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**BAHÇEŞEHİR UNIVERSITY**  
**PLURIVERSAL EXCELLENCE IN EU STUDIES (PLURIEX)**  
**JEAN MONNET CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE**  
**PROJECT NO: 101240978**

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**Early Career Researcher Workshop**  
**Pluriversalising EU Studies: Rethinking Europe from Multiple Epistemic Positions**  
**Department of Political Science and International Relations**  
**Bahçeşehir University, Beşiktaş, Istanbul**  
**10-11 June 2026 (Hybrid)**

PLURIEX – Pluriversal Excellence in EU Studies is a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, based in the Department of Political Science and International Relations at Bahçeşehir University, strategically designed to embrace epistemic pluriversality in European Union (EU) studies. In PLURIEX, epistemic pluriversality refers to the integration of epistemic plurality—the inclusion of multiple disciplinary and methodological approaches—and epistemic diversity—the inclusion of scholars, practitioners, and perspectives from diverse geographical, social, and professional contexts. While the EU remains the central institutional focus of EU studies, PLURIEX understands “Europe” in a broader sense. Europe is approached not simply as a fixed geographical entity or as synonymous with the EU, but as a wider political, historical, and relational space shaped through interactions between the EU, its member states, neighbouring regions, and global partners. In this sense, Europe is continuously interpreted, negotiated, and experienced across different regions of the world. However, EU studies has traditionally been dominated by a limited set of disciplines, geographical perspectives, and scholarly communities, often centred in Western Europe and North America. This has led to epistemic hierarchies in which certain voices, disciplines, and policy experiences are privileged while others remain marginalised. PLURIEX addresses this by championing epistemic plurality by integrating inter-, cross-, and multi-disciplinary approaches, while embracing epistemic diversity through the deliberate inclusion of underrepresented voices, scholars beyond Europe, and expertise that challenges male-dominated narratives.

#### **About the Workshop**

Contemporary EU-related knowledge production remains uneven and, in important respects, analytically narrow. Despite the expanding reach of European governance across regulatory, technological, environmental, and geopolitical domains, EU Studies continues to be shaped by a relatively limited range of disciplinary perspectives and Euro-Atlantic epistemic centres. This concentration risks obscuring how European cooperation operates across multiple levels of governance—from EU institutions to national administrations, regulatory agencies, sectoral experts, and policy practitioners involved in implementation. The PLURIEX Early Career Researcher Workshop responds to this challenge by promoting epistemic pluriversality in EU Studies, understood as the integration of diverse disciplinary approaches and perspectives from different geographical and professional contexts. It does so through three mutually reinforcing priorities:

**Disciplinary plurality** – expanding EU Studies beyond its traditional political science and IR core by engaging insights from across the humanities, social sciences, and applied policy fields. Contributions drawing on underutilised disciplinary perspectives—such as anthropological, sociological, gender, geographical, political ecological, agriculture, or science and technology approaches—as well as sectoral expertise (e.g. public health, energy and climate policy, digital governance, mobility systems, industrial and regulatory standards, education, and the cultural and creative sectors) are particularly welcome.

**Geo-epistemic diversity** – engaging diverse ways of knowing Europe that emerge across different world regions, intellectual traditions, and geopolitical contexts, while also reflecting on how Europe and the EU understand, interpret, and engage with other parts of the world. The workshop proceeds from the premise that knowledge produced in different geographical and epistemic locations is not supplementary but constitutive of how Europe and the EU are understood. It therefore welcomes scholarship shaped by varied regional experiences, including global cooperation, post-imperial and postcolonial transformations, developmental governance trajectories, and relational or place-based understandings of political order.

**Authorship and positional diversity** – broadening who produces and is recognised as producing authoritative knowledge on the EU. The workshop values scholarship emerging from diverse social and experiential locations and recognises that researchers’ positionalities—including gender, race, ethnicity, migration background, minority status, and lived experience—can shape theoretical questions and interpretations of Europe. Contributions that center researcher positionality or foreground the situated experiences of the communities through which Europe and the EU are studied are particularly encouraged.

Substantively, the workshop engages EU-related governance across multiple policy domains—including but not limited to trade, security, migration, sustainability, digital regulation, and social policy—while recognising that the EU can be analysed from diverse geographical and institutional vantage points. Particular attention is given to public officials, technical experts, and policy practitioners whose practice-based knowledge often remains peripheral to academic debate. By convening early-career researchers alongside practitioners and policymakers, the workshop aims to foster sustained cross-sectoral dialogue. Persistent inequalities in knowledge production—including the under-representation of women and scholars outside dominant Euro-Atlantic institutions (Bettecken et al., 2022; Haastrup et al., 2022)—further underscore the need for epistemic broadening.

Conceptually, the workshop treats pluriversality as both a critical diagnostic and a forward-looking research orientation. Drawing on the principle of building “a world where many worlds fit” (Escobar, 2018), alongside feminist standpoint theory and scholarship on epistemic injustice and decolonial critiques of Eurocentric political rationality, the workshop foregrounds how socially situated knowledge shapes what counts as authoritative understanding in EU Studies. Methodologically, this aligns with pluriversality as cosmopraxis (Querejazu, 2025), encouraging historically situated and relational approaches to European governance.

### **Workshop Aims**

The workshop aims to:

- advance pluriversal theoretical and methodological approaches to European governance;
- foster interdisciplinary and cross-regional scholarly exchange;
- amplify under-represented voices and knowledge traditions; strengthen connections between academic research and governance practice;
- support early-career researchers in developing publishable work and sustained collaborations.
- Bridge academic knowledge with policy expertise.
- Participants will receive structured scholarly mentoring.

### **Themes**

The workshop welcomes contributions engaging with, but not limited to:

- Epistemic justice, feminist, and decolonial approaches
- Disciplinary plurality and sectoral governance
- Geo-epistemic perspectives on Europe
- Generating knowledge about Europe from diverse geographical and epistemic locations
- Diversifying how Europe understands and engages with other regions of the world
- Authorship diversity and knowledge hierarchies
- Participatory and practice-based methodologies
- Bureaucratic expertise and EU neighbourhood relations
- Sustainability and more-than-human governance
- Pluriversal pedagogy and curriculum transformation

### **Eligibility**

The workshop is open to PhD candidates, postdoctoral researchers, and scholars at early stages of their academic careers working across disciplines relevant to EU Studies. We recognise that academic trajectories are non-linear, and career interruptions will be taken into account. Applications from scholars in under-represented institutions, regions, and social positionalities are particularly encouraged.

### **Submission Requirements**

Applicants are required to submit:

- an abstract of 500 words outlining the research question, theoretical framework, methodology, and expected contribution;
- 3–5 keywords;
- a short academic biography (maximum 150 words);
- a brief positionality statement (2–3 sentences) reflecting the author’s epistemic, social, or experiential standpoint in relation to the research topic.
- Submissions and presentations can be in Turkish or English.
- Submissions should be made via the online form [here](#).

### **Key Dates**

- Submission deadline: 6 April 2026 (23:59 CET)
- Notification of acceptance: 13 April 2026
- Workshop: 9-10 June 2026 (Bahçeşehir University, Istanbul)
- For further questions, please email [pluriex.jmce@gmail.com](mailto:pluriex.jmce@gmail.com) or contact us [here](#).