



MUNICH **MISU**<sup>LMU</sup>  
INTERNATIONAL SUMMER  
UNIVERSITY

# European Studies

## Vienna – Prague - Munich

The European Union  
Challenges, Crises, and Solution Approaches

### Tentative SCHEDULE

July 21 – August 14, 2025  
[www.european-study.eu](http://www.european-study.eu)



In cooperation with:



**Doctoral School  
of Political Science,  
Public Policy, and  
International Relations**

CENTRAL  
EUROPEAN  
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# Vienna

Arrival: 20 July (in Vienna)

Sessions: 21 – 31 July

Departure: 31 July

Sessions will take place at:

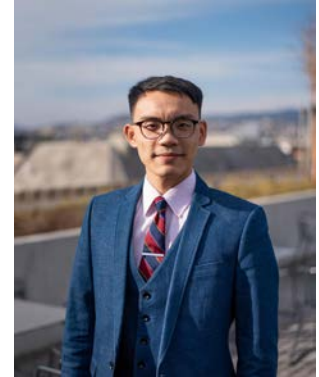
Central European University

Quellenstraße 51, 1100 Vienna

**Senior Lecturer: Mr Vincent F. Mo**

**Doctoral School  
of Political Science, Public Policy  
and International Relations**

**Central European University Private University**



Vincent MO is a PhD candidate at the Doctoral School of Political Science at the Central European University and is supervised by Prof. Michael Merlingen. Mr Mo did his Bachelor degree in Government & International Studies in Hong Kong. Afterwards he studied International Relations in the Master programme of Central European University. Vincent MO is interested in European politics and EU governance, cultural diplomacy, and IR theories. He is working on multiple research projects in Austria and Hong Kong. He also had outstanding teaching experiences in both regions.

## **General course content – Globalisation and the EU**

The sessions in Vienna introduce students to the historical trajectory of the European integration process as well as the policy-making system in the EU. Further, the course analyses Europe's role as a n international political and economic actor, and its relations with various countries and regions of the world. Vincent MO has specialised on the European Union and its foreign political stance and international relations. Together with the summer academy participants, he will discuss the EU's role in international affairs and analyse the European cooperation in the context of globalisation

Time	9.30 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.	11.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Mon, 21	<b>Introduction to the program</b> Mind-Mapping the EU in the 21st century In the morning you will be picked up by your tutor who will bring you to the classroom. Meeting point: 08:30 a.m. in the lobby of the accommodation. 1. Course structure/plan 2. Assignments 3. Introduction (students' expectations, topics that students are interested in) <b>Guided City Walk with Tutor in Vienna – 5 p.m.</b> Students will be picked up in the Hotel Lobby at 5 p.m.	
Tue, 22	<b>International relations in the 21st century: actors, power and sovereignty</b> Since the end of the Cold War, debates in international relations rank around the distribution of power among old and new actors. How is power defined? Which role do states play and what is sovereignty? This session and the following one will outline the overarching international environment in which the EU as an international actor can be analysed. 1. Political concepts: power, states, and sovereignty 2. Politics & democracy	<b>International relations in the 21st century: what kind of polarity?</b> International relations in the 21st century: what kind of polarity? Besides the debate about the distribution of power, a structural order for international relations in the 21st century is still disputed. Is the world to be considered as a unipolar, bipolar, multipolar or nonpolar one? Is international law an essential point of reference for the regulation of the behavior of states? How important is international law and does it reflect changes in today's globalised world? 1. IR theories 2. Agent vs structure 3. Material vs ideational
Wed, 23	<b>European history matters</b> Developments in the 20th century has a strong influence on the European integration process. This session will focus on the period and discuss why do we need to understand the past to understand the EU today. 1. What is Europe 2. The historical and cultural pillars of the EU 3. European integration 4. EU treaties	<b>Actors and policy-making in the EU</b> Actors and policymaking in the EU Based on the evolution of the European integration, the EU has developed a unique systemic form. Actors and policymaking in the EU are complicated. The competences of actors and the procedures for interaction are determined and regulated. For the understanding of the functioning of the EU, it is therefore necessary to consider the complexity of a multi-level system of governance. 1. The EU institutions 2. Policymaking process in the EU
Thu, 24	<b>The strategic concept of the EU</b> Closely linked to foreign, security and defence policy is the strategic concept of the EU. The European Security Strategy will be focused in this session. Furthermore, the European strategy needs to be compared to the strategic concepts of other international actors and security political challenges nowadays (US, Russia, China, and NATO). The EU's norms and values will be discussed in a global context as well.	<b>Multilateralism and the United Nations</b> Multilateralism is a core concept for European foreign policy as well as in the framework of the United Nations. Against the background of the earlier sessions the term effective multilateralism needs explanation. Apart from the EU and the UN, further multilateral organizations will be taken into consideration. 1. Multilateralism within and outside the EU 2. Comparison between the EU and ASEAN  <b>Visit to the United Nations in Vienna</b>
Fri, 25	<b>The Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)</b> Looking at the EU's external relations, a mismatch between the economic dimension and the foreign and security political dimension can be observed. This session will look at the evolution from European Political Cooperation (EPC) to the CFSP.	<b>The Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)</b> An essential part of the EU's external profile is determined by the Union's military capabilities. Looking at institutions, instruments, missions and operations, the perspectives of the CSDP and the EU as a military power will be discussed in this part. Particular attention will be paid to the civil-military dimension.

