

# Abstracts

ANNELIESE RIEGER

## **How to Strengthen Europe's Global Position with Hegel's Concept of Recognition – A Philosophical Approach to Europe's Dealings with China**

How to address China's fiercely persuasive and overpowering global economic influence and its implications is one of the most pressing issues for international politics. This paper presents a philosophical approach to Europe's dealings with China by referring to Hegel's concept of recognition and recent research on the concept of recognition in IR. First, I provide a brief introduction to China's current political objectives and global engagement that is closely tied to the historical and cultural background. Second, modern interpretations of Hegel's concept of recognition and their place in IR are discussed. Finally, concerning Europe's dealings with China, I conclude with the hypothesis that Hegel's theory of recognition could be read like strategy advice for a tactical card game: You need to know exactly what is in your deck of cards, learn thoroughly about the opponent's assets and objectives, play by mutually agreed rules and have the willingness to continuously amend your strategy according to the best interests for the future of the EU.

SERGI GERASKOV

## **Re-public Policy: Religious Freedom and Religiously Motivated Persecutions in Donbas (2014–2019)**

The Russian interference in Eastern Ukraine followed by the appearance of unrecognized states such as the so-called "Donetsk People's Republic" and "Luhansk People's Republic" has distinctly shaped local religious landscapes, thus making policy on religion a very sensitive issue. Policies by the occupation authorities aimed to persecute certain religious communities and believers have transformed the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine into a space of religious non-freedom where religious rights are violated. The latest legislative initiatives in Donetsk and Luhansk cities raised serious concerns in the general public. Given the unsatisfactory state of religious freedom in the temporarily occupied territories of Eastern Ukraine and the need to respond appropriately to flagrant cases of persecution of many denominations, this study provides

not only an analysis of religious policy in those territories, but also a comprehensive explanation of the specific outcome in the case of Donbas.

ISABELL BURMESTER

**EU and Russian Coercive Strategies towards the Shared Neighbourhood: The Case of Moldova**

The competition between Russia and the EU over influence in the ‘shared neighbourhood’ is one between two actors that differ significantly in their nature and their foreign policy approaches. This dichotomy is manifested in separate meso-level conceptualizations in EU and Eurasian studies. This article subsumes the separate theorizations under the more generic concepts of hegemony and power. It focuses on EU and Russian uses of hard power towards Moldova since the beginning of the 2000s. The analysis shows that both actors used coercion in instances when they did not perceive consent for their hegemony in the neighbourhood. Whereas Russia’s strategy was one of extended general and immediate deterrence with the aim of preventing Moldova from integration with the West, the EU used coercive diplomacy to compel Moldova to adopt specific sectoral reforms and guarantee the respect for democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. There was less compliance by Moldova if the other regional power provided support to mitigate the costs of non-compliance. Overall, Russia had more power over Moldova than the EU, but this power was negative.

MIRALI MIRHASHIMLI

**From Europeanization to Stabilitocracy: How the EU defines its Relations with Azerbaijan**

While the European Union imposes Europeanization on its borders, it pursues a stabilitocracy policy towards some of the countries it cooperates with and turns a blind eye to democracy and human rights violations as a consequence. After the accessions of new member countries were largely completed between 2004 and 2007, the EU turned its focus to securing its borders. The organization built good economic relations with its neighbors and funded them in different areas through the European Neighbourhood Policy which, however, has lacked stipulations on democracy and human rights abuses, unlike within the EU’s own boundaries. The oil-rich Azerbaijan and its authoritarian government is a case in point. For years, the EU has not played an active role in solving the democracy and human rights violations and war problems of this

country, although these events continue to directly or indirectly affect the European Union itself. The EU, however, can take action by leveraging its strong economic alliance with Azerbaijan.

OLGA USACHOVA

**Mobile Applications as a Welcoming Guide: Between Digital Mediation and Local Culture**

The rapid development of information and communication technology (ICT) has made it possible to connect globally via various digital platforms and networks. ICT has added a new dimension to personal interrelations by interfering in knowledge production and reinforcing cultural representations. This paper focuses on digital media developed to provide relevant information to asylum seekers in Germany. In particular, we present a case study on the Integreat app which was developed in 2015 in Augsburg, Germany, and has been implemented in more than sixty municipalities across Germany. We address the question of how the information content provided by municipalities reflects the local culture representations through digital means. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork in Germany, including in-depth interviews with municipality representatives, Integreat implementors, as well as content analysis of the digital platform, this paper traces the different paths of cultural representation in the discussion of social inclusion of migrants.

