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UNIVERSITÉ
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INTERDISCIPLINARY
CONFERENCE ON
EUROPEAN ADVANCED STUDIES

IDEAS

*Institut d'études européennes, of the Université libre de Bruxelles
May 15-17, 2024. Brussels, Belgium*



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CALL FOR PAPERS IDEAS CONFERENCE

*'Inequality and the European Union.
New Frontiers in European Studies'*

Organised & hosted by

*Institut d'études européennes of the
Université libre de Bruxelles*

May 15-17, 2024

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IDEAS

FOURTH INTERDISCIPLINARY
CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN
ADVANCED STUDIES

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. With the start of the new project centered on the question of inequalities and the EU, the third edition of the conference focused on '(Dis)Integration from an (in)equality perspective' was hosted in 2022.

The next IDEAS conference will take place in Brussels from May 15 to 17, 2024 and will be entitled '**Inequality and the European Union. New frontiers in European Studies**'.

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 the 2008 financial crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic and the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. Increasingly, broader debates surrounding equality, non-discrimination and solidarity are homing in on the distinctive role of the European level.

The IDEAS conference is a forum to present and discuss cutting-edge research investigating inequality in relationship with European politics and policies. It brings together scholars interested in how the EU has been a driver of inequality or, on the contrary, how it has tackled it in a number of policy domains.



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About the call for papers

The conference is structured around 10 topics which will help structure the overall focus of the conference on 'Inequality and the European Union. New frontiers in European Studies'. 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 focuses 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 is open and will be accessible via the IEE-ULB website (www.iee-ulb.eu).

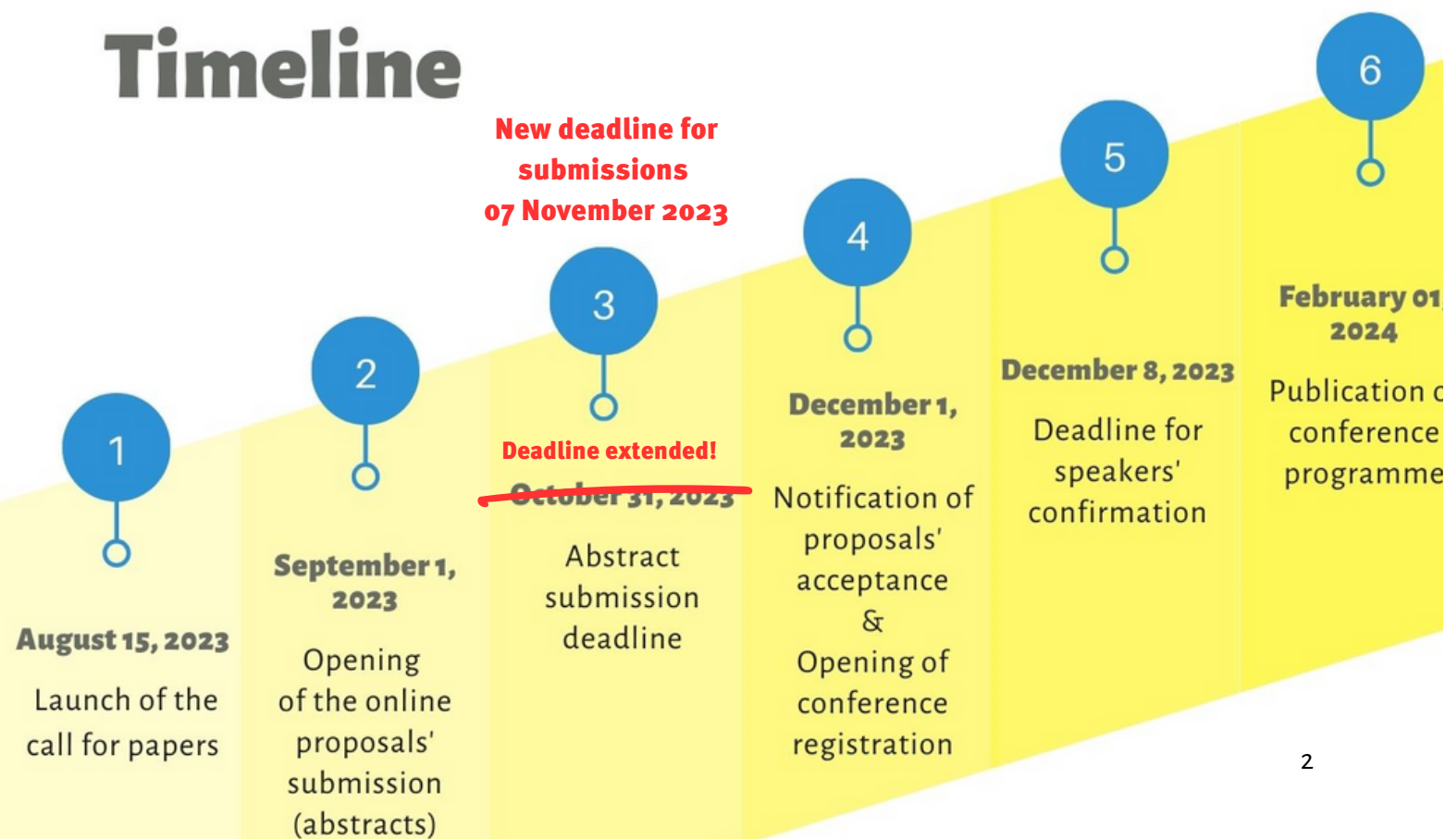
The ultimate deadline for submission is November 07, 2023 (Midnight CET). Notifications of acceptance will be communicated by the end of November 2023, with draft papers expected to be submitted by April 26, 2024.

