

SIMONE THOLENS – CV

John Cabot University • Department of Politics and International Affairs
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CURRENT POSITIONS (2022/2023)

Associate Professor, International Relations, Department of Politics and International Affairs, John Cabot University • *Part-time professor*, Robert Schuman Centre/European University Institute

RESEARCH AND TEACHING PROFILE

International Security • Conflict & War • Security Governance • Interventions, Stabilisation and Proxy Wars • Arms & Disarmament • Borders • Europe • Middle East • Western Balkans • Critical Geopolitics • Norms, Practices, Contestation

EDUCATION

- 2012 **PhD International Relations**, Department of Social and Political Sciences, *European University Institute*
- 2007 **MA International Relations**, International School for Humanities and Social Sciences, *University of Amsterdam*
- 2005 **BA Political Science**, Department of Political Science, *University of Oslo*

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2022-present **Associate Professor**, International Relations, Department of Politics and International Affairs, *John Cabot University*
- 2022-present **Part-time Professor**, Robert Schuman Centre, *European University Institute*
- 2016–2022 **Senior Lecturer** International Relations, School of Law and Politics *Cardiff University* (Lecturer up until 2020)
- 2013–2022 **Adjunct Professor**, Paul H. Nitze School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS) Europe, *Johns Hopkins University*

2013–2016 **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**, Robert Schuman Centre
European University Institute

2008- 2008 **Research Assistant**, Department of Political Science
University of Amsterdam

TEACHING

2016-2022 *Cardiff University:*

- **Course Convenor** “International Security: Concepts and Issues” (BA)
- **Course Convenor** “Conflict Management: From the Cuban Missile Crisis to the Syrian War” (MA)
- **Course Contributor** “Introduction to International Relations” (BA)
- **Course Contributor** “Multilateralism” (MA)

2013-2015;
2022 *Johns Hopkins University:*

- **Course Convenor:** “Europe and the Mediterranean Middle East” (MA)
- **Course Convenor** “Principles and Practices of Conflict Management” (MA)

2012; 2015;
2021 *Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies*

- **Course Contributor:** “The Conflict Management toolbox”, MA in Human Rights and Conflict Management

PUBLICATIONS

Edited volumes:

Tholens, Simone and Abdullah Al-Jabassini (Eds.). Under review. “Special Issue: (Re)ordering the Mediterranean: The Evolution of Security Assistance as an International Practice”, in *Mediterranean Politics*.

Fregonese, Sara, Francisco Mazzola, and Simone Tholens (Eds.). In progress. *Bordering Beyond the West: Rethinking Border Practices in Lebanon*. Under review with Hurst/OUP.

Del Sarto, Raffaella A., and Simone Tholens. (Eds.) 2020. *Resisting Europe: Practices of Contestation in the Mediterranean Middle East*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Tholens, Simone and Lisa Groß. 2015. (Eds.) “Special Issue: Norm Diffusion, Contestation and Localisation in the Western Balkans”, *Journal of International Relations and Development*, Vol.18, Issue 3, pp. 249-382.

Journal Articles:

Simone Tholens and Chiara Ruffa. Under review, “The Elephant in the Med: Postcolonial Legacies in European Security Assistance”, *Mediterranean Politics*.

Tholens, Simone. 2021. “Intervention Practices: Assembling Security Force Assistance in Lebanon”, *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding*, online first.

- Tholens, Simone. 2019. "Winning the Post-War: Norm Localization and Small Arms Control in Kosovo and Cambodia", *Journal of International Relations and Development*, Vol. 22, Issue 1, pp. 50-76.
- Santini, Ruth Hanau, and Simone Tholens. 2018. "Security assistance in a post-interventionist era: the impact on limited statehood in Lebanon and Tunisia", *Small Wars and Insurgencies*, Vol. 29, Issue 3, pp. 491-514.
- Tholens, Simone. 2017. "Border management in an era of 'Statebuilding Lite': Security Assistance and Lebanon's hybrid sovereignty", *International Affairs*, Vol. 93, Issue 4, pp. 865-882.
- Tholens, Simone and Lisa Groß. 2015. "Diffusion, contestation and localisation in post-war states: 20 years of Western Balkans reconstruction", *Journal of International Relations and Development*, Vol.18, Issue 3, pp. 249-264.
- Tholens, Simone. 2014. "The EU-South Mediterranean Energy Community: The Right Policy for the Right Region?" *International Spectator*, Vol. 49, Issue 2, pp. 34-49.
- Strazzari, Francesco and Simone Tholens. 2014. "'Tesco for Terrorists' Reconsidered: Arms and Conflict Dynamics in Libya and in the Sahara-Sahel Region" *European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research*, Vol. 18, Issue 1, pp. 343-360.
- Tholens, Simone. 2012. "Which and Whose Authority? EU Support to Security Governance in Aceh", *European Security*, Vol. 21, Issue 2, pp. 294-309.
- Strazzari, Francesco and Simone Tholens. 2010. "Another Nakba: Weapons Availability and the Transformation of the Palestinian National Struggle, 1987-2007". *International Studies Perspectives*, Vol. 54, Issue 2, pp. 112-130.

