

Leiden University Europe Hub

World-leading Research in Action



Universiteit
Leiden

Discover the world at Leiden University

Discover our scholars



Leiden University's 'Europe Hub' is an interdisciplinary platform that showcases the university's research and teaching expertise and capacities on the challenges that Europe faces, both at home and abroad.

The Europe Hub draws upon scholars from various faculties - in particular the Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs, Faculty of Humanities, Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, and the Leiden Law School.

The Europe Hub network currently spans over 60 researchers across 4 faculties at Leiden University. We especially foster thematic interfaculty research collaborations on a wide variety of societal challenges facing Europe. Many academics advise policymakers and practitioners and connect their academic work closely to the policy world.

Our research is organised around four core thematic areas:

- **Europe in the World**
- **European Markets, Trade and Digitization**
- **European Energy, Environment and Health**
- **The Foundations of European Integration**

Europe in the World

The place of European states and institutions in world politics is the core focus of this pillar. Research on this theme concerns European actors' ability to promote peace, security and justice in their neighbourhood and to shape the future of global governance by translating its economic size into the resources and decision-making capacity necessary to be an effective player in an increasingly multipolar world.

Ties Dams

Dams, T (2024): "In kind, or else? Exploring European tactics for the global battle of narratives against the background of China's narrative power". Research Paper.

How should the EU institutions and Member States engage with the various elements of PRC global narrative strategy? Can and should European partners answer China's narrative strategy in kind? Discussions of China's narrative power often focus on diagnosing the problem. This paper focuses on exploring potential next steps in answering the challenge.

Dr Maxine David

David, M. and L.D. (2024): "Russia's War on Ukraine: Unbottled Emotions and the Conditioning of the EU's Russia Policy". *Journal of European Integration* 46(5): 661–84.

This open access publication explores EU member state emotions conditioning the EU's response to Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine. We identify different intensity of feelings towards Russia, depending on past and present exposure to Russia's aggression. Managing these competing emotions offers a complex challenge for the EU when deciding on potential constitutional and institutional transformation.

Dr Seda Gürkan

Gürkan, S. (2024): "Constructing an 'emotional community' in times of crisis: the EU's response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022". *Journal of European Integration* 46(5): 635–59.

The article explores what the EU "felt" in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 and how these emotions shaped its response to the crisis.



Dr Joris Larik

Larik, J.E. (2023): "Imitation as flattery: The UK's Trade Continuity Agreements and the EU's normative foreign policy". *European Journal of International Law* 34(4): 801–30.

This article analyses the United Kingdom's (UK) 'trade continuity programme'. The promise that, once outside the European Union (EU), the UK would strike new, lucrative trade deals continues to be an important part of the Brexiteers' narrative. What the UK was compelled to do first, however, was to conclude 'roll-over' agreements to replace the trade agreements already made by the EU. This article posits that, contrary to expectations, the UK's continuity programme should be regarded as a success – for both the UK and the EU.

Dr Anne-Isabelle Richard

Richard, A.I. (2023): 'A Global Perspective on European Cooperation and Integration since 1918', in: M. Segers, M. & Hecke, S. van (eds.): *Cambridge History of European Union*. Volume 2: European Integration Inside-Out. Cambridge University Press: 459–80.

This publication explains why we need to understand European cooperation from a global perspective and taking a longer view. Just as with the current changes to Europe's global position, changes to the global order after World War I spurred European cooperation projects in the interwar period.

Dr Dimiter Toshkov

Toshkov, D., *et al.* (2024): "Enforcement and public opinion: the perceived legitimacy of rule of law sanctions". *Journal of European Public Policy* 32(2): 550–77.

This publication studies the perceived legitimacy of EU enforcement actions. The results show that exclusive national identity, the perceived importance of the rule of law, support for European integration and party support are strongly associated with perceived legitimacy. EU sanctions might not lead to further backlash among the domestic public, but they are unlikely to generate public pressure for reforms.

Sophie Veriter

Vériter, S.L. (2024): "Small State Influence in European Security Governance: Latvia and Counter-Disinformation in the EU". *Journal of Common Market Studies* 62(6): 1538–559.

Based on 30 interviews with policymakers, this open access publication uncovers the genesis of counter-disinformation policies in the EU and reveals the impressive influence of Latvia in this process.

Professor Sarah Wolff

Wolff, S. (2024): "The New Pact on Migration: Embedded Illiberalism?". *Journal of Common Market Studies* 62(S1): 113–23.

This open access publication reviews the adoption of the New Pact on Migration in a context of rising anti-immigration parties and programs in EU Member states and questions whether the EU has given up on its liberal commitments towards refugees.

European Markets, Trade and Digitization

Research on this theme concerns Europe's position in global markets, its response to the emergence of new international trade and financial actors that challenge institutions where Europe has long had considerable influence.

