



INTERDISCIPLINARY
CONFERENCE ON
EUROPEAN ADVANCED STUDIES

IDEAS

*Institut d'études européennes,
Université libre de Bruxelles
May 11-13, 2022
Brussels, Belgium*



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CALL FOR PAPERS IDEAS CONFERENCE

‘(Dis)Integration from an (in)equality perspective’

Organised & hosted by
*Institut d'études européennes of the
Université libre de Bruxelles*
May 11-13, 2022
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Contact

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About the conference

The biennial Interdisciplinary conference on European Advanced Studies (IDEAS) is a three-day scientific event organized by the Institut d'études européennes of the Université libre de Bruxelles (IEE-ULB) in collaboration with the Institute for European Studies of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (IES-VUB) and the Politics and International Studies Department at the University of Warwick (PaIS-UoW).

Centred on the notion of 'Solidarities', the first two editions of the conference were dedicated to European and Transatlantic solidarity in May 2017, and European solidarity in June 2019. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the third conference originally set for 2021 was rescheduled to be hosted in 2022. As a result, the next edition will take place in Brussels from May 11 to 13, 2022 and will be entitled **(Dis)Integration from an (in)equality perspective**.

Inequality has many facets which test a wide range of institutions and policies associated with the EU. Increasingly, it has emerged as one of the central and transversal concerns shared across EU institutions and national public opinions.

Debates surrounding equality and social justice within the EU raise questions such as: equality of what (e.g. outcome, opportunities, well-being, ...), between whom (e.g. nationals, European citizens, non-EU nationals, individuals, ...), guaranteed by what institutions (e.g. European, national, local, ...), and through which means (e.g. judicial, political, fiscal, corporate, ...).

Academic and political debates addressing (in)equality and (dis)integration have gained momentum following both the 2008 financial crisis, and the current COVID-19 pandemic. Increasingly, broader debates surrounding equality, non-discrimination and solidarity are homing in on the distinctive role of the European level. The IDEAS conference will be a forum to present and discuss cutting-edge research investigating inequality in relationship with European politics and policies. It will bring together scholars interested in how the EU has been a driver of inequality or, on the contrary, how it has attempted to tackle them in a number of policy domains.

Subject to the evolution of the sanitary situation, the conference will take place **in person**, and while registration will be mandatory, **participation will be free of charge**.

Scientific committee

(in alphabetical order)

Ilke ADAM (VUB), Emmanuelle BRIBOSIA (IEE-ULB), Chloé BRIERE (IEE-ULB), George CHRISTOU (UoW),
Ramona COMAN (IEE-ULB), Amandine CRESPIY (IEE-ULB), Frederik PONJAERT (IEE-ULB),
Florian TRAUNER (IES-VUB), Jozefien VAN CAENEGHEM (IEE-ULB)



