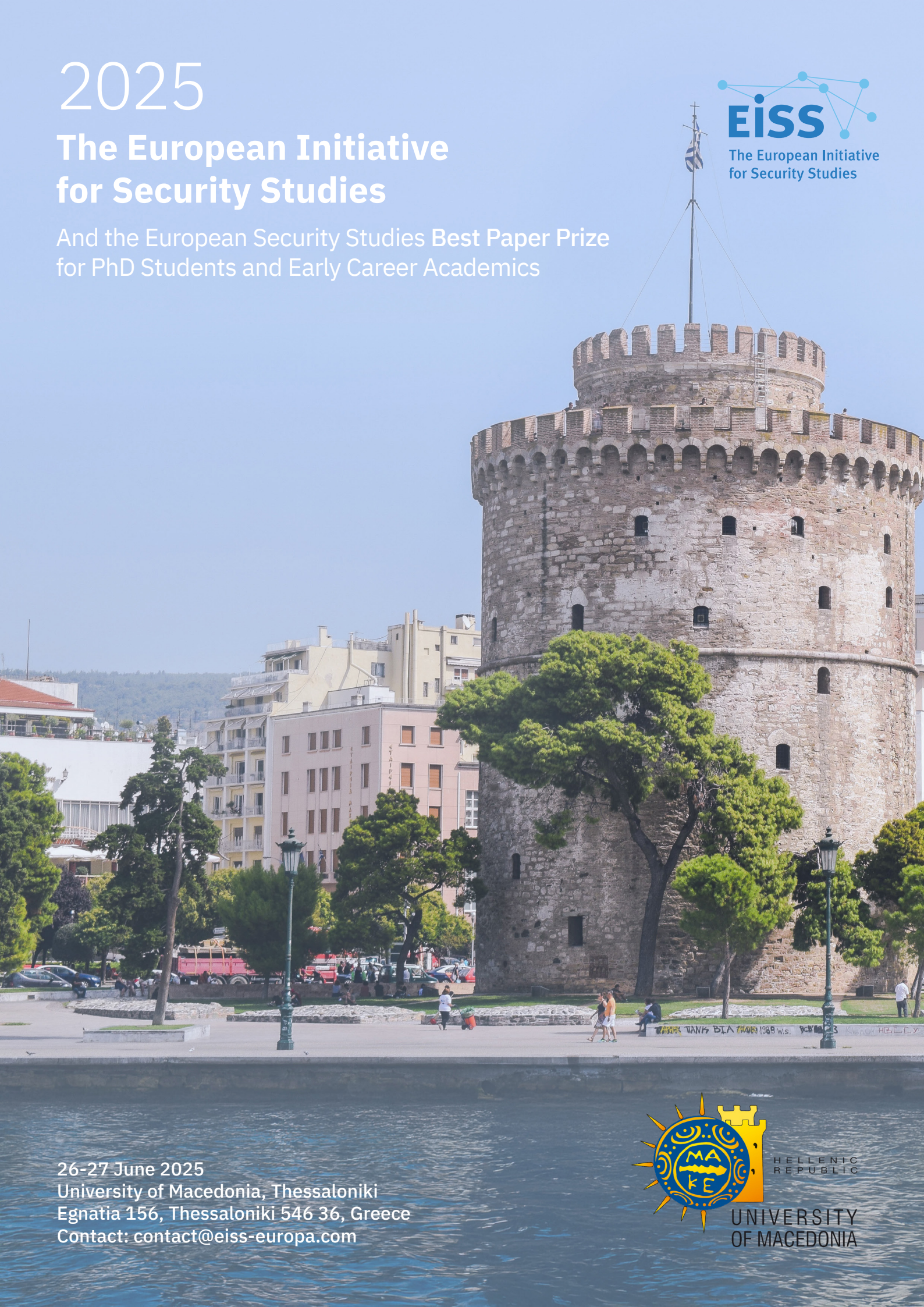


2025

The European Initiative for Security Studies

And the European Security Studies Best Paper Prize
for PhD Students and Early Career Academics



26-27 June 2025
University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki
Egnatia 156, Thessaloniki 546 36, Greece
Contact: contact@eiss-europa.com



