

# EUROPEAN UNION STUDIES ASSOCIATION

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## INTEREST SECTION EUROPEAN UNION – LATIN AMERICA

<https://www.eustudies.org/interest-sections/latin-america-caribbean>

1<sup>st</sup> NEWSLETTER<sup>1</sup>

August 2017

Welcoming words...

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# FOOD FOR THOUGHT...?

## **SCIENCE DIPLOMACY: HIGH ON THE EU-LATIN AMERICA AGENDA<sup>2</sup>**

Europe, and in particular the European Union (EU), has a high level of scientific excellence and higher education, and has therefore mobilized its scientific potential as a primary mean of action within its external policies like no other region has done before (Van Langenhove, 2017). The current EU Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science Carlos Moedas made science diplomacy one of his three strategic priorities and recognized “it is essential that we step up our engagement with the rest of the world by supporting science diplomacy and international cooperation”. From a scientific perspective, Commissioner Moedas (2016) noted “The ERC (European Research Community) brand has almost limitless potential, as it epitomizes the core values of science diplomacy and provides a strong basis for networking Europe among our international partners”. As such, “ERC allows top-class researchers to apply from anywhere in the world and from all fields of science to work on any topic that they deem to be cutting-edge” (Moedas, 2016). This openness and flexibility paired with high funding levels make it a prime partner for scientists wanting to push the frontier of knowledge”. From the diplomatic side, ‘The Global Strategy for the EU Foreign and Security Policy’ put forward in June 2016 by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HRVP) Federica Mogherini, also makes explicit reference to science diplomacy in relation to conflict settlement and enhancing resilience in the EU neighborhood thereby putting science diplomacy more and more prominent on the EU (external) agenda (also see Montesquieu Institute, 2016).

Science diplomacy is particularly a well-established mechanism and objective within EU-Latin America (CELAC) relations and cooperation mechanisms. Up to the highest level, at the biennial summits of presidents and heads of states, both EU and CELAC officials have expressed a strong commitment towards the establishment of sustainable and structural scientific cooperation and a “Common Research and Higher Education Area” based on increased research cooperation, enhanced mobility of researchers, educational staff and exchange of knowledge and best practices (European Commission, 2016a). To this end, the last EU-CELAC summit held in Brussels on 10-11 June 2015 was based on the theme: "Shaping our common future: working for prosperous, cohesive and sustainable societies for our citizens" and laid down the necessary groundwork to deepen political dialogue and cooperation in terms of innovation, education and scientific cooperation (EU-LAC foundation, 2015).

However, after conducting a critical assessment of EU-Latin America interregional cooperation in the domain of science diplomacy, I've argued at both recently held LASA (Lima, May 2017) and EUSA (Miami, May 2017) conferences that the EU's performance in this area is rather limited. By analyzing the EU's declaratory and operational foreign policy approaches in this particular policy area, it became clear that the EU is pushing for science diplomacy towards Latin America at various levels and in numerous projects and initiatives. Some are unique in nature, such as the ‘Academic Summits’, and some are related to the external aspects of internal policy making (i.e. participation in Horizon 2020). In fact, ever since the first EU-Latin America summit was organized in 1999, cooperation in the area of science, higher education and innovation appeared consistently in every declaration and action plan as a core element of the EU-Latin America interregional partnership. With a shared ambition to create the

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<sup>2</sup> A copy of this essay can be downloaded here <https://www.eustudies.org/eusa-forum/eusa-interest-section-essays>

“EU-LAC Knowledge Area”, recently redefined as the “EU-LAC Research Area”, more than 50 countries at both sides of the Atlantic have expressed their wish to pursue deeper academic cooperation by means of an imminently interregional approach. Yet, if the two regions are to achieve this goal, they will have to step up their efforts and redefine some of the most important operational tools utilized to achieve this end. Whereas close to 1/3rd of all EU funding goes to only 3 Latin American countries and no more than 10 large universities/research organizations, the EU risks losing grip with the greater Latin American region. Various efficiency issues were also identified related to the summitry exercise and the chosen approach to go “from the specific to the general”. Indeed, it became clear that the EU is not using all operational instruments it has at its disposal to further its science diplomacy agenda in Latin America: it has not developed a network of science counsellors or officers in Latin America and cooperation and investment in shared research infrastructure has only taken place sporadically. In addition, whereas four Latin American states have also signed bilateral cooperation agreements with the EU, incentives for the EU to continue working through the more cumbersome large-scale ‘continental’ or interregional programmes seem to diminish day by day. If other Latin American countries would thus like to either continue, or improve cooperation with the EU in the domain of science, higher education and innovation, it appears the CELAC framework would work best in placing Latin America in a better position to interact with the EU as one region. Only then, the Latin American states could (continue) engaging more fully with the EU as an equal, autonomous and independent partner as manifested in the shared Vision 2030.

