

# Katherine Pye

Fellow in International Relations  
London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)  
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Citizenship: British, Irish

## Research interests

Intervention & peacebuilding; EU foreign/security policy; Europe in Africa; Affect; Postcolonialism; Interpretive methods

## Academic appointments

2025-present    **London School of Economics and Political Science**  
Fellow in International Relations  
▪ Teaching masters' class IR434 'European Security and Defence' and undergraduate classes in 'International Security' IR205 including lecture in race and postcolonialism

## Education

2021-2025    **London School of Economics and Political Science**  
PhD, International Relations. Funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council.

2018-2019    **College of Europe, Bruges, Belgium**  
MA, EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies

2015-2018    **Magdalen College, University of Oxford**  
BA, History and Politics

## Teaching

2023, 2024    **MSc Dissertation Advisor, London School of Economics and Political Science**  
▪ Advised MSc students in one-on-one dissertation surgery sessions.

2022-23    **Graduate Teaching Assistant, London School of Economics and Political Science**  
▪ Taught 'International Security' (IR205). Average 4.9/5 on student teaching reviews.

2022    **Digital Teaching Assistant, London School of Economics and Political Science**  
▪ For 'Research Design in International Relations' (MY4IR) and 'Fundamentals of Social Science Research Design' (MY400).

## Fellowships

2024- present    **Associate Fellow, Centre for European Reform, London**

2023- present    **Associate Fellow, Higher Education Academy**

2023    **Visiting Researcher, Egmont: Royal Institute for International Relations**  
Brussels, Belgium

## Publications

### Peer-reviewed journal articles

- 2024, From the “laboratory” to the “arena”: The EU’s quest for maturity and the instrumentalisation of conflict in Africa, *European Security*, 33(3), 474–496, [link](#).

### Pending review

- “It would be worse without us’: How failed capacity building leads to more capacity building in the Sahel–West Africa’ (Article in special issue accepted to *Security Dialogue*, going to peer review in February 2026)

### Works in progress

- ‘Finding the unconscious in the international: Psychoanalysis as method and theory’ (finalising for submission)
- ‘Ungrateful recipients: European interveners and their desire for recognition in the Sahel’ (presented at British International Studies Association Conference, Belfast, UK – in progress)

### Book reviews

- ‘The Coloniality of Humanitarian Intervention written by Patrick J. Vernon’, *Global Responsibility to Protect*, 29 September 2025, [link](#).

### Select articles and blog posts

- ‘Access denied: the EU’s discriminatory visa regime is undermining its reputation in Africa’, Centre for European Reform, 2 April 2025, <https://mailings.cer.eu/insights/access-denied-eus-discriminatory-visa-regime-undermining-its-reputation-africa>
  - Translated into French on Afrique XXI website, 11 April 2025 <https://afriquexxi.info/Visas-Schengen-et-discriminations>
- ‘Bridging continents: Reflections on a RENPET seminar at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa’, RENPET: Jean Monnet Network EU Foreign Affairs, October 2024, <https://www.renpet.eu/blog/bridging-continents-reflections-on-a-renpet-seminar-at-the-university-of-johannesburg-south-africa>
- ‘The Sahel: Europe’s forever war?’, Centre for European Reform, 31 March 2021, <https://cer.eu/publications/archive/policy-brief/2021/sahel-europes-forever-war>
- ‘Europe needs a strong Africa, but will it work to achieve one?’, Centre for European Reform, 3 December 2020, <https://www.cer.eu/insights/europe-needs-strong-africa-will-it-work-achieve-one>
- ‘From escalation to inclusion: promoting inter-ethnic dialogue in Mali’, Friends of Europe, 25 February 2020, <https://www.friendsofeurope.org/insights/good-governance-and-reconciliation/>
- ‘A means to an end or an end in itself? The EU’s integrated approach to conflict in Mali’, Published in *EU Diplomacy Papers*, November 2019.