HELLENIC
REPUBLIC

UNIVERSITY
OF MACEDONIA

June 26 Day One

9:00 - 9:30	Registration and Coffee	
9:30 - 10:00	Introductory Remarks Hugo Meijer, Director of EISS / Sciences Po Paris Alexandros Chatzgeorgiou, Vice-Rector University of Macedonia Nicolas Blarel, EISS / Leiden University	Hybrid & Recorded
10:00 - 11:25	Cybersecurity and digital technologies in international security, strategy, and global power relations Julia Carver, Oxford University	
11:00 - 13:00	Military Technology Sanne Verschuren, Boston University	War and Strategy Chiara Libiseller, Leiden University
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 - 15:25	Roundtable 1: Nuclear coercion-Ukraine, Europe, and beyond Michal Onderco, Erasmus University	Hybrid & Recorded
15:30 - 17:00	Military Interventions Peter Viggo Jacobsen, Royal Danish Defence College and University of Southern Denmark	Private Actors, Armed Conflict and the State Zarras Konstantinos, University of Macedonia
17:00 - 17:30	Poster session / Coffee Break	
17:00 - 18:30	Keynote Loukas Tsoukalis, President of the Board, ELIAMEP, Professor, Sciences Po Paris, Professor Emeritus, University of Athens	Hybrid & Recorded

June 27 Day Two

10:00 - 11:25	Defence Cooperation and Military Assistance 1 Revecca Pedi, University of Macedonia	European Transformations in the Organization of Security Moritz Weiss, LMU Munich
11:30 - 13:00	Defence Cooperation and Military Assistance 2 John Helferich, University of Oxford	Weapons of Mass Destruction: Non-Proliferation and Arms Control Clara Portela, University of Valencia
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 - 15:25	Defence Cooperation and Military Assistance 3 Michal Onderco, Erasmus University	Political Economy, Technology and the Defence Industry Kristen Harkness & Marc De Vore, University of St Andrews
15:30 - 16:55	Roundtable 2: How to Publish in Security Journals Nicolas Blarel, Leiden University	Hybrid & Recorded
17:00 - 17:30	Poster session / Coffee Break	
17:30 - 17:45	Award of the European Security Studies Best Paper Prize In partnership with the Journal of Strategic Studies	Hybrid & Recorded
17:45 - 17:55	Concluding Remarks Hugo Meijer, Director of EISS / Sciences Po Paris Revecca Pedi, University of Macedonia	Hybrid & Recorded
18:00	Cocktail	

Day 1 | Detailed Programme

9:00 - 9:30

Registration & Coffee

Main Hall & Conference Room Foyer

9:30 - 10:00

Introductory Remarks

Hugo Meijer, Director of EISS / Sciences Po Paris

Alexandros Chatzgeorgiou, Vice-Rector University of Macedonia

Nicolas Blarel, EISS/ Leiden University

Conference Room "Ilias Koukouvelis" | Hybrid & Recorded

10:00 - 11:25

Cybersecurity and digital technologies in international security, strategy, and global power relations

Chair: Julia Carver, Oxford University

- **"Regulatory Asymmetries in Cryptocurrency Governance: Implications for Sanctions Evasion"**
Orfeas Anastasios Koidi, Rijkuniversiteit Groningen
- **"Competitive Cyber Statecraft of the Middle-Ground: A Neoclassical Realist Model"**
Arthur Laudrain and Joe Devanny, King's College London - Department of War Studies
- **"Infrastructural frontlines of (dis)information: data territoriality in the Russian war against Ukraine"**
Louis Petiniaud, GEODE - French Institute of Geopolitics, Paris 8 University
- **"Online military influencers in a social media age"**
Anders Puck Nielsen, Royal Danish Defence College

Conference Room "Ilias Koukouvelis"

11:30 - 13:00

Military Technology

Chair: Sanne Verschuren, Boston University

- **"Does Preeminence in Emerging and Military Technologies Matter for International Status and Prestige? Experimental Study"**
Zakir Rzazade, Charles University
- **"What's Got You So Worried? The Replicator Initiative and US Techno-Anxieties in an Age of Great Power Competition"**
Tom Watts, Royal Holloway, University of London (Leverhulme Early Career Research Fellow)
- **"The Erosion of Traditional Deterrence: Space as a Case Study in Military Transformation"**
Raoul Cardellini Leipertz, LUMSA University

Conference Room "Ilias Koukouvelis"

