

The EU in the World: Future Research Agendas

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Research challenges

Studying the EU's relations with the world is inherently complex:

- it involves multiple levels of enquiry (international, EU, national, and below) and multiple actors at those levels;
- it involves a moving 'target', in that the EU foreign policy system has changed over time (with new institutions, new policy instruments, enlargement to new member states).

Research challenges

- Understand and explain the evolution of the EU foreign policy system
- Understand and explain the policy-making process, including the output and implementation of policy
- Understand and explain the impact of common policies (on system, on member states, on world)

6 core questions

- 1) Why do the member states agree to act collectively in international relations?
- 2) How are policies made?
- 3) Why have the institutions and decision-making procedures for making EU foreign policies evolved in the way that they have, and what impact do these have on the substance of any common policies agreed?
- 4) What are the limits to EU collective action?

6 core questions

- 5) What impact do the EU foreign policy institutions, decision-making procedures and common policies have on the member states?
- 6) What impact does the EU have on outsiders/international relations?

Themes in current literature

- *(Italics indicate extremely popular themes)*
- **Institutions/policy-making:**
- the origins and potential impact of the 'external relations' provisions in the draft constitutional treaty;
- *the development and implementation of the European Security and Defence Policy;*
- the impact of enlargement on the EU's foreign policy-making system;
- the intersection between the CFSP and the Justice and Home affairs pillar

Themes in current literature

- **Policy-making:**
- *EU policies towards particular third countries/regions/organisations/regimes;*
- *values and norms in the EU's foreign relations*
- **Impact on member states:**
- the Europeanisation of national foreign policy (including new member states)
- **Impact on international relations:**
- the EU and the broader international system, with a related *tendency to categorise the EU's 'identity' as an international actor.*

Suggestions for further research

- Policy-making process (cross-pillar issues, coordination):
- more on JHA/CFSP intersection (why; how developing; impact of disappearance of JHA pillar)
- more on foreign/security policy - development policy nexus (or tensions)

Suggestions for further research

- Policy-making process (why/how policies made?):
 - why have certain policy decisions been made? Examples: launching ESDP missions; enlargement

Suggestions for further research

- Impact of institutions on policy-making
- what is the impact that institutionalisation or 'Brusselisation' or 'legalisation' may be having on policy-making: does it lead to agreement on more or on particular kinds of policies, with more impact?

Suggestions for further research

- Impact of EU on member states (including new member states):
 - detailed empirical investigations (socialisation? how extensive/deep?); (large-scale) comparative studies
 - limits to socialisation?

Suggestions for further research

- Impact on international system: soft balancing; model; power; etc.
- Impact on outsiders: particularly compared to local and other int'l actors
- Doing research on these two themes entails leaving the EU, and involvement of researchers from outside the EU

Suggestions for further research

- Less arguing over categories for the EU ('normative', 'ethical', 'civilian', 'superpower', etc), more detailed research on what EU actually does, what impact it actually has (see above)

Suggestions for further research

- Summing up:
- more empirical research (and with historical depth)
- more involvement of scholars from other disciplines, and from outside the EU
- accumulate findings, build collective knowledge