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 the best paper award of the conference.

Submit your abstracts



Timeline





List of topics

Topic 1: **Social Security: Old Concept, New Challenges**

Social security continues being a central concept, and policies, and yet remain the object of debates, as it evolved under the influence of the current societal and technological developments. This topic aims at examining the various approaches of social security when facing the current social and economic challenges and welcomes papers addressing them or one of them from various disciplinary angles.

Topic 2: **Market and Social Citizenship in the EU**

This topic examines the evolving role of the EU's common market and its interactions with and implications for the social citizenship of the EU, including the socio-economic rights and guarantees of EU citizens. It focuses on the tension between these two dimensions and how they are resolved in the EU Single market and the institutions put in place to develop social citizenship within the EU.

Topic 3: **The EU agenda for a "Just Transition": Groundbreaking or Greenwashing?**

The EU's agenda for a "Just Transition" aims to ensure a socially fair shift towards a sustainable economy. Papers under this topic may focus on the integrity and effectiveness of this strategy by examining its socio-economic impacts, the balance between and the capacity to effectively achieve its goals as social equality and environmental sustainability. Contributions with interdisciplinary perspective focusing on this topic are encouraged.

Topic 4: **Mobility: a Tool for Reducing or Fueling Inequalities?**

Mobility can be a potential driver of both increased equality and heightened disparities. The freedom of movement, offering EU citizens the right to move, reside and to work in another EU Member State, can contribute to disparities among migrants. Such freedom may increase the concentration of wealth in some categories and accentuate the limited rights provided to migrants. Contributions may analyze how mobility impacts socio-economic dynamics, potentially either mitigating or exacerbating regional and socio-economic inequalities.

Topic 5: **The role of the EU in managing migrations**

The external management of migration by the EU may risk fostering inequalities among migrants, while providing limited guarantees to their rights. 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 in the external management of the applications of third-country refugees and migrants. Overall, the topic will examine the gendered, socioeconomic and racial inequalities manifested by said challenges.

Submitted paper abstracts must fit one of these 10 broader themes



List of topics

Submitted paper abstracts must fit one of these 10 broader themes

Topic 6: European social classes: myth and reality?

This topic seeks to explore the nuances and complexities of potential development of social class structures within the European Union. Papers could investigate perceived versus actual social class divisions, seeking to disentangle myths from the realities of class-based experiences. The possibility of social class formation within and different EU regions, to the extent that it is possible can lead to important social identity, and policy changes in the European Union. Yet, the challenges posed by regional, economic, social, and political disparities in such development should not be overlooked.

Topic 7: Digital Divide & Inequalities in the EU

Papers under this topic should investigate whether and to which extent the access to digital platforms and content published on them 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 technological and media landscape. The policy measures developed by the EU to counter inequalities in this field.

Topic 8: Gender, Inequality and Intersectionality

Inequality pertaining to gender and sexual orientation 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 9: Inequality and the EU's fiscal policy

Income inequality, including the distribution of wealth and resources within and between member states, to potentially exacerbate or mitigating disparities. Papers are encouraged to examine whether the EU's fiscal policy redresses or worsens existing disparities, while shaping economic opportunity and social mobility. This topic proposes to specifically unpack the role of EU's fiscal policy, and their capacities and/or potential to develop innovative actions aimed at reducing inequalities.

Topic 10: Social Inequality in Public Health

Social inequalities in health are an important and urgent topic for health research and action in Europe. 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.