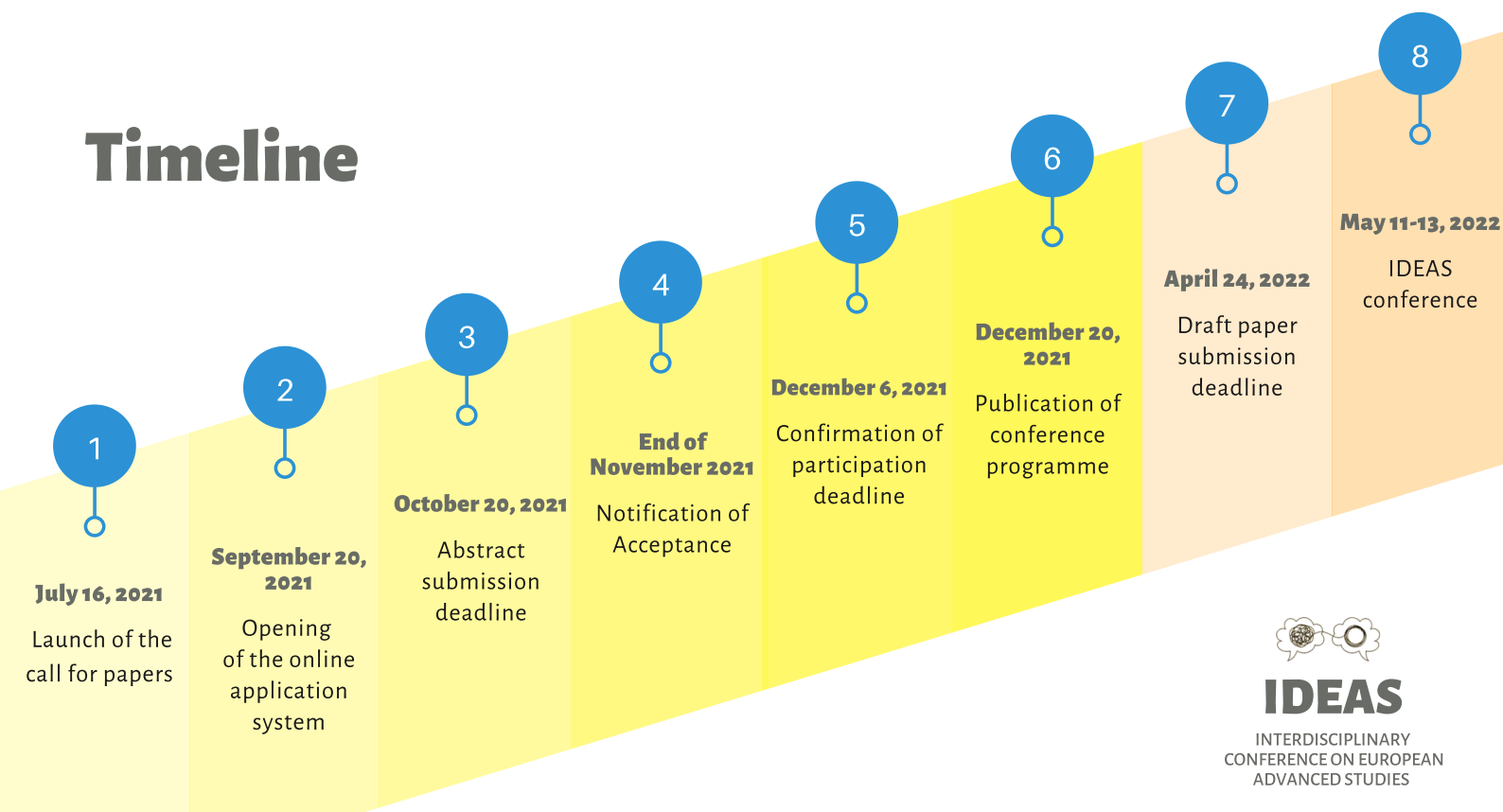
About the call for papers

The conference is structured around 10 topics which will help structure the overall focus of the conference on '(Dis)Integration from an (in)equality perspective'. Scholars interested in presenting their research dealing with inequality and the EU at the IDEAS conference **under one of the 10 topics listed below** are invited **to submit a 250-word abstract**. When submitting an abstract, **applicants will have to specify under which of the 10 topics they wish to introduce their proposal**. Each topic focusses on a given set of substantive challenges associated with (in)equality and EU policies. Both the internal (intra-EU) and external (global) dimensions of said challenges fall within the scope of a topic.

The online submission system will open in the second half of September and will be accessible via the IEE-ULB website (www.iee-ulb.eu). The ultimate deadline for submission will be October 20, 2021 (5:00 pm CET). Notifications of acceptance will be communicated by the end of November 2021, with draft papers expected to be submitted by April 24, 2022.

Depending on the number of papers withheld for each topic, one or more panels will be organized. Papers will be selected by the conference's academic jury based on relevance and quality. Following the conference, the best papers will be selected for a peer-reviewed publication.

