



From Rules to Power? Europe's Search for Sovereignty in a Fragmenting World

EUSA TWENTIETH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE
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Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg Center

Program chairs:

Alison Johnston (Oregon State University), Craig Parsons (University of Oregon), and Matthias
Matthijs (Johns Hopkins University)

CALL FOR PAPERS AND PANELS

The European Union is entering a new phase. Long understood as a rules-based project grounded in law, markets, and multilateralism, the EU now confronts a world increasingly defined by geopolitical rivalry, economic coercion, and technological competition. Russia's war in Ukraine, intensifying US–China competition, and the weaponization of interdependence have all accelerated a shift in how European policymakers think about integration, sovereignty, and power.

Across a wide range of policy domains—from industrial strategy and trade policy to defense cooperation and enlargement—the EU and its member states are rethinking long-standing assumptions about openness, interdependence, and the limits of integration. Initiatives on economic security, supply chain resilience, defense industrial policy, and strategic autonomy suggest a quickly evolving understanding of the EU not just as a regulatory actor, but as a geopolitical one.

This conference invites scholars to examine how European integration is adapting to these structural changes. What does sovereignty mean in a union of states? Is the EU developing the institutional and political capacity to act strategically in a fragmented international order? How are shifts toward security, resilience, and industrial policy reshaping the balance between

markets and states? And what are the implications for democracy, legitimacy, and the future trajectory of integration?

We welcome contributions from across disciplines—including political science, economics, law, sociology, history, and related fields—that engage with these questions, whether directly or indirectly. As always, EUSA seeks to foster interdisciplinary dialogue on the EU’s past, present, and future.

CONFERENCE CATEGORIES

Proposals are invited in, but not limited to, the following areas:

- Political Behavior: Politicization and Euroscepticism
- Democracy, Rule of Law, and Parties
- Migration, Citizenship, and Identity
- International and Comparative Political Economy (including geoeconomics, industrial policy, and economic security)
- The EU and the World: Foreign, Security, and Defense Policies
- European Integration and International Organization Theory
- EU Institutions, Public Policy & Law
- European and Transnational Interest Groups, Lobbying, and Social Movements

Individual papers are welcome, but full panel proposals will be given priority in the selection process. Proposals for “author-meets-critics” sessions and thematic roundtables will be evaluated on merit. Participants will be notified of the Program Committee’s decisions in December 2026. To submit a proposal, please visit <https://www.eustudies.org/conference> . The deadline for submissions will be October 5, 2026.