Book chapters:

- Tholens, Simone. In press. "Regional entanglements: MENA states as providers of Security Assistance", in Robert Springborg, Sean Yom, and Lindsay Benstead (eds.) *Political Economy of Security Assistance to the Arab Middle East*, Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner.
- Tholens, Simone and Rosa Maryon. 2022. "European Counter-terrorism and organised crime", in Erik Jones and Veronica Anghel (eds.) *Developments of European Politics Vol 3*, London: Bloomsbury Academic.
- Calderaro, Andrea and Simone Tholens. In progress/forthcoming 2022. "Intangible artefacts as sites of (B)ordering: The Making of the Lebanese Cyber Security Strategy", in Sara Fregonese, Francisco Mazzola and Simone Tholens (eds.) *Bordering Beyond the West: Rethinking Border Practices in Lebanon*.
- Bueger, Christian and Simone Tholens. 2021. "Theorizing Capacity Building", in Bueger, Christian, Timothy Edmunds and Robert McCabe (eds.) *Understanding Capacity Building: Maritime Security and the Western Indian Ocean Experience*, London: Palgrave.
- Del Sarto, Raffaella and Simone Tholens. 2020. "Introduction: Practices of Contestation in the Mediterranean Middle East" in Del Sarto, Raffaella A., and Simone Tholens (Eds.) *Resisting Europe: Practices of Contestation in the Mediterranean Middle East*. Ann Arbor: Michigan University Press.
- Del Sarto, Raffaella, and Simone Tholens. 2020. "The Power to Contest in Europe-Middle East Relations" in Del Sarto, Raffaella A., and Simone Tholens (Eds.) *Resisting Europe: Practices of Contestation in the Mediterranean Middle East*. Ann Arbor: Michigan University Press.

- Tholens, Simone. 2018. “Practices of imperial identity: patterns and paradoxes in EU trade and energy policies towards the Maghreb”, in: Serres, T. and Haleh Davies, M. eds. *North Africa and the Making of Europe: Governance, Institutions and Culture*. London: Bloomsbury
- Tholens, Simone. 2014. “Which and Whose Authority? EU Support to Security Governance in Aceh” in Oya Dursun-Ozkanca (ed.) *The European Union as an Actor in Security Sector Reform: Current Practices and Challenges of Implementation*, London: Routledge.
- Strazzari, Francesco and Simone Tholens. 2011. “Multi-stakeholder Partnerships in DDR and SALW-Control: Local Ownership, Norms and Human Security”, in Brzoska, Michael, Hans-Georg Ehrhart and Jens Narten (eds). *Multi-stakeholder partnerships in post-conflict security building*. Baden-Baden: Nomos.
- Strazzari, Francesco and Simone Tholens. 2009. “Privatized security in the Western Balkans: a blank in Security Sector Reform”, (in eds) Giampiero Giacomello and R. Craig Nation, *Security in the West: Evolution of a Concept*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Tholens, Simone. 2009. “Small Arms and Light Weapons Control”, in (eds) B. Pecceati and W. Nanni, *Nell'occhio del ciclone. Rapporto di ricerca su ambiente e povertà, emergenze e conflitti dimenticati*. Bologna: Il Mulino.

