



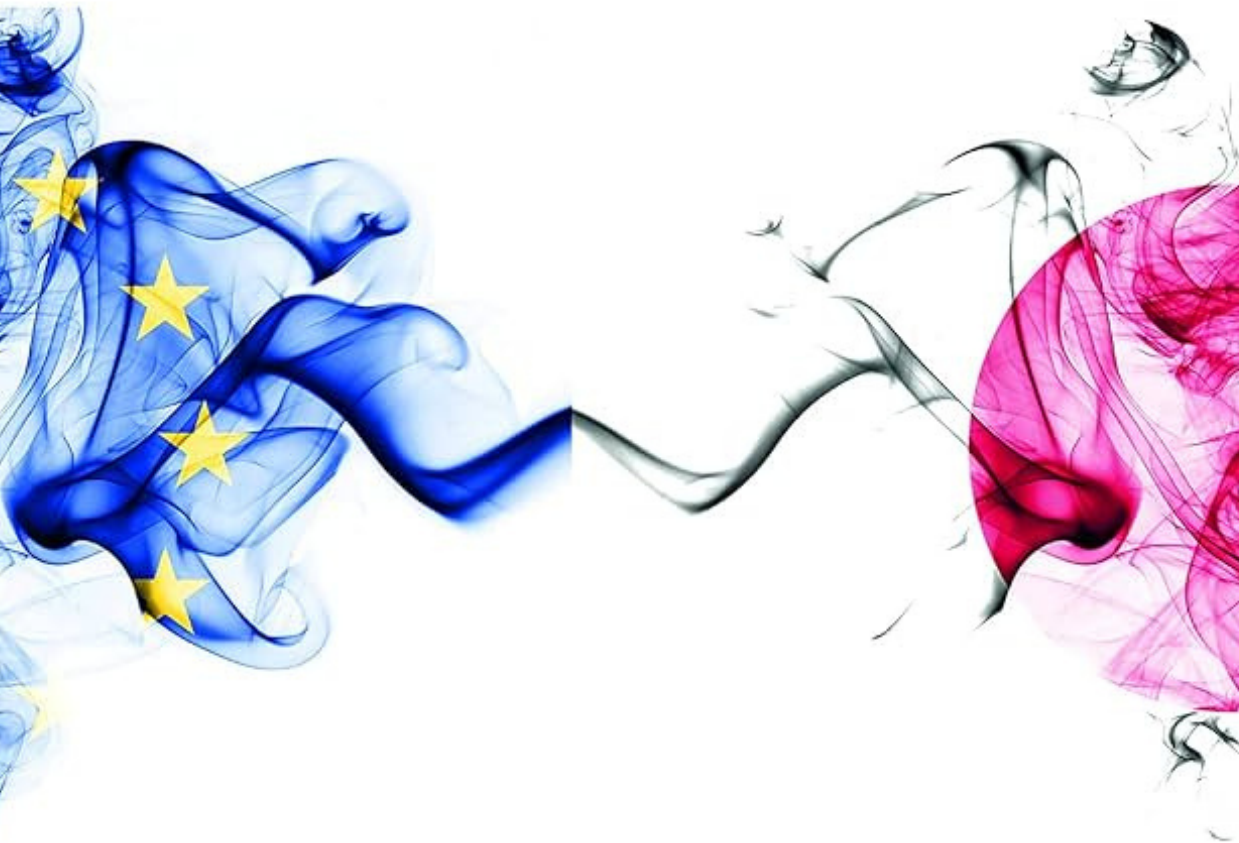
Waseda University Brussels Office  
早稲田大学ブリュッセルオフィス

# Political Narratives in Europe & Asia Compared

WORKSHOP  
SERIES

March 4, 2024

IEE-ULB - 39, Avenue F. Roosevelt B-1050 Brussels, Belgium



VENUE



**Institut d'études européennes (IEE)**  
Université Libre de Bruxelles, Solbosch campus  
Avenue F. Roosevelt, 39 B-1050 Brussels (BELGIUM)



WASEDA  
University

## IEE-Waseda Workshop

 **04** MARCH 2024

 **IEE-ULB**  
39 AV. ROOSEVELT BRUSSELS

# POLITICAL NARRATIVES IN EUROPE AND ASIA COMPARED



Coordinated by professor **François Foret** (IEE-ULB President), the initial one-day Workshop on **Political Narratives in Europe & Asia Compared** will unpack several political narratives that resonate on both sides of the EU-Japan partnership.