War and Strategy

Chair: Chiara Libiseller, Leiden University

- **“Reanimating Grand Strategy in Volatile Times”**
Alexander Evans, London School of Economics
- **“The Strategy of Subversion: National Security between Warfare and Diplomacy”**
Henrik Breitenbauch, Royal Danish Defence College, and Niels Byrjalsen, University of Copenhagen
- **“Assisting to Win? Military Assistance and Coercion in War”**
Kersti Larsdotter, Swedish Defense University

Teleconference Room

13:00 - 14:00

Lunch

Main Hall & Conference Room Foyer

14:00 - 15:25

Roundtable 1: Nuclear Coercion

Chair: Michal Onderco, Erasmus University

Kristin Ven Bruusgaard, Director of the Norwegian Intelligence School

Lydia Wachs, Stockholm University

Sanne Verschuren, Boston University

Lauren Sukin, London School of Economics

Conference Room “Ilias Koukouvelis” | Hybrid & Recorded

15:30 - 17:00

Military Interventions

Chair: Peter Viggo Jacobsen, Royal Danish Defence College and University of Southern Denmark

- **“The “Transparent Battlefield” and its Implications for Western Movement and Maneuver Warfighting”**
Friso Stevens, The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies
- **“Helping your friends in need? Military Interventions and the Reliability of Defense Cooperation Agreements”**
Margit Bussmann and Maximilian Krebs, University of Greifswald
- **“The Resistance Operating Concept’s Deterrent to Impress: Distinct Causal Theories of Success”**
Martijn Rouvroije, Netherlands Defence Academy - Faculty of Military Sciences
- **“Negotiation of front ends and back ends in NATO military advisory missions”**
Anders Klitmøller and Anne Obling, The Royal Danish Defence College

Conference Room “Ilias Koukouvelis”

Private Actors, Armed Conflict and the State

Chair: Zarras Konstantinos, University of Macedonia / Teleconference Room

- **“Big tech at war: The infrastructural politics of public-private relations”**
Tobias Liebetrau, University of Copenhagen
- **“We Are Peers Now: States’ Relations with Violent Non-State Actors That Became State/Sub-State Actors”**
Ido Gadi Raz, Hebrew University
- **“Private military companies as proxy forces in international politics with special reference to the Russian Wagner Group/African Corps and its operations in Africa”**
Theo Neethling, University of the Free State
- **“From Revolt to Rule: Insurgency as Proto-State Formation”**
Marnix Provoost, Netherlands Defense Academy

Conference Room “Ilias Koukouvelis”

17:00 - 17:30

Poster session / Coffee break

Conference Room Foyer

- **“Following the Algorithmic Path to Extremism: How Social Network Analysis Can Help to Target Extremist Content Online”**
Clara Jammot, King’s College London - Department of War Studies
- **“Overlapping Ownership and Foreign Competition in Early-Stage Innovation: Evidence from Cross-Border Investment into Mature Venture Capital Markets”**
Nicholas Bahrich, ETH Zurich
- **“Digital Influence as a Continuum: How Russia Shapes Georgia’s Information Environment”**
Appoline Roy, French Institute of Geopolitics / GEODE (Geopolitics of the Datasphere)

Conference Room Foyer

17:30 - 18:30

Keynote: Will Putin and Trump finally force Europe to behave as a political adult?

Loukas Tsoukalis, President of the Board, ELIAMEP / Professor, Sciences Po Paris / Professor Emeritus, University of Athens

Conference Room “Ilias Koukouvelis” | Hybrid & Recorded

Day 2 | Detailed Programme

10:00 - 11:25

Defense Cooperation and Military Assistance 1: Studies in (Re)alignments

Chair: Revecca Pedi, University of Macedonia | Conference Room "Ilias Koukouvelis"

- **"The Delegation of Defense and Security Responsibilities at Sea in Historical Perspective"**
Pieter Zhao, Erasmus University Rotterdam
- **"Do Principles Become Agents? Security Assistance between cooptation and orchestration"**
Jean Marie Reure, University of Genoa
- **"Beyond Exit: Examining Protégés' Intra-Alliance Bargaining Strategies"**
Maximilian Krebs, University of Greifswald
- **"Advancing authoritarian alignment? A systematic mapping of defense diplomacy between China, Russia, North Korea, and Iran"**
Sabine Mokry, Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg

Conference Room "Ilias Koukouvelis"