Commentaries, Reviews and Press

- 2021, 21st October. Op-ed: “The uncomfortable track record of outsourcing global security”, *La Repubblica*.
- 2020, 11th February: Quoted in *The Independent*, ‘Key NATO summit to open amid Trump isolationism and nose-diving support among members’.
2019. Book review: “Inside the Arab State”, by Marvan Kamrava, *International Affairs* Vol. 95, Issue 4, pp. 952-954.
2017. Book review: “Bosnia's paralysed peace”, by Christopher Bennett, *International Affairs* Vol. 93, Issue 1, pp. 217-218.
2014. Book review: “European Integration and Transformation in the Western Balkans: Europeanisation or Business as Usual?”, Arold Elbasani (ed.), in *East European Politics*, Vol. 31, Issue 1, pp. 122-123.
2014. Op-ed: “Partnership or Power Projection? The EU and its ‘Neighbourhood’” (with Raffaella A. Del Sarto), *Open Democracy*.
2013. Op-ed: Conflict at the EU’s Southern Borders: The Sahel Crisis. (With Raffaella A. Del Sarto), *Open Democracy*.
2012. Op-ed: “Extending European borders? Paradoxes in Balkan politics between EU accession and statebuilding”, *Open Democracy*.

FELLOWSHIPS

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| 2021-2022 | Associate Fellow , Paul H. Nitze School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS) Europe, <i>The Johns Hopkins University</i> |
| 2020-2021 | International Academic Fellowship
<i>Leverhulme Trust</i> |
| 2020-2022 | Visiting Fellow
Robert Schuman Centre, <i>European University Institute</i> |

2019 – present	FHEA Fellow of the <i>UK Higher Education Academy</i>
2011-2012	Visiting Fellow , Department of International Affairs <i>Norwegian Institute of Foreign Affairs (NUPI)</i>
2010-2011	Visiting Fellow , Unit for Transnational Conflicts and International Institutions <i>Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB)</i>

GRANT CAPTURE

2020–2021	International Academic Fellowship. <i>Leverhulme Trust.</i> ‘Knowledge, Networks and Practices of Security Assistance’: £63,584
2020–2021	International Workshop Grant. <i>Cardiff University/AHSS International Initiatives Fund.</i> ‘Globalising Security Network Launch’: £7650.
2019	Conference Organisation Grant <i>Cardiff School of Law and Politics/ Research Support Scheme.</i> “NATO@70: Past, Present and Future of the Alliance”: £3000
2019	Research Assistance Grant. <i>Cardiff School of Law and Politics/Research Assistance Support Scheme</i> “Non-Western Security Force Assistance: £530
2011–2012	Grant for completion of PhD thesis. <i>European University Institute:</i> £15.000.
2008–2011	Doctorial Research Grant. <i>Norwegian Research Council:</i> £110.000.

PHD SUPERVISION

2017-present	Rosa Maryon [“Securing the secular state in Egypt and Tunisia: Reconfiguring regime legitimacy in an age of Authoritarian Neoliberalism”], <i>Cardiff University</i>
2016-2018	Hanin Abou Salem [“Palestinian Refugees: A crises of recognition under international law”], <i>Cardiff University</i>

CITIZENSHIP

2021-present	External Examiner, Degree Programs: MA International Strategy and Security, Department of Defence Studies, <i>King’s College London</i>
2021-present	Grant evaluator: <i>Leverhulme Trust, UK</i>
2016-present	Examiner, PhD defences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2022: Mahad Ainab, <i>Cardiff University</i> [Tides of change: to what extent is the East African maritime security agenda locally owned?] - 2019: Denise Abboud, <i>Portsmouth University</i> [“Study on the status of information-sharing among law enforcement agencies: a case study of Lebanon”] - 2017: Lina Grip, <i>Helsinki University</i> [“Small Arms Control in Africa”]

- 2016: James Stasey, *Swansea University* [Critical constructivism and human rights contestation between the EU and ASEAN]
- 2019-present **Directorship:** Founder and Co-Director, Centre for Conflict, Security and Societies, *Cardiff University*
- 2018-2020 **Advisory Board Member:** “Security Force Assistance in the Sahel”, *Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PRIO)*
- 2012-present **Journal Reviewer:** *Security Dialogue, European Journal of International Relations, International Affairs, Cooperation and Conflict, Journal of International Relations and Development, Geopolitics, The International Spectator, Third World Quarterly, Government and Opposition, Democratization, Italian Political Science Review*
- 2012-present **Member** of the *International Studies Association (ISA)*
- 2012-present **Member** of the *European International Studies Association (EISA)*

