EISS 10 YEARS 2017–2027 NetSec

EUROPEAN SECURITY STUDIES CONFERENCE 2027

# Call for Panels & Papers

Panel, paper and poster proposals for the tenth annual conference, at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Political Science.

**CONFERENCE**
**10-11 June 2027**
Belgrade, Serbia

**VENUE**
**University of Belgrade**
Faculty of Political Science

**PROPOSALS DUE**
**26 January 2027**
Submit on Indico

**CONFERENCE CHAIRS** **Filip Ejdus**, University of Belgrade · **Arthur Laudrain**, ETH Zurich

**JOINTLY ORGANISED BY** NetSec · cost EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY · ФПН

the COST Action *NetSec*, the European Initiative for Security Studies (EISS) and the University of Belgrade

# Key dates

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| **26 January 2027**<br>MAIN DEADLINE | Deadline for submitting panel proposals, poster presentation proposals and paper proposals on Indico. |
| **20 February 2027** | Decision on open panels by the organising committee, and on papers for closed panels by the chairs. |
| **27 February 2027** | Final programme sent to participants. |
| **27 May 2027** | Deadline for sending conference papers to the panel chairs to be considered for the European Security Studies Best Paper Prize for PhD Students and Early Career Academics. |
| **3 June 2027** | Deadline for sending the paper to the panel chairs. |

## Other key information on the European Security Studies Conference

### Travel and accommodation expenses

No funding will be provided by the EISS and University of Belgrade. Applicants are advised to seek funding for travel and accommodation from their home institution. However, the COST Action *NetSec* will provide a limited number of travel grants (i.e. flight and daily allowance for three days) for active participants. Please indicate in your application if you would like to be considered for COST Action funding. You will be contacted by the organising committee if you are deemed eligible. Accepted participants of the NetSec Training School will be separately reimbursed by the training school.

### Organisation of the panels

Each panel will have four presentations (10 minutes per presentation). Presentations will be followed by 10 minutes of feedback from the chair/discussant. The session will conclude with approximately 40 minutes of Q&A with the audience.

### Presentation limits

Each participant can only present one paper per conference.

### Other conference events

The Conference Programme will feature a keynote lecture and thematic roundtables. These will be communicated as part of the final programme.

#### NetSec Training School

The NetSec Training School will begin on 8 June and last until 11 June. It will have both separate slots and dedicated training sessions (esp. 8–9 June) and slots linked to the conference (esp. 10–11 June). Its participants are included in the Conference Programme.

# Three submission types

The European Security Studies Conference has three submission types. All proposals should be submitted on Indico.

### 1. Proposals for entire panels

"Open" panels: a panel title, a chair and four speakers.

### 2. Paper proposals

To participate in the pre-established "closed" panels.

### 3. Proposals for poster presentations

For PhD and Master students presenting early work.

# Panel proposals

To submit open panel proposals, participants propose a panel title, a chair, and four speakers. The chair also serves as the discussant. The proposals should include: (1) an abstract of the panel summarising its academic goals and originality (300 words max); (2) the name, affiliation, and email address of all participants; (3) an abstract for each presentation (300 words max).

These "open panels" are meant to broaden the range of existing themes at the conference and to provide greater latitude to the participants to contribute to the definition of the EISS programme. **Therefore, please consult the list of closed panels (below) to avoid duplication. Please send your open panel proposals via Indico.**

### Selection criteria for closed and open panels

Panels will be selected on the basis of five criteria:

1. quality and originality of the panel/paper proposal;
2. inclusiveness;
3. multidisciplinarity and/or interdisciplinarity (history, political science, sociology, international relations, etc.). The panels should focus on specific themes that can be addressed from a variety of disciplines. Each panel should also include scholars from disciplines other than political science;
4. representation of different European countries (esp. ITC countries) and regions (Western, Northern, Eastern, Central, Southern Europe), as per participants' affiliation;
5. gender diversity.

# Paper proposals for closed panels

Closed panels are pre-established by the organising committee and cover the following themes:

1. **Non-Proliferation and Arms Control**
2. **Digital Transformations in the Information Age: Cyber, Digital, and AI**
3. **War Abroad: Military Intervention, Assistance, and Peacekeeping**
4. **War and Strategy: Grand Strategy, Military Strategy, and Security Cooperation**
5. **Autocratisation and Security Governance**
6. **Addressing Non-Traditional Security Challenges: Climate, Development, and Gender Dimensions**
7. **The Future of International Peace & Security Architecture**
8. **Security Beyond the State: Managing Transnational Threats and Vulnerabilities**

**Please submit your paper proposals to the relevant theme via Indico.** The themes will be used to compile panels. Each panel will include four papers. The chair will serve as the discussant. If we receive a lot of interest for a particular theme, we may create two panels for that theme (to be chaired by a back-up chair). Per each theme, we welcome submissions from a plurality of theoretical, epistemological and methodological perspectives.

