

23rd UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE ON THE EUROPEAN UNION

April 3-4, 2025
Claremont, California

HOSTED BY



**The European Union Center of California
at Scripps College**

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SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Thursday, April 3, 2025		
3:00-5:00 PM	Hotel Check-In	DoubleTree Hotel
5:00-5:30 PM	Conference Registration	Hampton Room
5:30-6:00 PM	Welcome and Dinner	Hampton Room
6:00-7:00 PM	Thursday Keynote	Hampton Room
7:30-9:00 PM	CONFERENCE SESSION A Panel 1: <i>EU Enlargement in the Balkans</i> Panel 2: <i>Environmental Policy Uncertain Future</i>	Humanities Building Room 201 Room 204
Friday, April 4, 2025		
6:00-8:00 AM	Breakfast at DoubleTree Hotel	DoubleTree Hotel
8:30-10:00 AM	CONFERENCE SESSION B Panel 3: <i>Migration & Minority Populations</i> Panel 4: <i>Culture, History & Identity</i>	Humanities Building Room 201 Room 204
10:00-10:15 AM	Break	Humanities Museum
10:15-11:45 AM	CONFERENCE SESSION C Panel 5: <i>Economic Sovereignty & Normative Power</i> Panel 6: <i>Social Welfare Policy</i>	Humanities Building Room 201 Room 204
11:45-12:15 PM	Lunch	Hampton Room
12:15-1:15 PM	Friday Keynote	Hampton Room
1:15-1:30 PM	Break	Humanities Museum
1:30-3:00 PM	CONFERENCE SESSION D Panel 7: <i>European & Global Security</i> Panel 8: <i>Colonial Legacies</i>	Humanities Building Room 201 Room 204
3:00-3:15 PM	Break	Humanities Museum
3:15-4:45 PM	CONFERENCE SESSION E Panel 9: <i>European Integration: Challenges & Responses</i>	Humanities Building Room 201
4:45-6:00 PM	Break	Humanities Museum
6:00-7:00 PM	Dinner & Awards Ceremony	Hampton Room
Saturday, April 5, 2025		
6:00-9:30 AM	Breakfast	DoubleTree Hotel
11:00 AM	Hotel Check-Out	DoubleTree Hotel

****Please be advised that the Humanities Museum (2nd floor of the Humanities Building) will serve as a break room throughout the day on Friday, April 4. Refreshments will be provided.****

Thursday Night Keynote EU Common Security Lecture

April 3, 2025, 6:00-7:00pm

WILL EUROPE MEET THIS MOMENT?

Ambassador **Michael Carpenter**

Europe has awoken to a stark new geopolitical reality. The post-Cold War era of European integration, transatlantic cooperation, and benign globalization is gone. For over three years, Russia has waged a brutal war against an EU aspirant country, committing heinous war crimes and crimes against humanity. China lurks in the shadows while it props up the Kremlin, manipulates markets, and exploits economic dependencies. The lynchpin of European security, the United States, suddenly appears willing to walk away from its collective defense commitments and threatens Europe with a trade war. Meanwhile, internal challenges like oligarchic populism, de-industrialization, and over-regulation keep holding Europe back. Can European leaders muster the political will to address today's internal and geopolitical challenges? And what will it take for them to do so?



About the Speaker:

Ambassador Michael Carpenter served in the Biden administration as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Europe at the National Security Council. From 2021-24, he was the U.S. Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the world's largest regional security organization representing over a billion people across 57 countries. For that role, he was confirmed by the United States Senate by unanimous consent. Previously Ambassador Carpenter was Senior Director and then Managing Director of the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement at the University of Pennsylvania. In the Obama administration, he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Russia, Ukraine, Eurasia, and Conventional Arms Control. He also worked as a Special Advisor to the Vice President and as Director for Russia at the National Security Council. Before that Carpenter was a career Foreign Service Officer with the State Department. He served overseas in the U.S. Embassies in Poland, Slovenia, and Barbados as well as in Washington. Carpenter received four Superior Honor Awards and three Meritorious Honor Awards from the State Department. He has also received fellowships from the Fulbright Foundation, the International Research & Exchanges Board, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Ambassador Carpenter holds a B.A. in International Relations from Stanford University a M.A. and Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California at Berkeley.