Dr Geert-Jan Boon

Boon, G-J. (forthcoming): *Debtors in Possession: A Legal Comparative Study of the Role of Debtors in US, EU and Dutch Restructuring and Insolvency Law*. Leiden University Dissertation.

This book studies the role of financially distressed debtors in the governance of current-day restructuring and insolvency processes. I examine what the role of debtors can and should be when they are not fully divested but instead remain fully or partially in control of their assets and day-to-day activities during the course of a restructuring and insolvency process.

Dr Simona Demkova

De Gregorio G. & Demkova S. (2024): "The Constitutional Right to an Effective Remedy in the Digital Age: A Perspective from Europe", in: Oirsouw, C., et al. (eds.), *European Yearbook of Constitutional Law 2023: Constitutional Law in the Digital Era*. T.M.C. Asser Press: 223-254.

The article examines the challenges for the right to an effective remedy raised by the proliferation of intertwined remedies in three key pieces of European digital regulation—the GDPR, the DSA and the AI Act. We assess the three key avenues for remedies, namely internal complaints, independent supervision and judicial remedies, and underline the need for further clarity in the interplay between the remedial designs with a focus on institutional collaboration.

Dr Sebastian Diessner

Diessner, S. and Genschel, P. (2025): "Monetary-Fiscal Interactions and the Problem of Outdated Commitments: Eurozone Crisis Versus Covid-19". *Politics and Governance* 13.

This article compares monetary and fiscal policy responses – as well as their interactions – during the Eurozone and COVID-19 crises, arguing that although the crises had different causes and consequences, they can be understood through the same logic of 'de-commitment' and 're-commitment'.

Dr Dennie Oude Nijhuis

Oude Nijhuis, D.M. (2024): "Implementing the EU Directive on Adequate Minimum Wages in the Low Countries: the Case of the Netherlands". *Transfer* 29(4): 524-31.

The Directive on Adequate Minimum Wages (Directive 2022/2041) has been hailed as a major victory for European Labour and an important step forward in the Development of the EU's social dimensions. This article explains how it can be used as an instrument to strengthen collective bargaining and protect workers against union-repressing tactics in the Netherlands.

Dr Brian Shaev

Shaev, B. (2024): "Competition and industrial policy in the European Union", in: Schieder, A., Andor, L.M.M. & Skrzypek, A. (eds.): *Next Left*. FEPS & Karl Renner Institute: 166-83.

This publication argues that the comeback of industrial policy makes it essential to ensure greater conditionality and accountability for private businesses that receive exemptions from competition policy. At stake is the protection of workers, consumers, and enterprises from monopolies and oligopolies, and the protection of democracy itself from concentrated private economic power.

Professor Stefaan Van den Bogaert

Van den Bogaert, S. and Van Rompuy, B. (forthcoming 2025): 'The New Testament for Sports and EU competition law in European Super League, ISU & Royal Antwerp'. *Common Market Law Review* 62 (2).

This article analyses the impact of the three recent important judgments of the European Court of Justice on sports governance, dispute resolution and on EU competition law in general.



European Energy, Environment and Health

Research on this theme addresses the systemic risks faced by European societies and affecting the quality of life of European citizens. It primarily concerns the urgent necessity for Europe to mitigate the severity and prepare for the consequences of climate change while reducing its dependence on foreign energy supplies, especially those that involve fossil fuels, are unreliable in geopolitical terms or impact the environment elsewhere in the world.

Dr Vincent Delhomme

Cuyvers A., Delhomme V. et al. (2024): "Towards a Climate and Energy Union - The constitutional basis for a sustainable transformation". Study for the AFCO Committee.

This study considers the legal space for an EU Climate and Energy Union. It assesses the major limits at the EU and national level, as well as the question if (informal) Treaty change is possible and necessary to create the space needed. It also assesses if an individual right to clean energy exists or can and should be legally construed. It pays special attention to the challenge of funding and the role that the emerging principle of solidarity might play.

Dr Christina Toenshoff

Mares, I., Scheve, K. and Toenshoff, C. (2025): "Compensation, Beliefs in State Intervention, and Support for the Energy Transition". Accepted at *Comparative Political Studies*.

Using three survey experiments, we test what types of compensation raise public support for energy transition policies. We find that individuals prefer progressive compensation targeting workers and low-income households and that the positive effect of such compensation is dependent on individuals' general belief in the effectiveness of state intervention.

Dr Lydie Cabane

Cabane L. and Lodge M. (2023): "Un-solvable Crises? Differential Implementation and Transboundary Crisis Management in the EU". *West European Politics* 47(3): 491-514.

