

# European Security Studies 2026

## Conference Program

Stockholm, Sweden

Jointly organized by:



<b>DAY 1 - June 11th, 2026</b> <b>Conference Building: Stockholm University Campus, D House</b>			
<b>09h00-09h30</b>	<b>Registration and Coffee</b> - D House, Floor 3		
<b>9h35-9h45</b>	<b>Introductory Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hugo Meijer, Sciences Po</li> <li>• Yvonne Svanström, Stockholm University &amp; Magnus Petersson, Stockholm University</li> <li>• Julia Carver, Leiden University &amp; Sanne Verschuren, Boston University\</li> </ul> <p><i>Lecture Hall 8</i></p>		
<b>9h45-11h00</b>	<b>Roundtable: Taking Stock of European Security in a Rapidly Changing Geopolitical Environment</b> Chair: Sanne Verschuren, Boston University  <p><i>Lecture Hall 8</i></p>		
<b>11h00-11h15</b>	Break		
<b>11h15-12h30</b>	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <b>Panel: Virtually Transformed? Digital Infrastructures, Competition, and Governance</b>            Chair: Julia Carver, Leiden University   <p><i>Lecture Hall 8</i></p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <b>Panel: War and Peace Abroad: Security Assistance, Multilateral Operations, and Peace-Building</b>            Chair: Kersti Larsdotter, Swedish Defence University   <p><i>Lecture Hall 9</i></p> </td> </tr> </table>	<b>Panel: Virtually Transformed? Digital Infrastructures, Competition, and Governance</b> Chair: Julia Carver, Leiden University  <p><i>Lecture Hall 8</i></p>	<b>Panel: War and Peace Abroad: Security Assistance, Multilateral Operations, and Peace-Building</b> Chair: Kersti Larsdotter, Swedish Defence University  <p><i>Lecture Hall 9</i></p>
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<b>12h30-13h25</b>	Lunch - <i>D-House, Floor 3</i>		
<b>13h30-14h30</b>	<b>Keynote - Lieutenant General Thomas Nilsson</b> - <i>Lecture Hall 8</i>		
<b>14h35-15h50</b>	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <b>Panel: Nuclear Weapons in a Changing World: From Deterrence to Arms Control</b>            Chair: Sanne Verschuren, Boston University   <p><i>Lecture Hall 8</i></p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <b>Panel: Gender, Politics, and Security</b>            Chair: Chiara Ruffa, Sciences Po   <p><i>Lecture Hall 9</i></p> </td> </tr> </table>	<b>Panel: Nuclear Weapons in a Changing World: From Deterrence to Arms Control</b> Chair: Sanne Verschuren, Boston University  <p><i>Lecture Hall 8</i></p>	<b>Panel: Gender, Politics, and Security</b> Chair: Chiara Ruffa, Sciences Po  <p><i>Lecture Hall 9</i></p>
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<b>15h50-16h00</b>	Coffee Break, <i>D House, Floor 3</i>		
<b>16h05-17h20</b>	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <b>Panel: The Conduct of Contemporary and Future War</b>            Chair: Giles Moon, Oxford University   <p><i>Lecture Hall 8</i></p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <b>Panel: The Politics of Deterrence in Europe</b>            Chair: Thomas Fraise, University of Copenhagen/Sciences Po   <p><i>Lecture Hall 9</i></p> </td> </tr> </table>	<b>Panel: The Conduct of Contemporary and Future War</b> Chair: Giles Moon, Oxford University  <p><i>Lecture Hall 8</i></p>	<b>Panel: The Politics of Deterrence in Europe</b> Chair: Thomas Fraise, University of Copenhagen/Sciences Po  <p><i>Lecture Hall 9</i></p>
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<b>17h30</b>	<b>Walking Tour of Stockholm</b> (Guided by Magnus Petersson)		

