

# CALL FOR PAPERS

3<sup>rd</sup> EISS Conference, 27-28 June, Science Po, Paris

## PANEL: MITIGATING UNCERTAINTY - SECURITY COMPLEXITY AND MILITARY REFORM IN EUROPE POST-BERLIN PLUS

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*Delphine Deschaux-Dutard (Assist. Prof. University of Grenoble)*

Studying the evolution of security cooperation and military reform in Europe in the post-Berlin Plus context, this Panel provides insights into sources of uncertainty in European security and how to mitigate them. Maintaining system stability (resilience) and efficiency (the system's ability to maintain its power) are two major objectives of international regimes (Hasenclever et al. 1997). The more resilient a regime is, the more uncertainty and turbulence it can handle. To mitigate uncertainty and change and maintain sustainability, regimes can employ threshold equilibrium strategies in order to 'predict' or 'control' (Eriksson and Giacomello 2007) developments in the international security order. But nonlinear behaviour and complexity make prediction in international security a major source of instability and uncertainty in the European security domain. Prediction is epistemologically rooted in the study of the past, on the basis of which emerging patterns and regularities are studied. By studying the evolution of security and military reform in Europe post Berlin Plus, this Panel will have a contribution in identifying key notions which can facilitate our understanding about factors affecting system stability and system efficiency in the European security context. This Panel is guided by two axes of inquiry:

- 1. Collective security institutions as Complex Adaptive Systems (CAS)** (Axelrod and Cohen 1999; Thompson 2001; Axelrod 1997; Cederman 1997) infrastructures. This axis of research examines processes of adaptation and reforms of national armies of European states and EU institutions. In the context of new security threats and uncertainties, how have notions of civilian control, democratic oversight and accountability changed to accommodate new functions? Topics of abstracts might include, but are not limited to:
  - The challenges of transcending the *contrat social* (Hobbes 1651) and providing new forms of security in Europe: reforms of national defence, the EU as a security actor, 'supranational intergovernmentalism' (Dijkstra 2012; Howorth 2012).
  - The role of civil-military relations in providing modern deterrence and 'information security' (Dornheim 1998) in Europe: building resilience of critical infrastructure. How can artificial intelligence and new technology mitigate uncertainty and increase system efficiency and system stability?
- 2. Causes and consequences of institutional change and transformation of European security and defence institutions post Berlin Plus**

- Endogenous and exogenous sources of change of European militaries and security institutions and the interplay between them.
- The role of informality and 'policy entrepreneurs' (Kingdon 1995; Birkland 1997) in European agenda setting.
- Patterns of change of European defence forces and security institutions: developmental, transitional or transformational?
- The limits of complexity theories in making predictions. Agency as intervening factor and the effect of norms: individual, institutional, interactional level.

Papers can address cross-cutting topics from the items suggested above. All paradigms, methodological approaches and schools of thought will be considered in equal measure.

Details on the 3<sup>rd</sup> EISS Conference (27-28 June, Science Po, Paris) can be found [here](#).

#### **Submission Procedure**

Please send a 250-word abstract and short bio to Delphine Deschaux-Dutard ([delphine.deschaux-dutard@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr](mailto:delphine.deschaux-dutard@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr)) and Cornelia-Adriana Baciú ([cornelia.baciú2@mail.dcu.ie](mailto:cornelia.baciú2@mail.dcu.ie)) by **Friday, 11 January 2019**.

Papers presented in this Panel will be aimed to be published in a Special Issue of an international academic journal.