### Conference paper presentations

- 2025 International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Chicago, USA  
British International Studies Association Conference, Belfast, UK  
European International Studies Association 18<sup>th</sup> Pan-European Conference, Bologna, Italy
- 2024 British International Studies Association Conference, Birmingham, UK  
European International Studies Association 17<sup>th</sup> Pan-European Conference, Lille, France
- 2023 European International Studies Association 16<sup>th</sup> Pan-European Conference, Potsdam, Germany  
Centre for Global Security Challenges and the European Journal of International Security Conference ‘Security in a time of ‘polycrisis?’, University of Leeds, UK  
Second Annual RENPET Workshop, Institut Barcelona d’Estudis Internacionals (IBEI), Barcelona, Spain

## Scholarships and awards

- Dominique Jacquin-Berdal Travel Grant for fieldwork in Africa, 2023-24 (£2,500)
- Sir Patrick Gillam Fieldwork Fund, 2023-24 (£4,835)
- Fully funded place at IQMR Summer School, Syracuse, New York, 2024 (£2,500)
- Overseas fieldwork funding, Economic and Social Research Council, 2023 (£4,540)
- RENPET Early Career Scholarship for Second Annual RENPET Workshop, Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (IBEI), Barcelona, Spain (€729.78)
- Research Training Support Grant, Economic and Social Research Council, 2021-24 (£2,250)
- LSE IR Department research grant, 2021-25 (£3,500)
- Economic and Social Research Council full scholarship MPhil/PhD International Relations, 2021-25 (£72,000)
- European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) prize for best thesis, 2019
- Flynn-Brunat Scholarship, for MA at College of Europe, 2018 (€16,500)
- Laidlaw Scholarship, for an independent undergraduate research project, 2017 (£6,000)
- Tutorial Prize, Magdalen College, Oxford, 2017
- Demyship (academic scholarship), Magdalen College, Oxford, 2016

## Service

- 2023-present     **Convener, Sahel Working Group, London School of Economics**
- Co-convener of a working group on the Sahel for London-based researchers.
- 2024                **Section Chair, European International Studies Association 17<sup>th</sup> Pan-European Conference, Lille, France**
- Chaired EISA section 'Critical and area studies perspectives on European foreign policy' comprised of 5 panels discussing different thematic aspects of decolonising and decentring the study of European foreign policy.
- 2024                **Convenor, Workshop on EU-Africa relations, University of Johannesburg**
- Organised a Jean Monnet EU-funded RENPET workshop at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa on 23 July 2024. The event featured a keynote speech from the Deputy Head of EU Delegation with a subsequent discussion on EU-Africa relations and a networking reception with South African students.
- 2023, 2024        **Welcome week coordinator, London School of Economics**
- Responsible for orientation week activities for incoming master's students in the IR department at LSE in September 2023 and September 2024.
- 2023                **Research Assistant, UK Covid-19 Inquiry 'Expert report'**
- Research assistant for Dr Clare Wenham, collecting evidence to support the drafting of Gender Pre-Pandemic Inequalities report for UK national Covid Inquiry.
- 2021-22            **Deputy Editor, Millennium: Journal of International Studies, Volume 51**
- Managed the peer review process at *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*.

## Training

- Principles of Teaching in Higher Education (PoTHE) accredited by the UK Higher Education Academy (HEA), 2023.
- The Institute of Psychoanalysis – Introductory Lectures in Psychoanalysis, London, 2024-25.
- The Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR), Syracuse, New York, 2024.
- Hostile Environment Awareness Training (HEAT), International Location Safety, Sussex (UK), 2023.

- MY428 Qualitative Text and Discourse Analysis, LSE, 2022
- MY426 Doing Ethnography, LSE, 2022

### Languages

*English* Native speaker.  
*French* Advanced – Level C1 (CEFR).

### Policy-related speaking invitations

- UK-Africa Forum on Cultural Diplomacy, 22-25 August 2024.
- European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) conference on EU CSDP Missions and Operations, organised by the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU – 13 March 2024.
- Egmont Institute, Brussels, Belgium – guest speaker seminar, 27 November 2023.
- Egmont Institute, Brussels, Belgium – Sahel High-Level Brainstorming Seminar, 19 June 2023.

### Other professional experience

2020-21 **Clara Marina O'Donnell Fellow, Centre for European Reform**  
 London, UK

2020 **Trainee – Civil Protection, Council of the European Union**  
 Brussels, Belgium

2019-20 **Programme Assistant, Peace, Security and Defence, Friends of Europe**  
 Brussels, Belgium

### Memberships

- Editorial board, *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*
- Associate Fellow, Higher Education Academy (AFHEA)
- International Studies Association (ISA)
- European International Studies Association (EISA)
- British International Studies Association (BISA)
- Kings-LSE European Foreign Policy Unit
- International Political Sociology (IPS) workshops, London
- London Sahel Working Group

### References

- **Prof. Karen Smith**, London School of Economics, [k.e.smith@lse.ac.uk](mailto:k.e.smith@lse.ac.uk)
- **Mark Hoffman**, London School of Economics, [m.hoffman@lse.ac.uk](mailto:m.hoffman@lse.ac.uk)