This article analyses how the development of transboundary crisis management EU regimes in Four domains (banking, electricity, invasive alien species and youth unemployment) leads to inexorable democratic tensions that create challenge for solving crises.

Professor Vanessa Mak

Mak, V. (2024): "Redefining equality in European contract law: protecting consumer interests in a post-consumer society". *European Law Open*.

This open access publication addresses the question whether contract law can sufficiently address new inequalities between consumers and businesses in digital markets, such as the lack of remuneration for content creators on social media platforms and the protection of consumers against unjust restrictions to the freedom of speech embedded in the terms & conditions of platforms.

The Foundations of European Integration

Research on this theme concerns the legitimacy and effectiveness of Europe's institutional order in the face of public alienation and normative contestation. It is anchored in the consideration of long-term processes, including the history of European integration.

Professor Armin Cuyvers

Cuyver A. et al. (2022): "The boundaries of the Commission's discretionary powers when handling petitions and potential infringements of EU law". Study for the PETI committee of the European Parliament.

This study analyses the legal limits on the discretion of the Commission when deciding to launch, or not to launch, an infringement action, especially in response to a petition. In addition, it assesses how the Commission uses this discretion in practice, and formulates recommendations on improved political collaboration between the European Parliament and the Commission, in the interest of EU citizens.

Dr Andreas Hofmann

Hofmann, A. (2024): "Who Does and Who Does Not Engage in Strategic Litigation in European Law?". *German Law Journal* 25(6): 856-72.

This open access publication explores under which circumstances interest groups in Europe turn to the courts in order to achieve political objectives, and in particular when they do so based on a European source of law.

Professor Madeleine Hosli

Hosli, M. et al. (2022): "Turnout in European Parliament Elections 1979–2019". *European Politics and Society* 25(1): 1–23.

In this article, we analyse structural and non-structural factors explaining turnout in European Parliament elections since 1979. Our research shows that actual voter turnout often exceeds the widely reported average turnout rates for the European Union.

Dr. Daniel Schade

Roos, M., Schade, D. (eds.) (2023): *The EU under Strain? Current Crises Shaping European Union Politics*. De Gruyter.

This edited volume develops a framework for studying the EU, its institutions and policies under crisis conditions. It argues that crisis governance has now become a regular feature of EU policy-making and outlines this through various thematic chapters focusing on interlinked internal and external challenges facing the EU.

Dr Tom Theuns

Oleart, A. and Theuns, T. (2024): "Is the European Union a Militant Democracy? Democratic backsliding and EU integration". *Global Constitutionalism* 13(1): 104-25.

There has been much recent debate over whether the European Union is or should be a 'militant democratic' actor in order to respond to democratic backsliding in EU member states. This article argues that the EU is a militant democracy in a specific and limited sense, but that this may be normatively undesirable from a democratic perspective.

Professor Rick Lawson

Lawson, R. (2024). "Atlas Shrugged: An Analysis of the ECtHR Case Law Involving Issues of EU Law Since Opinion 2/13" *European Papers* 9(2): 647-71.

This article explores the two following questions. How did the European Court of Human Rights respond to Opinion 2/13? Or, more precisely, how did its "post-2/13" jurisprudence evolve in cases that raised issues of EU law?

Professor Arco Timmermans

Timmermans, A. (ed.) (2024): *Research Handbook on Public Affairs. Connecting Evidence and Strategy*. Edward Elgar.

This research handbook presents the state of the art of research on public affairs from an international perspective and addresses the ways in which this knowledge can be utilized in strategy development.

Dr Nikoleta Yordanova

Yordanova, N, Ershova, A, Khokhlova, A, Obiad, S, Glavaš, G (forthcoming 2025): "When the EU Council Responds to Public Opinion: Negotiating European Policy Integration". *European Union Politics*.

Using machine learning to estimate the Council's positions on the expansion of the EU policy authority in legislative acts during the post-Lisbon period (2009-2019) and the Eurobarometer to measure public support for EU action in 21 policies across member states, this article shows how enhanced transparency and EU politicisation have strengthened the linkage between the common positions of the Council of the EU and public opinion.

Europe Hub Events

Leiden University hosts a wide range of seminars and workshops on themes related to European approaches to societal challenges:

- The EU Governance Seminar
- Diplomacy and Global Affairs Research Seminar Series
- Lunch seminars of the Global Transformations and Governance Challenges programme
- The EU Seminar

The Europe Hub also organises several large events every year, in cooperation with EU institutions and partner universities in Europe :

- February 19 2025 : 'Bridging research and policy for a changing Europe', European Parliament
- November 13 2024: Stockholm Explorative Talks, European Commission in the Netherlands
- 30 November 2023: conference of Federica Mogherini, Rector of College of Europe





Universiteit
Leiden

Bij ons leer je de wereld kennen