10:00 - 11:25

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European Transformations in the Organization of Security

Chair: Moritz Weiss, LMU Munich | Teleconference Room

- **"Belgium's Defence Policy After the Invasion of Ukraine: A Free Rider's Business-as-Usual Approach"**
Michelle Haas and Tim Haesebrouck, Ghent University
- **"Paradigm Paradox: How Emerging Cybersecurity Communities Moderate EU Governance"**
Hannah-Sophie Weber, University of Oxford
- **"Geopolitical Europe: The European Union as a signaling actor in the Russia-Ukraine war"**
Nicolas Blarel and Niels Van Willigen, Leiden University
- **"'Total Defence' and Transformations in the Making of European Security"**
Joakim Berndtsson University of Gothenburg, Andreas Kruck LMU Munich, Moritz Weiss LMU Munich

Conference Room "Ilias Koukouvelis"

11:30 - 13:00

Weapons of Mass Destruction: Non-Proliferation and Arms Control

Chair: Clara Portela, University of Valencia

- **“Strategic Stability Without Arms Control”**

Jamie Withorne, Oslo Nuclear Project, University of Oslo

- **“The Soviet Union/Russia and the spread of the bomb”**

Lydia Wachs, Stockholm University

- **The Universalization of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons: Lessons from the CWC and BWC and the Role of Customary International Law**

Agata Bidas, University of Vienna

- **“Changing Pathways to the Bomb”**

Eliza Gheorghe, Bilkent University

Teleconference Room

Defense Cooperation and Military Assistance 2: New Research Directions

Chair: John Helferich, University of Oxford

- **“Sweden and the League of Nations: The partisan contestation of national identity and collective security”**

Zighe Edström, Stockholm University

- **“Small State Defense Cooperation and Security Strategies in a Changing Global Order”**

Revecca Pedi, University of Macedonia

- **“Common Threat, Diverging Responses? Explaining European States’ Military Spending After the War in Ukraine”**

Tim Haesebrouck & Michelle Haas, Ghent University

- **“Informal is the New Normal: Command and Control as the Choice for the Functional Source of Security Commitment”**

Joseph Christian Agbagala, Center for Security Studies, ETH Zurich

Conference Room “Ilias Koukouvelis”

13:00 - 14:00

Lunch

University Restaurant

14:00 - 15:25

Political Economy, Technology and the Defence Industry

Chair: Kristen Harkness and Marc De Vore, University of St Andrews

“Examining the Factors Behind the EU’s Defence Innovation System”

Cezary Wereszko, University of Nottingham

- “Russian Countertrade as a Mechanism for Promoting Arms Sales and Diplomatic Influence”
Jonata Anicetti LISD, Princeton University, Shang-Su Wu, Rabdan Academy, Ron Matthews
Cranfield University
- “Innovation and engineering at the front: the Ukrainian case of Unmanned System”
Emilie Berthelsen, Royal Danish Defence College & Technical University of Denmark
- “Dynamics of Defense Indigenization: state-private relations in India’s quest for self-reliance”
Yagnyashri Kodaru, LMU Munich

Teleconference Room

Defense Cooperation and Military Assistance 3: Reforms in European Security

Chair: Michal Onderco, Erasmus University |

- “Reassessing European Security: The drivers of NATO’s response to hybrid threats since 2014”
Laura Lisboa, Sciences Po Paris
- “The EU’s Collective Defence Framework: A Law-in-Context Analysis of Article 42.7 TEU Amid the War in Ukraine”
Federica Fazio, Dublin City University
- “Can European Defence Cooperation Build European Deterrence?”
Fotini Bellou, University of Macedonia

Conference Room “Ilias Koukouvelis”

15:30 - 16:55

Roundtable 2: How to Publish in Security Journals

Chair: Nicolas Blarel, Leiden University

Conference Room “Ilias Koukouvelis” | Hybrid & Recorded

17:00 - 17:30

Poster session / Coffee break

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Conference Room Foyer

17:30 - 17:45

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In partnership with the Journal of Strategic Studies

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THE JOURNAL OF
**Strategic
Studies**

17:45 - 18:00

Concluding Remarks

Hugo Meijer, Director of EISS / Sciences Po Paris

Revecca Pedi, University of Macedonia

Conference Room "Ilias Koukouvelis" | Hybrid & Recorded

18:00

Cocktail

The Garden