<b>DAY 2 - June 12th, 2026 - D House, Stockholm University Campus</b> Conference Building: Stockholm University Campus, D House		
<b>8h45-9h00</b>	<b>Sign-in for Day 2 &amp; Coffee Break, D House, Floor 3</b>	
<b>9h00-10h15</b>	<b>Roundtable: Navigating the Job Market</b> Chair: Julia Carver, Leiden University  <i>Lecture Hall 8</i>	<b>Panel: Geopolitical Power Europe: A Reality Check in Western Balkans and Eastern Neighbourhood</b> Chair: Filip Ejdus, University of Belgrade  <i>Lecture Hall 9</i>
<b>10h20-11h35</b>	<b>Panel: Cyber and Digital Sovereignty</b> Co-Chairs: Moritz Weiss (LMU) and Eugenio Sanchez (Sciences Po)  <i>Lecture Hall 8</i>	<b>Panel: Stepping into the Future: Military Technology, Innovation Practices, and Contemporary Challenges</b> Chair: Jennifer Erickson, Boston College  <i>Lecture Hall 9</i>
<b>11h40-12h55</b>	<b>Panel: Conceptualizing Military Strategy: From Planning to War</b> Chair: Chiara Libiseller, King's College London  <i>Lecture Hall 8</i>	<b>Panel: Politics at the Intersection of Climate, Industrialization, and Security</b> Chair: Nicolas Blarel, Leiden University  <i>Lecture Hall 9</i>
<b>12h55-13h45</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>13h45-15h00</b>	<b>Panel: Military Transformation, Innovation and Strategic Change in the Transatlantic Context</b> Chair: Magnus Petersson, Stockholm University  <i>Lecture Hall 8</i>	<b>Panel: War &amp; Strategy: Strategic Deterrence under Duress</b> Chair: Jan Angstrom, Swedish Defence University  <i>Lecture Hall 9</i>
<b>15h05-16h20</b>	<b>Panel: Beyond the State: Securitization, Governance, and Private Actors</b> Chair: Mark Rhinard, Stockholm University  <i>Lecture Hall 8</i>	<b>Panel: Extended Nuclear Deterrence through European Eyes</b> Chair: Ludovica Castelli, Istituto Affari Internazionali  <i>Lecture Hall 9</i>
<b>16h20-16h40</b>	<b>Coffee Break, D House, Floor 3</b>	

16h40-17h55	<p><b>Panel: Disruptive Machines: AI, Information Operations, and Cyber Security</b> Chair: Arthur Laudrain, ETH Zurich</p> <p><i>Lecture Hall 8</i></p>	<p><b>Panel: Regional Security in the Balkans</b> Chair: Filip Ejdus, University of Belgrade</p> <p><i>Lecture Hall 9</i></p>
18h00- 18h30	<p><b>Concluding Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Magnus Petersson, Stockholm University</li> <li>• Julia Carver, Leiden University &amp; Sanne Verschuren, Boston University</li> <li>• Moritz Weiss (LMU)</li> </ul> <p><b>Award of the European Security Studies Best Paper Prize</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In partnership with the Journal of Strategic Studies</li> </ul> <p><i>Lecture Hall 8</i></p>	
18h30-19h30	<p><b>Poster Session / Cocktail, D House, Floor 3</b></p>	

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*Detailed Overview***DAY 1**

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**Roundtable: Taking Stock of European Security in a Rapidly Changing Geopolitical Environment**

- Chair: Sanne Verschuren (Boston University)
- Antulio Echevarria (Swedish Defense University)
- Linde Desmaele (Leiden University)
- John Helferich (University of Oxford)
- Eliza Gheorge (Bilkent University)

**Panel: Virtually Transformed? Digital Infrastructures, Competition, and Governance**

- Chair: Julia Carver (Leiden University)
- Tobias Liebetrau (University of Copenhagen): Knowing cybersecurity: The epistemic infrastructural power of big tech
- Mattia Sguazzini (University of Genoa): Do Parliaments Dream of Cyber Power? Parliamentary Scrutiny in the Strategic Domain of Cyberspace
- Yagnyashri Kodaru (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich) and Moritz Weiss (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich): Governing cybersecurity and the politics of state control in the digital age
- Sarah Backman (Swedish Defence University) and Tim Stevens (Kings College London): Cyber risk logics and their implications for cybersecurity

