

Postgraduate Learning Workshop:

“Challenges of Security Cooperation in EUrope”

22-23 October 2012

The Department of International Politics, Aberystwyth University

CALL FOR PAPERS

This workshop, co-convened by doctoral students at Aberystwyth University and the LSE, engages the question of what cooperation in security affairs means for Europe in the 21st century. An increasingly unstable neighbourhood, a range of asymmetric security threats, the challenge of emerging powers and a looming age of austerity have led academics and practitioners to rethink the strategies employed to provide security. With media arguing for a NATO disengagement from Europe, Europeans increasingly look towards the EU to step in and fill the void. EU security cooperation has supposedly taken a grand institutional leap with the Lisbon Treaty, meant to strengthen coherence, effectiveness and delivery of EU foreign policy, projecting the vision of one security community. At the same time, outputs of security cooperation often display a conflicting and ambiguous picture of the EU's international security capacities, as illustrated by the recent interventions in Iraq and Libya. This picture is further complicated by the persistence of EU member-states' national foreign policies and the cross-cutting links with third countries.

There exists now a complex web of patterned interactions within and beyond Europe, of which the precise nature and place within a multipolar international system we are only beginning to understand. What drives security cooperation in Europe? Do the familiar narratives of risk- and burden- sharing channel European efforts towards more EU integration, or do we rather see member states opting for more flexible and customised forms of cooperation? These questions, in light of a renewed imperative of cooperation, spark debates concerning the inner security workings of the EU as well as its international security profile.

The workshop will consist of lectures by experts in the field, panel discussions, and roundtable discussions, providing a forum for the exchange of feedback and ideas and an opportunity to network in a friendly environment.

Papers are welcome from a multitude of disciplines, including security studies, IR theory, EU studies, political geography to name a few. **We request abstracts of 250 words for a 12-15 minute presentation, before the deadline of the 17th of September 2012.** Please send your submission to, or ask more information from, Ira Bliatka (irb2@aber.ac.uk), Bleddyn Bowen (blb7@aber.ac.uk), or Moritz Reinsch (m.reinsch@lse.ac.uk).

There is a Facebook group which you can join for updates posted (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/252995211486206/>).

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