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Friday Noon Keynote
April 4, 2025, 12:15-1:15pm

NEVER WASTE A CRISIS: HOW THE EU USES ITS DIGITAL POLICIES TO BECOME MORE INNOVATIVE, COMPETITIVE AND SAFE

Joanna Smolinska, EU Office in San Francisco

The European Union was born out of a crisis. After WWII, six countries agreed to pull together coal and steel procurement to make war between them "not merely unthinkable, but materially impossible". 70 years later, the European Union pulled together procurement of vaccines to address the pandemic, and introduced the digital Covid certificate that revolutionised travelling across the EU 27 member states. The EU Single Market rules removed obstacles to the circulation of people, goods, services and capital, allowing businesses to operate more efficiently across national borders. This not only increased consumer choice and lowered prices, but also improved consumer protection, ensuring safer and higher-quality goods for all European citizens. With the unprecedented speed of technology developments in the last two decades, business and communications between people have shifted online, sparking tremendous opportunity growth while also increasing risks. To help harness opportunities and foster innovation while protecting the fundamental rights of people, the EU devised a digital policy strategy with one consistent set of rules for 27 countries to allow companies to scale-up easier across the EU. The Digital Services Act and Digital Markets Act aim to create a safer online environment, bring more transparency and accountability, and foster competition in the digital market, opening up opportunities for smaller companies. The recently signed EU AI Act governs artificial intelligence systems, prioritizing ethics and trustworthiness. To boost AI innovation, the EU is investing in supercomputers and established AI factories, providing researchers and companies access to compute power and data.

And somehow, when you ask people about the EU, the narrative that Europe is held back by its "over-regulation" still prevails. Will the EU digital policies be enough to help its companies thrive? How can it leverage its strengths to create a unique value proposition in the global tech landscape?



About the Speaker:

Joanna Smolinska is Counsellor for Digital and Deputy Head of the EU Office in San Francisco. She focuses on AI policy and regulation, online content moderation, policies promoting digital markets openness and innovation in the context of transatlantic relations, forging cooperation with California civil society, business, academia and government. Before coming to SF, she had worked for 15 years in the European Commission in Brussels across a wide range of policy areas, including digital and green transformation, digital services and copyright regulations, tech standardization, blockchain, and technology start-ups/scale-ups. She was actively involved in the development of the EU Digital Services Act and Digital Markets Act. Of Polish nationality, Joanna graduated from Warsaw School of Economics, holds a Master's Degree in Finance from the University of Geneva, and a Master's Degree in European Law and Economic Analysis from the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium. Joanna is also a Non-resident Fellow with the Transatlantic Leadership Program and the Digital Innovation Initiative at the Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA) and a Tech Policy Fellow of the 2024-25 cohort at UC Berkeley.

Conference Session A

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2025 • 7:30pm-9:00pm

Panel 1: EU ENLARGEMENT IN THE BALKANS

*Discussant: Mietek Boduszynski, Pomona College
Humanities Building, Room 201*

Advantageous Enlargement: Croatia as the EU's Key to Peaceful Balkans

Jacob Smith, Baylor University

The Finish Line Moves Further Away: Croatia as a Comparative Case Study for the Accession of the Western Balkans

Alex Schmitt, University of Washington

Moldova and Their EU Referendum: The Implications of Moldova's EU Referendum on National Identity and Geopolitical Alliances

Andrew White, Baylor University

Panel 2: ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY | UNCERTAIN FUTURE

*Discussant: Igor Logvinenko, Occidental College
Humanities Building, Room 204*

Wine-ers or Losers: Assessing the Socio-Economic Impact of EU Regulations on Climate-Exacerbated Pests and Diseases in Northern Italian Viticulture

Kyley Fishman, University of San Francisco

How the USA Can Learn From the EU Green Deal & Common Agricultural Policy

Rebekah Sydow, Christopher Newport University

Breakdowns and Break-Ups? Brexit's Implications for Irish Reunification

Daisy Fernandez, University of Washington

Hungary's Future in the European Union

Gabriella D. Lambrecht, Pennsylvania State University

Conference Session B
FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2025 • 8:30am- 10:00am

Panel 3: MIGRATION & MINORITY POPULATIONS

Discussant: Erica Dobbs, Pomona College
Humanities Building, Room 201

Reintegration and Reconstruction? EU Refugee Return Policy as a Tool of Post-Conflict State-Building and Development in the Western Balkans

*Sienna Chien, University of Florida; Lorenzo Songsare Shevy, Bates College;
and Tolga Feran, Case Western University*

Comparative Analysis of Sweden and Denmark's Approach to Public Housing for Refugees in Response to the 2015 European Refugee Crisis

Julia Kearney, Pomona College

Threats and Challenges to Saami Traditional Reindeer Husbandry Practices and Opportunities for Diplomatic Resolutions in the Nordic States

