

Rethinking Security in Europe

A webinar series on militarisation, deterrence and wider security

May 7, 13, 21 and 28
June 3

Registration → www.icip.cat



Organised by:



With the collaboration of:



Rethinking Security
for a just and peaceful world



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FRAMEWORK

International security is undergoing a moment of profound transformation. Against a backdrop of rising global military expenditure, proliferating armed conflicts, and deepening humanitarian crises, the pillars on which Europe's security architecture rests are crumbling. The Russian invasion of Ukraine — which pushed Sweden and Finland into NATO and prompted the EU to launch its “ReArm Europe” initiative — the genocide in Gaza, instability across the Middle East and the Sahel, and the shift in American security doctrine under Trump's foreign policy are among the defining factors of this period of transformation for European societies.

European security policies combine explicit, military force-based approaches with normative frameworks that prioritise diplomacy, conflict prevention, and multilateralism. The current risk is that the former comes to overshadow the latter and, paradoxically, generates greater insecurity at both the European and local levels.

In this climate of instability, where alliances have become increasingly unpredictable, the European debate has shifted from “what is security?” to “who defends us, how, and by what means?” This webinar series aims to provide a space for analysis and reflection on these tensions, and to explore available pathways toward a cohesive, sustainable, and democratic European security project.

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OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

This series takes on the challenge of formulating complex questions and genuine dilemmas at the heart of the debate on security and defence in Europe. Rather than seeking simple answers, it aims to build spaces for critical discussion on the tensions between security, militarisation, democracy, human rights, and peace in a context of growing geopolitical uncertainty.

The series focuses primarily on the international and European dimensions of security, while also examining how decisions and narratives at that level have direct impacts on the domestic sphere and on everyday experiences of security and insecurity.

Throughout the webinars, the term “Europe” is used differently depending on context, distinguishing between Europe as a geographical space, the European Union as a political and normative project, and European states as sovereign actors with diverse security policies.

Likewise, the concept of “security” is approached in an integrated way, encompassing both its more restrictive meaning, linked to defence and military security, and its broader meaning, aligned with human security.

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PROGRAMME

7 May, 5 pm

The Militarisation of Security in Europe

With Mary Kaldor (London School of Economics) and Tutku Ayhan (IBEI)

13 May, 5 pm

Whose Insecurity? Objects of European Security

With Pol Bargués (CIDOB) and PAX.

21 May, 5 pm

Who Rules? Security decisionmakers

With Richard Reeve (Rethinking Security), Josephine Dresner (MAG) and Linda Benraïs (ESSEC).

28 May, 4 pm

How is security provided? Budget allocation and instruments

With Clément Meynier (MAG) and Cristina Parandii (PAX).

3 June, 5 pm

Creating security beyond the military: What else?

With Maria Mekri (SaferGlobe), Hannes Swoboda (IIP) and Andrew da Sousa (QCEA).

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SPEAKERS & ORGANISATIONS

TUTKU AYHAN - IBEI

Tutku Ayhan is a Post-doctoral Fellow in International Security at IBEI. Before joining IBEI, she was a postdoctoral research fellow at the Institute for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention at the State University of New York, Binghamton. Her research sits at the intersection of Feminist Security Studies and International Relations, examining the gendered dynamics of conflict, displacement, and governance through an intersectional lens. She studies post-conflict gender relations, forced migration and refugee governance, and sexual and gender-based violence, with a particular focus on how individuals and communities navigate violence, resilience, and claims to justice.

LINDA BENRAIS - ESSEC

Linda Benrais is Adjunct Professor, Department of Law, Political Science and Society at ESSEC Institute for Geopolitics and Business. The Institute is a multidisciplinary academic initiative created in 2024 within ESSEC Business School to explore how geopolitical dynamics increasingly shape the global business environment. The Institute brings together research, education, and dialogue to help current and future leaders understand and respond to geopolitical risks and shifting power dynamics. The Institute serves as a hub, connecting academics, policymakers, and industry leaders and integrating geopolitical thinking into business education and decision-making.

