

Workshop 28:
Institutionalising European Cooperation in the Area of Internal Security

Workshop Directors:

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1. Workshop Summary

In response to an increasing number of perceived threats to European security, there is a growing emphasis on transnational cooperation among national and supranational actors in Europe. Threats such as avian influenza, natural disasters, terrorism, failed states, and organized crime are seen as transnational in reach and cross-sectoral in scope, revealing the limitations of unilateral state action in a complex security environment. This explains why governments are reaching out across national borders to improve coordination in such matters.

In Europe, much of this cooperation is taking place within the institutional framework of the European Union (EU), a trend which underlines two new realities: first, that the EU's security identity is changing rapidly if we account for the full range of threats that it currently aims to address; and second, that European integration is moving forward even after enlargement and the difficulties witnessed in the context of treaty reform. Cooperation may be taking place at the low politics and technical levels, but it is taking place nonetheless. It may even represent the 'new face' of European integration.

Scholars have yet to take systematic account of institutionalisation processes and emerging cooperation patterns in Europe's transnational internal security environment. Such processes and patterns take many and varied forms, some familiar to scholars of European integration, others novel and innovative in nature. The objective of this workshop is to bring together junior as well as established scholars interested in studying the institutionalisation of cooperation on a wide range of internal security matters in the EU. As further detailed below, we welcome papers focused on the conceptual, empirical, and institutional challenges such cooperation presents.

2. Relation to Existing Research

Students of internal security cooperation in Europe use many conceptual perspectives and focus empirically on a variety of topics. We welcome such diversity. However, to focus discussion and produce a meaningful workshop outcome (such as an edited book), we encourage paper proposals positioned within the following research areas:

European Integration. Scholars in this area include those with a background in analyzing multilateral cooperation in Europe, the alternative drivers behind it, and the EU institutions in which it takes place. An increasing number of such scholars have turned their attention to internal security cooperation, not only in the area of police and judicial cooperation but also in terms of cooperation aimed at addressing health threats, natural disasters, cyber attacks, energy supply failures, and catastrophic accidents, amongst others. Drivers of cooperation in this area, as in other areas of European integration, can be analyzed in terms of member states interests (including perceptions of threat), institutional dynamics (including supranational entrepreneurship), and prevailing ideas (such as “homeland” or “societal” security, which may lead to “securitization”). Scholars coming from the European integration angle often emphasise the EU’s well-established politics and policymaking dynamics, which tend to have a heavy and formative impact on outcomes. Institutions and the process of institutionalization (meaning the incremental as well as punctuated build-up of norms, rules, and behaviour patterns) are key objects of study, as they will be in this ECPR workshop. As the EU expands into new areas of cooperation, however, scholars are expanding their conceptual perspectives by looking at cooperation dynamics more generally, including the provision of public security goods and the obstacles to such efforts in Europe.

Security Studies. As the field of security studies “broadens” and “deepens”, a number of new threats are coming into view along with new cooperation patterns intended to manage them. Looking beyond purely military issues, scholars have broadened horizontally the number of issues that might endanger an even wider number of “referent objects”. Moving away from a preoccupation with the state, scholars have also tried to deepen vertically the focus of analysis to include sub-state actors, private actors, and supra-state actors (Krause and Williams 1996). Encompassing these trends is a conceptual question: whether to reassert traditional frameworks of analysis or develop new analytical modes and perspectives. One such “new” perspective represents the increasing relevance to the security field of a long-established research agenda focused on “failed” security – how to prepare society to manage crises. Although crisis management scholars place attention on preventing threats from materializing, they emphasize that some disasters are inevitable and require organization and capacity building directed towards managing disasters. Moreover, these scholars are less interested in the type of threat (instead taking an “all hazards” approach) than the effect that potential and real disasters have on governments and societies. The scope for cross-fertilization between security and crisis management has been revealed by the onset of global threats like terrorism, pandemics or climate change – three issues that receive considerable attention in both disciplines at the moment.

The discussion above outlines the conceptual orientation of the workshop, and should signal our intention to move beyond pre-defined sub-discipline categories (such as “justice and home affairs” or “civil protection”) to explore the institutionalization of cooperation in a broad range of areas related to ensuring the safety and security of the European population (see Boin, Ekengren and Rhinard 2007). We hope that scholars working in this area can be mobilized, through this workshop, to develop this emerging field further and to answer some critical questions:

- What kind of institutional mechanisms and capacities are being put in place in order to deal with today’s internal security concerns?
- How can the nature of new forms of cooperation in today’s European security environment be explained?
- In which areas and under what conditions can governance arrangements for security cooperation be found, and how effective, efficient and accountable are such solutions?

3. Types of Papers

Based on the points made above, it follows that a variety of different papers are welcome and needed for such a workshop. In particular, we will be looking for the following types of papers:

- First, papers that seek to break new conceptual and theoretical ground in the context of the theme of the workshop or with respect to the (changing) nature of security in Europe (e.g. evaluations of the applicability of existing approaches to this particular area, or the development of new approaches and perspectives);
- Second, empirical papers on the specific dynamics of institution-building and multilateral cooperation in the area of internal security in Europe (e.g. on the evolution of specific agencies, institutions or networks in this field);
- Third, empirical papers on the different kinds of security issues and challenges facing Europe (e.g. papers on the nature of specific threats or new arenas for security cooperation).

4. Biographical Notes

Thomas Christiansen is Senior Lecturer at the European Institute for Public Administration in Maastricht. He is also Visiting Professor at the College of Europe in Bruges as well as Executive Editor of the *Journal of European Integration*. He has published widely on various aspects of the institutional politics of the European Union. Among his publications are five edited volumes,

including 'Informal Governance of the European Union' (Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2004), edited with Simona Piattoni, and 'The Social Construction of Europe' (London: Sage, 2001), edited with Knud Erik Joergensen and Antje Wiener. 'Constitutionalising the European Union', co-authored with Christine Reh, is forthcoming at Palgrave Macmillan.

Mark Rhinard is Senior Researcher at the Swedish Institute of International Affairs, where he co-directs a research program on the European Union's emerging role in new security issues. In 2006-2007 he was a visiting research fellow at the European Policy Centre in Brussels where he oversaw a study project on the EU's role in 'societal security'. Previously, having earned his PhD degree in Political Science at Cambridge University, he was a postdoctoral fellow at Leiden University, The Netherlands. Among his publications are a number of refereed articles in such journals as *Governance*, *Journal of Common Market Studies*, *Journal of European Public Policy*, and *Swiss Political Science Review*. He has contributed many book chapters to edited volumes and is currently working on a book manuscript on the policy framing strategies of the European Commission.

References:

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Krause, Keith and Williams, Michael C. (1996) "Broadening the Agenda of Security Studies: Politics and Methods" in *Mershon International Studies Review*, 40: 229-254.