Joren Selleslagh

University of Leiden

## CONFERENCES

Call for Papers - May 23-26, 2018 - **Latin American Studies Association (LASA) conference** in Barcelona

Conference website: <https://lasa.international.pitt.edu/eng/congress/upcoming-congresses.asp>

Call for Papers website:

<https://lasa.international.pitt.edu/eng/congress/files/CallforPapers.pdf>

Proposed Panel "**Europe and Latin America policy trends**"

Panel abstracts are due by **late August 2017** to Beverly Barrett: [beverly.barrett@jhu.edu](mailto:beverly.barrett@jhu.edu)

***"Palabras fuera de lugar. Nuevas perspectivas de la literatura peruana escrita en Europa"***

*Objeto: Análisis de los contextos literarios peruanos con un específico enfoque sobre los escritores que actualmente residen y escriben en/desde Europa.*

*24- 25 de octubre de 2017*

*Universidad de Milán, Departamento de Lenguas y Literaturas Extranjeras, Milán (Italia)*

*Organizadores: Universidad de Milán y Consulado general del Perú en Milán*

*Escritores invitados: S. Roncagliolo, G. Wiener, R. Cisneros, L. Solano, G. Silva Passuni, O. Huamanchumo, T. Ruiz Rosas*

*Coordinadora: Dra. Emilia Perassi, catedrática de Literatura Latinoamericana  
Universidad de Milán*

*Informaciones: [emilia.perassi@unimi.it](mailto:emilia.perassi@unimi.it)*

***"Forging Bonds with Emigrants: Challenges for Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean"***

*18-20 September 2017, Hamburg, Germany*

*Organised by the EU-LAC Foundation, GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies, CAF Development Bank for Latin America.*

*More info on the website: <https://eulacfoundation.org/en/calendar/seminar-forging-bonds-emigrants-challenges-europe-latin-america-and-caribbean>*

*Prof. Bert Hoffmann [hoffmann@giga-hamburg.de](mailto:hoffmann@giga-hamburg.de)*

**Black Education for Liberation: In Dialogue with Latin America**

November 2nd- 4th, 2017, Birmingham City University, UK

Keynote Speakers:

Professor Juliet Hooker, Brown University  
Professora Aparecida de Jesus Ferreira, Universidade Estadual de Ponta Grossa, Brazil

Profesora Aurora Vergara Figueroa, Universidad Icesi, Colombia

Email proposals for papers, panels, workshops, performances or any form of expression to [researchnetwork@blackstudies.org.uk](mailto:researchnetwork@blackstudies.org.uk) by Friday 3rd September  
Dr Kehinde Andrews

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## LOOKING FOR AN EXPERT?

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<i>Dr. Beverly Barrett</i> <a href="mailto:beverly.barrett@jhu.edu">beverly.barrett@jhu.edu</a>	Postdoctoral associate, EU Center University of Miami Lecturer, University of Houston	International Political Economy Economic Development, Trade, Governance, Regional Integration)
<i>Dr. Sergio Caballero</i> <a href="mailto:sergio.caballero@deusto.es">sergio.caballero@deusto.es</a>	University of Deusto Bilbao, Spain	Regional Integration, Latin American Foreign Policy, IR Theory
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<i>Dr. Maria Garcia</i> <a href="mailto:M.Garcia@bath.ac.uk">M.Garcia@bath.ac.uk</a>	University of Bath, England, UK	EU trade policy Free trade agreements EU-Latin America free trade agreements TTIP Regionalism
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<i>Joren Selleslaghs</i> <a href="mailto:j.m.h.m.r.selleslaghs@fgga.leidenuniv.nl">j.m.h.m.r.selleslaghs@fgga.leidenuniv.nl</a>	University of Leiden, Institute of Security and Global Studies	EU-Latin America relations, EU Foreign Policy, regionalism, inter- regionalism, science diplomacy, security governance and climate change mitigation cooperation
<i>Prof. José Antonio Sanahuja</i> <a href="mailto:sanahuja@cps.ucm.es">sanahuja@cps.ucm.es</a>	Complutense Institute of International Studies (ICEI), Complutense University of Madrid, Spain	EU-LAC relations, EU development policies, EU- LAC regionalism and regional integration

## 2017 SUMMER READINGS?

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Gomez-Arana, A. (2017) *The European Union's policy towards Mercosur Responsive not strategic*. European Policy Research Unit Series, Manchester University Press, Manchester. ISBN: 978-0-7190-9694-5.  
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