Time	9.30 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.	11.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	afternoon
Mon, 28	<b>Looking West: Transatlantic relations and EU-NATO relations</b>  After the end of the Cold War and especially due to establishment of the CFSP and CSDP, the EU's relations with the US as well as NATO experienced important changes. In this session the US and NATO dimension will be discussed as well as the prospects and challenges for transatlantic relationships in the future. 1. EU-NATO 2. EU-US		
Tue, 29	<b>Looking far East: Sino-European relations</b>  With its 'One Belt, One Road' Initiative, the People's Republic of China formulates the ambition to extend its influence well beyond Asia. Recent initiatives clearly show China's eagerness to intensify ties with certain European states, such as the 16+1 framework between China and 16 Eastern European states. Some EU member states and the EU as such show increasing skepticism towards China's strategy and hence adopted the EU's 'Global Gateway' initiative in return. In this session, we will trace Sino-European relations and analyse current state of affairs between these politics. 1. EU-China relationship 2. EU's development aid		
Wed, 30	Tue, 23	<b>9:00 a.m. Visit to the House of the EU in Vienna and guest lecture from the House</b> <b>10:00 a.m. Europa Experience Vienna– Role Play Game</b>	
Thu, 31	<b>Written exam, summary and outlook</b>  <b>Departure Prague</b>		

**Departure to Prague: July 31**

# Prague

Arrival: 31 July

Sessions: 1 and 2 August

Departure: 4 August

Session will take place at:

Representative Office of the Free State of Bavaria in the Czech Republic

## Lecturer

Prof. Dan Marek

Palacký University



Dan Marek is Associate Professor of European Politics at the Department of Politics and European Studies, Palacký University, Czech Republic.

He has studied at Palacký University (Czech Republic), University of Umea (Sweden), UCLA (USA) and Hull University (UK). He taught Central European and EU politics at universities in the Netherlands, the UK and USA.

His teaching and research interests include European Union politics, policies and Central European politics. He is a co-author of Cohesion Policy in the European Union (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014) and The Czech Republic and the European Union (Routledge, 2011) and co-editor of EU Cohesion Policy after Enlargement (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008) and The New Member States and the European Union: Foreign Policy and Europeanization (Routledge, 2013).