## Themes and chairs

### 1. Non-Proliferation and Arms Control

CHAIR **Eliza Gheorghe (Bilkent University)**

This panel serves as a platform to present and discuss new research on arms control, disarmament, and the non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). In light of Russia's nuclear threats and uncertainties around Iran's nuclear programme, the panel especially encourages submissions that focus on strategies and institutions to prevent the proliferation and use of nuclear weapons. The panel aims to bring into conversation scholars from different disciplines, such as political science, history, international law, and science and technology studies (STS), and seeks to facilitate a multidisciplinary dialogue on non-proliferation and arms control. Possible topics include, but are not limited to, the elements of the non-proliferation regime; the impact of sanctions on nuclear non-proliferation; international verification and international organisations; and the role of civil society in nuclear disarmament.

### 2. Digital Transformations in the Information Age: Cyber, Digital, and AI

CHAIR **Julia Carver (Leiden University)**

Digital technologies, such as artificial intelligence, cyber capabilities, and digital infrastructures (e.g. data centres, cloud computing infrastructure, undersea cables), have become increasingly entangled with our physical reality, confronting scholars with both novel questions and age-old debates. In our 'information age', the transformative potential of digital technologies introduces complex questions for both policymakers and academics. From the individual to the global scale, the tactical to the strategic levels, and the virtual to the physical realms, this panel explores: what are the global, political, social, legal, and economic dimensions and consequences arising from these developments? Encouraging a diversity of perspectives and approaches, this panel seeks proposals which may originate from different disciplines and can bring to bear a wide set of theoretical and methodological approaches.

## 3. War Abroad: Military Intervention, Assistance, and Peacekeeping

**CHAIR** Chiara Ruffa (Sciences Po)

In an era marked by shifting global alliances, protracted conflicts, and emerging threats, the role of foreign military engagement is more complex than ever. This panel examines the evolving dynamics of military intervention, international assistance, and peacekeeping operations across the globe. Papers can explore the political, ethical, and strategic considerations behind intervention, from crisis response and coalition-building to post-conflict reconstruction and long-term peacekeeping. Papers will bring to bear a variety of theoretical approaches and methodological tools to address how states and relevant actors project power, offer support, and strive to maintain peace in volatile regions.

## 4. War and Strategy: Grand Strategy, Military Strategy, and Security Cooperation

**CHAIR** Chiara Libiseller (King's College London)

This panel explores the evolving intersections between grand strategy, military strategy, and international cooperation in times of war, competition, and geopolitical tensions. It investigates how states conceptualise and implement strategy across different levels of conflict (from high-level national objectives to operational military planning) and how these strategic frameworks interact with, or resist, efforts at international collaboration. Topics include the theoretical foundations of grand strategy, case studies of strategic decision-making in historical and contemporary conflicts, and the role of alliances, coalitions, and institutions in shaping wartime outcomes. By rethinking how war is theorised and practised, this panel aims to deepen our understanding of strategic behaviour and the potential for cooperative security in a divided world.

## 5. Autocratisation and Security Governance

**CHAIR** Sonja Stojanović Gajić (University of Rijeka)

This panel examines how security governance is reshaped during autocratisation and how it can be reclaimed during re-democratisation. Beyond institutional capture and misuse, we welcome studies of everyday security practices that narrow the space for political and economic competition. We also invite contributions analysing how, amid intensifying geopolitical competition, security logics spill over into other policy fields. Of particular interest is how security discourses feed affective polarisation, leading citizens to endorse restrictions on their own rights or on those of groups cast as threats, and at what point such consent turns from legitimate trade-off into an enabler of autocratisation. Empirical studies may address a variety of cases, including backsliding democracies, hybrid regimes and closed autocracies in Europe, as well as recent instances of re-democratisation. We particularly encourage conceptual work and research that connects literatures that rarely speak to each other: civil-military relations, policing and intelligence studies, comparative democratisation, and International Relations.

## 6. Addressing Non-Traditional Security Challenges: Climate, Development, and Gender Dimensions

**CHAIR** Nico Blarel (Leiden University)

Security today extends far beyond the battlefield. This panel delves into the increasingly urgent and complex realm of non-traditional security challenges, focusing on the intersections of climate change, sustainable development, and gender dynamics. These issues are reshaping global security priorities, particularly in vulnerable and conflict-affected regions. However, they are also conditioning the policy agendas of powerful economic and global actors. Open to a variety of theoretical and methodological approaches, this panel will explore how these cross-cutting challenges impact stability, peacebuilding, and resilience. Key topics include the security risks of climate-driven displacement, the role of development in preventing conflict, and how integrating gender perspectives changes security policy and scholarly approaches to security.

