by analyzing the current revision process of the 2008 Directive and the related challenges and discussions.

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