POL BARGUÉS - CIDOB

Pol Bargués is a senior researcher and research coordinator at CIDOB (Barcelona Centre for International Affairs). CIDOB is an independent, non-partisan research centre based in Barcelona, dedicated to the study and analysis of international relations and global affairs. It is one of the oldest and most influential think tanks in Spain and a recognised voice in European policy debates. Through rigorous research, publications, and public engagement, it provides policymakers and civil society with evidence-based analysis that supports informed decision-making.

CLEMÉNT MEYNIER AND JOSEPHINE DRESNER - MAG

Clemént Meynier is Global Policy and Partnerships Lead, and **Josephine Dresner** is Director of Policy and Strategic Partnerships for Mines Advisory Group (MAG). MAG is an international humanitarian organisation dedicated to protecting communities affected by conflict. MAG works worldwide to locate, remove, and destroy landmines, unexploded ordnance, and remnants of war. MAG also works to reduce armed violence through weapons and ammunition management, and advocacy for long-term peace and security.

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MARY KALDOR – LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

Mary Kaldor is a British scholar of global governance and International security. She is Professor Emeritus at the London School of Economics and Political Science and has directed major research programmes on conflict and civil society. Her work focuses on globalisation, international relations, and human security, and she is known for developing the concepts of new wars and human security. Kaldor has contributed extensively to European policy debates and international initiatives on security and humanitarian intervention.

CHRISTINA PARANDII - PAX

Christina Parandii is a Senior Project Officer at PAX. PAX is an international peace organisation based in Utrecht. It promotes peace, human rights, and social justice worldwide by addressing the root causes of conflict and supporting communities affected by violence. The organisation focuses on civilian protection, disarmament, inclusive peacebuilding, and the prevention of violent conflict. PAX collaborates with local partners, civil society groups, and policymakers to encourage dialogue, strengthen democratic institutions, and advocate for peaceful solutions to global challenges.

MARIA MEKRI - SAFERGLOBE

Maria Mekri is the Executive Director of SaferGlobe. SaferGlobe is an independent, non-partisan think tank based in Helsinki, Finland, dedicated to advancing sustainable peace and security through research, analysis, and practical tools. Its work spans peacebuilding, arms control, conflict prevention, and the evolving nature of security, combining academic research with applied, technology-driven approaches. SaferGlobe brings together diverse networks of experts, including researchers, practitioners, and professionals with field experience, to develop actionable insights and support informed decision-making.

RICHARD REEVE - RETHINKING SECURITY

Richard Reeve is Coordinator of the Rethinking Security network. Rethinking Security is a UK-based network of civil society organisations, academics, and activists working to promote a more just and sustainable approach to peace and security. Rather than focusing narrowly on military or state-centred definitions of security, the network advocates for addressing the underlying causes of conflict, such as inequality, political exclusion, and environmental challenges. Rethinking Security seeks to reshape how security is understood and practised, emphasising human security grounded in wellbeing, justice, and ecological sustainability.

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DR HANNES SWOBODÀ - IIP

Dr Hannes Swoboda is the president of the International Institute for Peace (IIP). The IIP is an international, non-governmental organisation based in Vienna that works to advance peace through research, dialogue, and the promotion of nonviolent conflict resolution. The institute functions as both a think tank and a platform for exchange, bringing together policymakers, academics, civil society, and the public to engage with pressing global issues. Its work focuses on European and international security, disarmament, migration, and regional conflicts, with an emphasis on preventing conflicts and wars and fostering dialogue and negotiations to solve ongoing conflicts and end wars.

WILBERT VAN DER ZEIJDEN – PAX

PAX is the largest peace organization in the Netherlands, working on protecting civilians from the violence of war, ending armed conflict, and building inclusive peace. Through policy influencing at the European and international level and through operating in conflict zones worldwide, PAX works to build just and peaceful societies across the globe - together with local partners, civil society organisations and concerned citizens.