Sasha Shunko, Claremont McKenna College

Scapegoating the Roma: A Populist Tool for Portugal's Far-Right Success

Lourenço Xavier Pitzer College

Panel 4: CULTURE, HISTORY & IDENTITY

Discussant: Hans Rindisbacher, Pomona College
Humanities Building, Room 204

Politics – The Unsung Factor in the Eurovision Song Contest

Sydney Spencer, University of Washington

From Brimmers to Bono: The Persistence of Nationalist Music in Ireland

Alicia Lopez, University of Washington

The History of Nazi Neuroscience: Tracing Evidence Through Voids

Angela Gushue. Claremont McKenna College

Yushchenko's Memory: Exploring the Politics of Remembrance of the Holodomor Under Yushchenko's Presidency

Alexander Assoufid, Pomona College

Conference Session C
FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2025 • 10:15am - 11:45am

Panel 5: ECONOMIC SOVEREIGNTY & NORMATIVE POWER

Discussant: Menna Bizuneh, Pitzer College
Humanities Building, Room 201

A Revived European Digital Industrial Policy? Assessing A Paradigm Shift
Emma Levi, University of California, Berkeley

Of Milk, Might, and Maneuvers: EU Legal Statecraft in an Age of Coercion
Peter Vartanian, Occidental College & California Institute of Technology

**EU's Development Dilemmas:
An Analysis of the EU's Relationship With the Philippines and Correlation
Between the State of Human Rights and FDI From 2014-2023**
Vanesa Simic, DePaul University

Panel 6: SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY

Discussant: Yasemin Irepoglu Carreras, University of California, Riverside
Humanities Building, Room 204

**Urban Welfare Divergence:
An Analysis of the Factors Shaping Social Housing Policy in Berlin and Vienna**
Grace Zheng, Pomona College

**Child Benefit Cash Transfers in Ireland and Canada:
A Comparative Analysis of Welfare Policy**
Ang Lee, Pitzer College

**Social Engineering the Demographic Challenge:
Paternity Leave Policies in Japan and Germany**
Aina Yukawa, Claremont McKenna College

**Young First-Time Homebuyer Policy Divergence:
A Comparison Between Norway and Denmark**
Bianca McNeely, Pomona College

Conference Session D
FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2025 • 1:30pm - 3:00pm

Panel 7: EUROPEAN & GLOBAL SECURITY

Discussant: Jennifer Taw, Claremont McKenna College
Humanities Building, Room 201

**Concurrent Entities in Global Security:
Exploring the Dynamics of NATO-EU Interplay**
Anna Arroyo, University of Wisconsin-Madison

**The Danger Zone:
How Geography Impacts the European Defense Response to Russia**
Timothy Lee, Claremont McKenna College

**Between the Nuclear Brink and a Hard Place:
The Danger of Russia's Reliance on Its Nuclear Shield**
Jonna Sobeloff-Gittes, Pomona College

Panel 8: COLONIAL LEGACIES

Discussant: Adam Zientek, University of California, Davis
Humanities Building, Room 204

**A History Unveiled:
The French Civilizing Mission in Algeria and Contemporary Headscarf Debates**
Fiona Garvey, University of Washington

**Colonization to Partnership:
The UK's Changing Relationship with Its Overseas Territories**
Sadie Clasp, University of Washington

**A Union Divided:
How EU Internal Divisions Undermine Its Role in the Israel-Palestine Conflict**
Emily Reid, University of Florida

**Criminal Frontiers:
The 'Ndrangheta's Adaptation and Expansion Beyond Europe**
Giacomo Marazza, Pomona College

Conference Session E
FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2025 • 3:15pm - 4:45pm

Panel 9: EUROPEAN INTEGRATION: CHALLENGES & RESPONSES

*Discussant: Kenneth Marcus, University of La Verne
Humanities Building, Room 201*

The Invisible Union: How French Policy Fuels Rising Euroscepticism

Robert Martin, University of Arizona

Integration Through Reform: Le Conflit That Shaped the European Union

Ricardo Arellanes, University of California, Davis

Waving the Weaves as We Leave:

Comparing Pre- and Post-Brexit Patterns of EU Myths Coverage in British Media

Nathaniel Koeppel Willcoxson, Lewis-Clark State College

**Applying Duverger's Law of Political Science: An Analysis of Electoral Systems
and Their Impacts on Right-Wing Extremist Influence**

Rachel Pineo, Pennsylvania State University, Erie, The Behrend College