Timeline



List of topics

Submitted paper abstracts must fit one of the following broader themes

Topic 1: Europe and the Concept of Inequality

The concepts of equality and non-discrimination are mentioned and discussed in laws, legislations, and policies, and yet remain the object of debates. Inequality, often used in public discourse, is even less understood. This topic aims at examining the various understandings these concepts can receive and welcomes papers addressing them or one of them from various disciplinary angles.

Topic 2: EU Governance and Inequality

This topic examines how European institutions frame inequality and put this issue on the political agenda. It focuses on inter/institutional debates and policy instruments designed to address this fast-burning issue. It seeks to shed light on the extent to which the approach followed by the EU institutions and the instruments put in place are effective in combating inequality.

Topic 3: Unequal Access to the Common Market

The common market provides equal and fair access to operators across all EU regions. However, over time, barriers of a new nature are growing. Papers under this topic will focus on two questions: which new issues are emerging? And how to uphold and enhance equal access to the common market?

Topic 4: Unequal Access to Welfare States

The role of welfare states is to tackle social inequality by ensuring an equal access to rights and resources. European integration has disrupted in various ways the national “boundaries of welfare”. The purpose is therefore to examine the interactions between the European Union and welfare states and/or social citizenship by looking at relevant political, institutional or historical dynamics.

Topic 5: Inequality in the Area of Freedom, Security & Justice

The Area of Freedom, Security and Justice encompasses policies that may play a crucial role in redressing inequalities, but they also risk fostering inequalities. Of particular interest are ‘unequal entry’ in terms of access to Member State territories for third-country nationals and the politics of travel monitoring; as well as ‘unequal justice’ in terms of the protection of fundamental rights and access to the courts. Overall, the topic will examine the gendered, socioeconomic and racial inequalities manifested by said challenges.

Topic 6: Digital Divide & Disparities in Information Literacy

Papers under this topic should investigate whether and to which extent online political information about EU politics and policies duplicates or aggravates existing divides and disparities “in real life” and/or creates new ones. Proposals are invited to discuss conceptual frameworks and empirical case studies allowing to assess the autonomy and agency of citizens, interest groups and public institutions in a transformed media and information landscape.

List of topics

Submitted paper abstracts must fit one of the following broader themes

Topic 7: Unequal Access to Environmental Justice

Access to justice is a legal right for individuals and groups affected by environmental decisions. This topic will explore how environmental risks and benefits are distributed across society, the multiple ways in which questions of inequality - i.e. in redistribution, recognition, transformation and participation - shape access to environmental justice in theory and/or in practice, and the possible solutions to address environmental injustices and foster an integrated approach of social-ecological protection.

Topic 8: Social Inequality in Public Health

Social inequalities in health are an important and urgent topic for health research and action in Europe. Key is understanding to what extent and by what processes the differences in health status between individuals and between groups result either from differences in social status structuring access to health, or from other forms of direct or indirect discrimination. This topic proposes to specifically unpack the role of EU policies and analyse the innovative actions implemented in Europe aimed at reducing social inequalities in health.

Topic 9: Intersectionality in European politics

Inequality pertaining to origins, belief, gender, sexual orientation, age, etc. have been at the heart of divisive debates within European societies as the existence of structural inequality and discrimination have been brought to the fore. At the same time, the EU has pursued its long-established anti-discrimination policy, often struggling for legitimacy and effectiveness. Intersectionality has contributed to shed a new light alongside more traditional approaches in social sciences. Papers may address the contentious politics of intersectionality in the European multi-level arena or/and develop legal, historical or sociological analyses of EU anti-discrimination policy.

Topic 10: Inequality in EU external policies

The European Union as an international actor occupies a crucial place in addressing inequalities between regions, but also in reducing economic, social, political, and environmental inequalities in other regions. The EU has developed a set of policy tools, notably through its development cooperation policy, dedicated action plans or its participation in international initiatives and instruments. Yet, it may also foster these inequalities in its foreign policy, as strategic preferences and choices lead to critics. The topic proposes to examine the multi-faceted insertion of inequality among various EU external policies.