MANAGEMENT ROLES

- 2019-2022 **Director** of the Centre for Conflict, Security and Societies, *Cardiff University*
- 2019-2021 **Member** of the REF Environment Statement Drafting Group, Department of Politics and International Relations, *Cardiff University*
- 2016-2020 **Member** of the Extenuating Circumstances Committee (UG and PG), Department of Politics and International Relations, *Cardiff University*
- 2016-2020 **Disability and Diversity lead**, Department of Politics and International Relations, *Cardiff University*
- 2016-2017 **Member** of the Departmental Research Committee, Department of Politics and International Relations, *Cardiff University*

CONFERENCES & TALKS (SELECTED)

- 2022 *European International Studies Association (EISA) Pan-European Conference on IR, Panteion University, Athens, Greece (1-4 September)*
 - Panel convenor: Interventions and Ignorance
 - Panel convenor: Capacity Building as an Ordering Practice
 - Roundtable participant: Infrastructures, crises and circulation
 - Discussant: Contestation by non-state actors
- 'Colonialism and EU Legal Categories', Discussant, *European University Institute (18th May)*
- POMEPS seminar, Discussant, Elliott School of International Affairs, *George Washington University (25th March)*
- 2021 “Doing International Political Sociology”, Discussant, *King’s College London (10th December)*
- “Peace, politics and paperwork workshop”, Discussant, *Department of Social and Political Sciences, European University Institute (26th November)*

- “Bordering Beyond the West: Rethinking Border Practices in Lebanon”, Workshop organiser, *Robert Schuman Centre, European University Institute* (28th October)
- “Borderlands: Europe and the Mediterranean Middle East Panel”, Roundtable participant, *Johns Hopkins University SAIS Europe* (23rd September)
- European International Studies Association (EISA)* Annual Conference, “The Travelling Towers: Materiality of Security Assistance”, Paper giver, (16th September)
- “Studying Interventions in the 21st century”, Invited talk, *Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna* (16th September)
- “Re-framing EU-MENA Relations after the 2011 Arab Uprisings”, Invited talk, *University of Turin* (12th May)
- “Security Assistance in the Middle East”, Workshop organiser, *Robert Schuman Centre, European University Institute* (24th April)
- “Resisting Europe: Practices of Contestation in the Mediterranean Middle East”, Invited book talk, *Robert Schuman Centre, European University Institute* (5th May)
- “The EU in the Southern Neighbourhood”, Invited guest lecture, EU Neighbourhood Summer School, *College of Europe, Natolin Campus* (26th April)
- “Resisting Europe: Practices of Contestation in the Mediterranean Middle East”, Invited book talk, ACES, *University of Amsterdam* (4th March)
- 2020 “NATO and the Nordic dimension”, Organising and Chairing a CCSS Event with the Norwegian Ambassador to the UK and the Defence Attaché, *Cardiff University* (4th February)
- “War and the City: Urban Geopolitics of Beirut”, Organising and Chairing CCSS Book Talk with Dr Sara Fregonese (8th December)
- 2019 “NATO at 70: The Past, the Present and the Future”. Organiser and opening remarks. *King’s College London, Department of War Studies* (6th December)
- European International Studies Association (EISA)* Annual Pan-European Conference on IR, Panel organiser and paper presenter, *University of Sofia, Bulgaria* (15th-17th September)
- “Remote Warfare Conference”, Paper presenter, *University of Kent, Canterbury* (10th February)
- 2018 “Security Force Assistance”, Paper presenter, *Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PRIO)* (10th December)
- 2017 *International Studies Association (ISA)* Annual Conference, Baltimore. Paper presenter (16th-19th March)
- European Workshops in International Studies (EWIS)*, Organiser, *Cardiff University*
- 2016 “Security Force Assistance in Africa”, Discussant, *Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PRIO)*

British International Studies Association (BISA), Paper presenter, University of Edinburgh.

Italian Middle East Association Annual Conference, Panel organiser and paper presenter, University of Catania, Sicily.

LANGUAGES

English	Fluent
Italian	Upper intermediate
German	Intermediate
Norwegian	Mother tongue