His other publications include articles on European and Czech politics in the Journal of Common Market Studies, Publius, the Journal of International Relations and Development, Perspectives on European Politics and Society and the Journal of Contemporary European Studies. He also worked as an advisor to the Czech government on the preparations for the Czech EU Presidency (2007-09).

## General course content – Europeanization of Member States

The sessions Prague are devoted to Europeanization, i.e. the question in how far the EU changes the political system, politics and policies of its Member States. In this regard and given Prague as venue, the course will especially take into account the perspective of an Eastern European Member State that joined the EU rather recently. Dan Marek of the Palacký University Prague will motivate students to reflect on Member States' different preferences on how to proceed with European integration and why Eastern European Member States currently hold divergent ideas on the EU than Western neighbors with regard to migration-related issues or domestic political reform.

Time		
Thu 31	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Arrival in Prague</b>  MISU staff will pick you up and bring you to Wien Hauptbahnhof.  MISU staff will pick you up at Prague main station</p>	
Fri 1	<p><b>Transformation processes in Eastern Europe since 1989: a historic overview</b></p> <p>The end of communist rule in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) was fast, unexpected and unplanned process. This session will look at the unique political and economic transition of CEE countries to democracy and market economy.</p>	<p><b>Central and Eastern European states and their interests in European integration: the political, economic and societal dimension</b></p> <p>For CEECs, EU membership marked the end of an almost 15-year effort to “return to Europe” after more than four decades of communist rule and Soviet domination. This session will look at the political, economic and societal dimension of EU’s eastward enlargement.</p>
Sat 2	<p><b>The Czech Republic as an EU member state</b></p> <p>As a candidate state, the Czech Republic was forced to accept EU rules and policies that it had no role in making. As a member state, however, it has a formal role in EU institutions and an opportunity to influence the EU decision-making process. In this session we will discuss how the Czech Republic copes with her role as an EU member state.</p>	
Sun 3		
Mon 4	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Departure by train</b>  MISU staff will pick you up at and bring you to the bus station</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Arrival in Munich</b>  MISU staff will pick you up at Munich’s main station</p>	

**Departure to Munich: Monday, August 4**

# Munich

Arrival: 4. August  
Sessions: 5 - 14 August  
Departure: 15 August (from Munich)

Session will take place at:  
Geschwister-Scholl-Institute,  
Oettingenstraße 67  
80538 München



## Dr. Radu-Mihai Triculescu

LMU Munich, MISU Head of EU Studies Programs

Radu-Mihai Triculescu is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Chair of Political Systems and European Integration at LMU Munich, working on the ERC Advanced Grant SYNCPOL - Synchronized Politics: Multiple Times and Political Power. He studied International Affairs and Political Science at Florida State University, and earned an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master in International Migration and Social Cohesion from the University of Amsterdam, Deusto University, and University of Osnabruck.

In 2021, Radu earned his PhD at the University of Twente in the Netherlands, where he researched the multi-level implementation of asylum policies in the European Union. Through his work, he analyzed how bureaucracies and administrative agencies in EU Member States interpret and implement the rules and norms of the Common European Asylum System.

Radu-Mihai Triculescu's research attempts to understand how national differences impact policy harmonization across different jurisdictions. Aside from academia, he has also spent time working as an Associate Policy Analyst at the Migration Policy Institute – Europe, where he worked on projects relating to return and reintegration, asylum, and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on migrant inclusion.

## General course content

*The EU in Times of Crisis*

We will have another two weeks of engaging with EU matters. The sessions in Munich will center on current developments in the European Union and on how theory-guided empirical research by EU scholars is discussing current issues such as Brexit, increasing euroscepticism, the Euro crisis, the migration crisis and plans for further integration.