### 7. The Future of International Peace & Security Architecture

**CHAIR** **Nemanja Džuverović (University of Belgrade)**

The UN Charter assigns primary responsibility for international peace and security to the Security Council. That assignment is now far from where capability is concentrated and where violence occurs. Regional organisations (EU, AU, ASEAN, OSCE, CIS, SCO, etc.), ad hoc coalitions (BRICS, MIKTA, etc.), private military companies, and technology firms perform functions the Charter did not foresee more than 80 years ago. States adopted the Pact for the Future in September 2024, but have left the Council's composition and voting rules untouched. This panel discusses what peace and security governance has become in the 2020s, as formal reform remains frozen. Contributors will examine four dimensions, notably 1) the delegation of enforcement to regional and private actors, 2) the future of the UN-led peacebuilding missions, 3) the erosion of arms control instruments negotiated in the 1970s and 1980s, and 4) the normative claims advanced by states outside the P5. We invite papers that combine empirical work with theoretical argument, including single-country studies, comparative designs, and work on institutions and norms.

### 8. Security Beyond the State: Managing Transnational Threats and Vulnerabilities

**CHAIR** **John Helferich (University of Oxford)**

Contemporary security challenges increasingly transcend national borders and traditional state-centred approaches to security governance. From geopolitical instability and technological disruption to economic interdependence and transnational threats, states, international organisations, private actors, and civil society face an increasingly complex landscape of risks and vulnerabilities. This panel examines how diverse actors and institutions respond to these challenges, focusing on the evolving dynamics of cooperation, competition, and governance across national, regional, and global levels. Drawing on a range of theoretical and methodological approaches, it seeks to advance our understanding of how transnational threats are identified, managed, and addressed in a changing global security environment.

# Poster presentations

Poster presentations are geared towards PhD and Master students, who want to either present early work or pitch preliminary paper or thesis ideas. Posters combine a visual summary of the research objectives, and, if available, findings of a paper/study. Poster presenters will have the opportunity for individualised and informal discussion of their work during the conference. Poster presenters will be able to present their poster to the EISS community during a poster session via physical display (traditional poster presentations) and/or digital platforms (e-posters or pre-recorded video presentations such as, for instance, narrated PowerPoint presentations) disseminated via QR codes.

#### Submission requirements

Submissions for poster sessions should include an abstract of up to 200 words. The abstract should include a brief discussion of the research idea and objectives, the expected significance of the work for policy and practice, and a brief and preliminary discussion of theories, methods and empirics which would be used in this research project. Please submit the Poster Presentation Proposal via Indico.

# Centre stage at the 2027 European Security Studies Conference

## The NetSec Training School

The COST Action *NetSec* is excited to announce a call for proposals for the NetSec Training School. The school is designed to support and mentor the next generation of researchers in security studies. It is an excellent opportunity for early career scholars, including PhD students and recent graduates with a PhD proposal, to present their research and gain feedback from esteemed professionals in the field as well as receive training on a number of skills key to the research profession (publishing, research methods etc).

The school will take place from 8 to 11 June 2027 at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Political Science. The core programme (8–9 June) will feature research presentations from participants, feedback from senior scholars, and a wide range of mentorship activities. Travel and hotel costs will be reimbursed for up to 15 PhD students. Additionally, all participants will take part in the Annual Conference (10–11 June) by presenting papers or posters and taking part in mentoring activities.

**How to apply:** send a motivation letter, CV (2 pages maximum), and 500-word abstract of the participant's research proposal to ecs.netsec@eiss-europa.com. Deadline: 7 December 2026.

## The European Security Studies Best Paper Prize in cooperation with the *Journal of Strategic Studies*

The EISS jointly with the *Journal of Strategic Studies* (JSS) will also be awarding the European Security Studies Best Paper Prize to the best conference paper written and presented at the European Security Studies Conference by a PhD student or early career scholar (i.e., three years from the award of their PhD). The recipient of the prize will receive a cheque of €1,000 and will be mentored in their submission process to the *Journal of Strategic Studies* by a senior scholar.[1] The *Journal of Strategic Studies* is one of the flagship academic journals covering military and diplomatic strategic studies.

All participants who fall in those categories (PhD students or early career scholars) and whose paper is selected for the conference (either through 'open' panels or 'closed' panels) will be considered for the prize. In line with the conference goals, this is a multidisciplinary prize that will consider papers from a variety of disciplines (Political Science, History, Sociology, Economics, etc.). This prize will be awarded to papers providing a substantial theoretical, empirical and/or historiographical contribution to the field of Security Studies. At each annual conference, the panel chairs will select what they consider the best paper(s) presented in their panel, and the EISS Governing Board and JSS will then evaluate and select the best among the selected papers.

[1]Any articles that do not pass the journal's peer review and do not receive an 'accept' decision from the Editor will not be published in the Journal.