**Panel: War and Peace Abroad: Security Assistance, Multilateral Operations, and Peace-Building**

- Chair: Kersti Larsdotter (Swedish Defense University)
- Yijun Xu (Free University of Berlin) and Gijsbert Van Iterson Scholten (University of Amsterdam): Mapping Plural Visions of Peace: The Peace Cube as an Analytical Framework
- Saurav Narain (Leiden University) and Silvia D'Amato (James Madison University): Interpreting Counterterrorism in African Conflict Management
- Ilker Kalin (Stockholm University) and Carla Martinez Machain (University of Buffalo) Socialized to Cooperate? Foreign Military Training and Coordination in UN Peacekeeping Operations
- Marie Robin (Leiden University): From Rebels' to State's Justice: Post-Conflict Justice Choices in 2026 Syria

**Panel: Nuclear Weapons in a Changing World: From Deterrence to Arms Control**

- Chair: Sanne Verschuren (Boston University)
- Tyler Bowen (Naval War College): Upload Pending? Tradeoffs, Uncertainty, and Damage-Limitation in a Multipolar Age
- Tahir Azad (University of Reading): From Precision to Existential Risk: Hypersonic Weapons and the Erosion of the Conventional–Nuclear Divide
- Jennifer Erickson (Boston College): Legitimizing the Bomb: US Efforts to Manage Public Information about Nuclear Weapons after World War II
- Samuel Seitz (University of Oxford): Limit to Win It: A Typology of Competitive Arms Control Practices

### **Panel: Gender, Politics, and Security**

- Chair: Chiara Ruffa (Sciences Po)
- Elisabetta Ginevra Lida (University of Padova): The Gender dimension of LIO contestation
- Jéssica da Costa Pereira: (NOVA University of Lisbon - School of Social Sciences and Humanities): No Woman's Land: Securitisation of Female Forced Migration in Afghanistan
- Anna Luisa Reinhardt (Sciences Po, Northern German Lutheran Church, Lithuanian Diakonija): Artistic Resilience-Building in Lithuania's Local Security Policy
- Teodora Stoicescu (National University of Political Studies and Public Administration): Gendering Non-Traditional Security: A Comparative Analysis of Sexual Violence, Reconciliation and Post-War Development in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Colombia

### **Panel: The Conduct of Contemporary and Future War**

- Chair: Giles Moon (Oxford University)
- Giles Moon (Oxford University) and Baptiste Alloui-Cros (Oxford University): Learning from Ukraine: The West must be prepared for positional warfare
- Martijn Rouvroije (Netherlands Faculty of Military Sciences): Conceptual Inquiry into Military Deep Operations: A Framework for Analysis
- Troels Burchall Henningsen (Royal Danish Defence University): Working in the Margins: Can Small State Special Operations contribute to Deterrence?
- Marius Ghincea (European University Institute): Domestic Politics and Military Aid to Ukraine: Explaining Disclosure Policies in France and Germany

### **Panel: The Politics of Deterrence in Europe**

- Chair: Thomas Fraise (University of Copenhagen/Sciences Po)
- Emma Rosengren (Stockholm University): Reconceptualizing nuclear deterrence and national identity: the cases of Finland and Sweden
- Matthew Evangelista (Cornell University): Ritual deterrence, magic strategies, and nuclear war in Europe
- Benoît Pelopidas (Sciences Po): Nuclear Futures, Utopias, and the Case for a Renewed 'Strict Sufficiency'
- July Decarpentrie (Swedish Defence University): Plus ça Change: Continuity in the French Nuclear Approach.

### **Panel: Conceptualizing Military Strategy: From Planning to War**

- Chair: Chiara Libiseller (Kings College London)
- Michael Hunzeker (George Mason University) and Alexander Lanoszka (University of Waterloo): Fortifying the Eastern Flank: Leveraging Historical Lessons to Create Effective Defence Systems
- Mariya Grinberg (MIT): Anticipated Failure: Why States Go to War Un(der)prepared
- Samuel Zilincik (Royal Danish Defense College) and James Horncastle (Simon Fraser University): Revisiting Multi-Domain Operations: A Historical Reflection on the Respective Roles of Combination and Prioritisation in the Conduct of War
- Giulia Biselli (Centre for High Defence Studies) and Sara Russo (Centre for High Defence Studies): Influence as Strategic Infrastructure: China, NATO, and Competition Below the Threshold of War