Time	9.00 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	11.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.
Mon, 4	<b>Arrival Munich</b>	
Tue, 5	<b>Welcome Lecture</b>  <i>Lecture will take place at the LMU campus</i>	<b>Political Science Methods: bringing theory and empirics into dialogue</b>  In this special session, we will discuss the requirements for the essays and the presentations. We will look at the standards for proper academic writing, the structuring of papers, development of research questions, presentation of findings, as well as issues such as literature research.
Wed, 6	<b>Theories of European integration and disintegration</b>  We will discuss different political science theories and how they have been used to explain European integration and a potential future (dis)integration of the EU. We will use Brexit as a case study for evaluating in how far established integration theories perform in explaining the reasons for the EU referendum in the United Kingdom. Group discussions will then focus on growing Euroscepticism and movements calling for other “-exits” from the EU.  <b>Munich City Tour by bus 4.00 p.m.</b>	
Thu, 7	<b>The Constitutionalization of the EU: What power do the judges have in Europe?</b>  We will draw on intergovernmentalist and supranationalist theories to analyze how far the European Court of Justice (ECJ) can and has influenced European integration. We will also use the arguments of both theoretical camps to try and understand how academic debates play out.  <b>City Tour Munich</b> Meeting point: 2.00 p.m. Geschwister-Scholl-Platz 1	
Fri, 8	<b>Addressing the democratic deficit in the EU?</b>  There is a vivid debate in the EU studies community on whether the EU suffers a democratic deficit. We review this debate considering the concepts of ‘input’ and ‘output’ legitimacy and reflect on the democratic quality of the EU’s rule-making system. We will also follow a practical development of the power of democratic institutions such as the European Parliament, and assess if there is, in fact, such a deficit, and what potential solutions might be.	
Sun, 10	<b>Day Trip to Neuschwanstein Castle</b> Meeting point: 8.00 a.m. Geschwister-Scholl-Platz 1	



Time	9.00 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	11.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.
Mon, 11	<b>EU in crisis I + II: Addressing the Eurozone and migration crisis of the 2010s</b>  How has the EU reacted to the economic and migration? How have these crises, and the responses to them, changed the face of EU politics and governance? This session will explore how these have fundamentally changed the EU. It will focus on the emergence of new actors and institutions, such as the “Troika”, the European Stability Mechanisms, or the New Pact on Migration and Asylum.	
Tue, 12	<b>Ungraded presentation of Students’ Essays Part 1</b>  Students will be asked to present a first outline of their essays including the research question and the main hypotheses, central elements of the argumentation and reflections on the sources needed to answer the research question. Each presentation will be critically discussed by a fellow student before the group will try to propose solutions for the most challenging aspects of each proposal.	<b>The EU as a Global Actor and Power?</b>  In this session, we will engage with the debate on how to analyze the EU’s presence on the international stage, and the ability of the EU to adapt to changing geopolitical contexts. What kind of an actor is the EU? What is the EU’s power base vis-à-vis third states? How effective and legitimate are the EU’s actions in international negotiations?
Wed, 13	<b>Ungraded presentation of Students’ Essays Part 2</b>  Students will be asked to present a first outline of their essays including the research question and the main hypotheses, central elements of the argumentation and reflections on the sources needed to answer the research question. Each presentation will be critically discussed by a fellow student before the group will try to propose solutions for the most challenging aspects of each proposal.	<b>The EU’s role in the Ukraine crisis</b>  The Ukraine crisis reached its climax when Russia invaded the country in February 2022. In this session, we will analyze the reasons for the Ukraine crisis, and critically discuss the EU’s role in (mis)managing its relationship with Ukraine in the lead-up to the war.
Thu, 14	<b>The Future of the European Union</b>  What has been the EU’s raison d’être? Can we predict its future and what will it be? In this final session, we will look at different scenarios for the EU’s future, from further integration to a potential disintegration, from the rise of Eurosceptic parties to the emerging policy issues of the coming years.	<b>Closing Session</b>  Final discussion of the Munich part and evaluation of the program  <b>Farewell beer garden “meeting”</b>
Fri, 15	<b>Departure</b>	