

Research project summary:
The Nordic Group and the European Union in the Global Human Rights Regime: Social Hierarchy, Normative Contestation and Feminist Foreign Policy
Project managed by:
Professor Karen E. Smith
Project outline:
The UGRA will be involved in a research project on 'The Nordic Group and the European Union in the Global Human Rights Regime: Social Hierarchy, Normative Contestation and Feminist Foreign Policy', which is an ISA conference paper (if accepted) and future academic article that I am working on with a colleague, Katie Laatikainen. The abstract is as follows: The Nordic Group and the European Union lay claim to being strong leaders on gender equality issues within the global human rights regime. In the EU, however, some member states have staked out more 'traditional' positions, while the Nordic Group has become more visible within the human rights regime, responding to expectations of Nordic citizens favouring activism in support of gender and LGBTQ rights. This paper examines the relationship between these two groups on gender equality issues within the UN General Assembly, Human Rights Council and Commission on the Status of Women. How do internal political dynamics shape their positioning, especially in those member states that belong to both groupings? Is the EU's position 'moved' by the more progressive Nordic Group? Does the Nordic Group distinguish itself from the EU? We examine the action of the EU and the Nordic Group in the UN by analysing their formal positioning in the diplomatic process. We analyse how their positioning is received by other states: is there a perception of a divided Europe, or, drawing on Towns 2010, does competition between the two groups foster a race to the top within a normative hierarchy?
What you will be expected to do:
<p>The UGRA will help collect the EU's statements regarding gender equality statements in the UNGA, HRC and CSW for the past 5 years. We will then investigate the reactions of other states in those UN bodies to the EU's statements. We will also be looking for statements from individual member states that may be stronger or weaker than, or just different to, the EU's statements. We will also be comparing the EU's statements to those of the Nordic Group (collected by my co-author). By 'statements' I mean formal statements to these bodies which can come in the form of declarations, contributions to debates, sponsorship or support for resolutions, explanations of votes, and questions posed to experts.</p> <p>The student will thus learn about how states represent their views in UN fora, and how the EU specifically does this. The student will learn more about the positions of EU member states, and the challenges of forming and maintaining common EU positions on the international stage. We will be using discourse analysis techniques to identify the key themes, values, positions of the EU and compare these to those of other states.</p> <p>The work could be conducted remotely as it entails research in UN online sources.</p> <p>The work will need to be completed by mid-February, so the hours specified below are approximate and can vary per week.</p>
Desirable technical skills (e.g. language/tech skills)
N/A
How many hours you will work overall, and per week (subject to variation)
100 total, 5 per week.
Can the project be undertaken remotely or do you have to be physically present at a specific location to carry out the work?
The project can be undertaken remotely, though I would prefer to meet in person with the student throughout the project.