### **Panel: Politics at the Intersection of Climate, Industrialization, and Security**

- Chair: Nicolas Blarel (Leiden University)
- Saman Omar (College of Humanity, University of Duhok, Kurdistan Region of Iraq) and Dunia Baban (Stockholm University): Water In-Security and Climate Migration in Iraq Analyzing Socio-Economic Threats
- Elisabeth Saar (Hamburg University): Living with the nuclear: Spatio-temporal entanglements, nuclear cultures, and the afterlives of uranium mining
- Eliza Georghe (Bilkent University), Isil Idrisoglu (University of Pittsburgh), and Yanina Shved-Dogrul (Bogazici Universitesi): Fragile Control: How De Facto States Degrade Nuclear Security in the Donbas

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## **Day 2**

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### **Roundtable: Navigating the Job Market**

- Chair: Julia Carver (Leiden University)
- Jennifer Erickson (Boston College)
- Chiara Libiseller (King's College London)
- Chiara Ruffa (Sciences Po)
- Magnus Petersson (Stockholm University)

### **Panel: Geopolitical Power Europe: A Reality Check in Western Balkans and Eastern Neighbourhood**

- Chairs: Filip Ejdus (University of Belgrade)
- Nikolaos Tzifakis (University of the Peloponnese), EU's Ontological Security and Geopolitical Enlargement
- Marko Kovačević, Tijana Rečević Krstić, and Milan Varda (University of Belgrade): Geopoliticisation of EU Enlargement in the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership: A Role-Theoretical Perspective
- Kurt W. Bassuener (Democratization Policy Council, Sarajevo): Filling the EU's Identity Void from Without and Within – Forging a Geopolitics of Values
- Filip Ejdus (University of Belgrade), Alexandra Prodromidou (York Europe Campus, Business School, Southeast European Research Centre (SEERC); Sonja Stojanovic (University of Rijeka); and Faye Ververidou (York Europe Campus, Business School, Southeast European Research Centre (SEERC): From Normalisation to Strategic Stabilisation: Geopolitisation of the Pristina–Belgrade Dialogue within EU Enlargement

### **Panel: Cyber and Digital Sovereignty**

- Chair: Moritz Weiss (LMU) & Eugenio Sanchez (Sciences Po)
- Daniela Mechkaroska (University of Information Science and Technology “St. Paul the Apostle”, Ohrid, N.Macedonia) and Ervin Domazet (International Balkan University, Faculty of Engineering): AI-Driven Cloud Monitoring and Cyber Situational Awareness in European Digital Infrastructures
- Gürkan Gür (Zurich University of Applied Sciences ZHAW): Quantum-Resilient SATIN and European Digital Sovereignty
- Lorenz Sommer (Geschwister-Scholl-Institute for Political Science, LMU Munich): Classical geopolitics in cyberspace: Explaining cyber state behaviour with power position

**Panel: Stepping into the Future: Military Technology, Innovation Practices, and Contemporary Challenges**

- Chair: Jennifer Erickson (Boston College)
- Tim Thies (IFSH University of Hamburg): Sending the Wrong Signals: When Armaments Worry Allies
- Nicolas Krieger (Technical University of Munich): Selling the Future of War: Discursive Power and Military Innovation
- Tristan Volpe (IFSH University of Hamburg/Naval Postgraduate School) and Jane Vaynman (SAIS Johns Hopkins): Disclosure and Duplicity: How Technology Influences International Competition

**Panel: Military Transformation: Military Innovation and Strategic Change in the Transatlantic Context**

- Chair: Magnus Petersson (Stockholm University)
- Frank Kuhn (Peace Research Institute): From Rogue States to Russia: How Threat Perceptions Drove Congressional Support for Low-Yield Nuclear Weapons, 1993–2020
- Fabio Duarte (Czech Technical University in Prague (CTU) - University Centre for Energy Efficient Building): Vectorial Analysis of Hybrid Warfare: Directionality, Interaction, and Systemic Effects
- Dumitru-Catalin Vasile (National School of Political and Administrative Studies, Bucharest, Romania): From Platforms to Networks: The Political Hurdles of Transitioning to Data-Centric Warfare
- Vasiliki Plessia Aravani (Diplomatische Academie Wien, University of Vienna): NATO as an Innovation Hub? How Emerging and Disruptive Technologies Are Reshaping Allied Innovation

