

**CeSeR-FPRG Conference 2026**

**Foreign Policy and Security in Times of Uncertainty**

Violet Laidlaw Room, 6th Floor, Chrystal MacMillan Building

**Programme**

Time	Events
9:00	Arrival, registration, and breakfast
9:25	Welcome and introduction
9:30	<p><b><u>Panel 1: Narratives, Identity &amp; Emotion</u></b> Chair &amp; Discussant: Andrew Hom, University of Edinburgh</p> <p>Why the Prolonged War? Personalisation and Groupthink in Russian Foreign Policy during the Full-Scale War in Ukraine <b>Damian Strycharz</b> (Krakow University of Economics)</p> <p>Desire, Desperation, and the Turn to Defence: Emotional Narratives in the EU's Security Strategy from 2003 to 2025 <b>Sasha Juul Nielsen</b> (Aarhus University)</p> <p>In NATO, With NATO, Beyond NATO: Strategic Narratives and Reconstitution of Alignments in the Post-Consensus Transatlantic Order <b>Valentina Feklyunina</b> (Newcastle University) and <b>Maria Papageorgiou</b> (Newcastle University)</p> <p>Competing Epistemic Paradigms in Understanding the Russian War Against Ukraine <b>Alona (Alyona) Hurkivska</b> (Södertörn University)</p> <p>Three Articulations of Identity, Threat and Policy: a new Framework of Securitisation Analysis <b>Zhehao DU</b> (University of Edinburgh)</p>
11:00	Break (15 minutes)



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11:15	<p><b><u>Panel 2: Strategy, Agency &amp; International Order</u></b> Chair &amp; Discussant: Annika Bergman Rosamond, University of Edinburgh</p> <p>The European Union's Navigation of the United States-China Rivalry: Muddling Through, or Strategising? <b>Brice Didier</b> (University of Edinburgh)</p> <p>The Logics and Limits of Hedging in Foreign Policy: Evidence from Brazil and Mexico <b>Rodrigo Fracalossi de Moraes</b> (University of Southampton) and <b>Felipe Krause</b> (University of Oxford)</p> <p>Building Diplomatic Resilience in Uncertain Times: The Case of Ukraine <b>Maryna Rabinovych</b> (UiT Arctic University of Norway)</p> <p>Narrative Politics in Times of Uncertainty: Global South Middle Powers' Ontological Positionality and Discursive Agency <b>Thaís Simoes Doria</b> (University of Warwick)</p> <p>Political Time and Strategic Uncertainty: U.S. Temporal Perceptions in the Taiwan Issue, 1969-1979 <b>Yunmeng Zhou</b> (University of St Andrews)</p>
12:45	Lunch break (1 hour)
13:45	<p><b><u>Panel 3: Technology, Governance &amp; Contestation</u></b> Chair &amp; Discussant: Andrew Neal, University of Edinburgh</p> <p>The Enduring German Problem: Germany and Its Complicated Relationship with the European Status Quo <b>Bernhard Blumenau</b> (University of St Andrews)</p> <p>Between Militancy and Resilience: German Concepts of Democratic Defence in Times of Uncertainty <b>Isabelle Stephanblome</b> (Goethe-Universität Frankfurt)</p> <p>Gamifying Ukraine's Army of Drones: Strategic or Moral(e) Destruction? <b>Joe Murphy</b> (University of Edinburgh)</p>



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	<p>The Evolution of Interdependence: A Longitudinal Analysis of Cooperation and Contention between Japan and the GCC States <b>Kazuto Matsuda</b> (University of Edinburgh)</p>
15:15	Afternoon tea break (15 minutes)
15:30	<p><b><u>Roundtable: Foreign Policy and Security: From Analysis to Engagement</u></b> Host: Benjamin Martill, University of Edinburgh</p> <p>Guest speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Juliet Kaarbo</b>, University of St Andrews; The Scottish Council on Global Affairs</li><li>• <b>Jaime Turner</b>, UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)</li><li>• <b>Ty Solomon</b>, University of Glasgow</li><li>• <b>Claire Duncanson</b>, University of Edinburgh; The Scottish Council on Global Affairs</li></ul>
17:15	Closing remarks
17:30	Reception