**Panel: War & Strategy: Strategic Deterrence under Duress**

- Chair: Jan Angstrom (Swedish Defence University)
- Isabella Haynes (Charles University), Ondrej Rosendorf (Charles University), and Michal Smetana (Charles University): Explaining Heterogeneity in Public Support for Collective Defense in NATO: Evidence from a Cross - National Survey of Allied Countries.
- Wendy He (RSIS, Nanyang Technical University): The Confidence Trap: Leader-Advisor Deliberations and the Making of (In)Credible Threats
- Mark Rhinard (Stockholm University), Niklas Bremberg (Stockholm University), Anna Michalski (College of Europe), and August Danielson (Linköping University): Cooperation under Stress: Organisational Compatibility and NATO–EU Cooperation in a Fractured Transatlantic Order
- Mitko Arnaudov (Institute of International Politics and Economics): Small states in the current international war agenda: Between shelter seeking and sovereignty

### **Panel: Beyond the State: Securitization, Governance, and Private Actors**

- Chair: Mark Rhinard
- Rusudan Zabakhidze (Swedish Defence University): Beyond the State: Voluntary Civilian Pro-Defence Organisations and Security Governance in Georgia
- Pieter Zhao (Erasmus University Rotterdam): From Privateers to Private Maritime Security: Irregular Maritime Actors and the Long History of Delegated Security at Sea
- Mia Adbic (University of Belgrade): Criminalising Solidarity: Border Securitisation, Non-State Actors, and Vernacular Humanitarianism in Europe
- Allard Duursma (ETH Zurich), Johannes Lucht (ETH Zurich), Evan Perkoski (University of Connecticut): The Strategic Logic of Violence

### **Panel: Disruptive Machines: AI, Information Operations, and Cyber Security**

- Chair: Arthur Laudrain (ETH Zurich)
- Clara Jammot (Kings College London): Financial (In)Security, TikTok, and the Far-Right Pipeline
- Gil Baram (UC Berkeley and Bar Ilan University): Cybercrime & AI: Resilience-by-Design in the Information Age: Tabletop Evidence on AI-Enabled Cybercrime, Coordination, and Public Trust
- Anna Seliverstova (Linnaeus University): Telegram in Russia's Information Strategy: Evidence from Serbia
- Alexandra Brankova (Swedish Defence University) & Dalia Pablo Ortiz (Uppsala University): Amplification of Russian Geopolitical Narratives on VKontakte: Studying Tsargrad's audience engagement and the construction of the enemy before and after the start of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine

### **Panel: Extended Nuclear Deterrence through European Eyes**

- Chair: Ludovica Castelli (Istituto Affari Internazionali)
- Linde Desmaele (Leiden University): What are tactical nuclear weapons for? The multiple logics of NATO's theater nuclear posture
- Christopher David LaRoche (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Central European University): 'Europe is Not a Country': Nuclear Patronage and Eurodeterrence Concerns in the Frontline States
- Jacklyn Majnemer (LSE): Patterns of Foreign Nuclear Deployment: Understanding Host State Refusal in NATO
- Alexander Sorg (Hertie School): Conceptualizing Nuclear Umbrellas

### **Panel: Regional Security in the Balkans**

- Filip Ejdus (University of Belgrade)
- Kire Babanoski (University of Bitola): Western Balkan Criminal Groups and the Transformation of Regional Security
- Senada Šelo Šabic (Institute for Development and International Relations, Zagreb, Croatia): Peace as Stalemate: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Forever Missions and the Strategic Logic of Frozen Peace
- Sandra Cvikic (Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, Regional Center Vukovar): Pitfalls of Transitional Justice and (In)Security in the Western Balkans: Case Study of Serbia
- Kenan Hodžić and Jasmin Ahić: Bosnia and Herzegovina on the Edge of European Stability