Political narratives have become increasingly salient in contemporary politics, from the “nation-branding”, the search for “soft power” or the framing of conflicts in external affairs, to the conflictualization of identities and values in the internal public spheres. This proliferation and quick obsolescence of narratives can be interpreted as an outcome of political disenchantment and secularization. Many stories compete – “in real life” or in digital media – to fill the void left by the erosion of “big narratives” (e.g., ideologies, nations, religions). The tensions, hybridizations, and clashes between narratives are all the more important in diversifying and individualizing societies and in multilevel systems of governance.

While narratives express historical, social, and cultural specificities, they also circulate worldwide and are shaped by global trends. To avoid essentialism, they must be analyzed both in their context of enunciation (polity/policy sector) and through a comparative prism. Building on previous work, this is what this workshop sets out to do on narratives about **leadership, education, and the past**.

# Workshop on Political Narratives in Europe & Asia Compared

## EVENT PROGRAM - MON. MARCH 4, 2024

Venue: Institute for European Studies-ULB

Avenue Franklin D. Roosevelt 39

1050, Brussels (BELGIUM)

09:30 - 10:00 **Registration & Welcome Coffee**

10:00 - 10:15 **Workshop Opening**  
François Foret (IEE-ULB)

10:15 - 12:00 Session 1 @ Kant Room  
**Narrating Power: Leadership in Europe and Asia**

**Chair** François Foret (IEE-ULB)

**Guibourg Delamotte (INALCO)**

*Global leadership and political culture: a comparison Europe/Japan*

**Syuzanna Vasilyan (ULB-IEE)**

*Japan from the Mores of Pacifism to the Bellicism of Realpolitik in the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood*

**Jing-Syuan Wong (ULB-IEE & LUISS)**

*Dealing with competing authoritarian models: Japan and EU's respective neighborhoods compared*

12:00 - 12:45 **Lunch Break**

## Workshop on Political Narratives in Europe & Asia Compared

EVENT PROGRAM - MON. MARCH 4, 2024

12:45 - 14:30      Session 2 @ Kant Room  
**Narrating Education: University Cooperation in Europe & Asia:  
University Cooperation in Europe & Asia**

**Chair**      François Foret (IEE-ULB)

**Anemona Constantin (ULB-IEE, Cevipol)**

*Political narratives in European policy for higher education and research*

**François Heinderyckx (ULB-LTC)**

*Lessons drawn from the experience of European University Alliances  
The case of CIVIS*

**Sohail Luka (DG EAC - Unit C2 – Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions)**

*MSCA Joint Doctorates strategic dimension and challenges*

**Leyla Radjai (Tokyo University)**

*International higher education institutions: Challenges and opportunities*

**Frederik Ponjaert (ULB-IEE)**

**& Paola Vellani (ULB)**

*Joint and Multiple Degree Architectures in Practices*

14:30 - 14:45      **Coffee Break**

# Workshop on Political Narratives in Europe & Asia Compared

EVENT PROGRAM - MON. MARCH 4, 2024

14:45 - 16:15

Session 2 @ Kant Room

**Narrating the Past: Memory & Heritage in Europe and Asia**

**Chair**

Guibourg Delamotte (INALCO)

**Andrea Apollonio (University of Turin)**

*Political narratives and memory activism across societies and institutions: the cases of Okinawa/Japan and the EU*

**Natsuko D'Aprile (ULB-Cevipol)**

*Identity & soft power: A comparison of France and Japan*

**Alvaro Oleart (ULB-IEE)**

*Comparing the decolonial perspective*

16:15 - 16:30

**Concluding Words**

**François Foret (IEE-ULB)**



## Academic Coordinator



**François Foret** is Professor of political science and researcher at the Cevipol and the Institute for European Studies (IEE), Université Libre de Bruxelles; and President of the IEE-ULB (from september 2023). He is also a fellow at the European Governance and Politics Programme, Robert Schuman Centre, European University Institute Florence. His specialization is in political sociology; European studies and comparative politics. His researches focus on the legitimization of political orders; symbolic politics; the interaction between politics, culture, religion, and values; and the comparison between Europe, Japan, and the US. His current research project deals with the proliferation and rapid exhaustion of political narratives in processes of community- and polity-building. The purpose is to understand to which extent and how identity, normative, and memory issues are recycled into new cultural forms and interact with the justification of public institutions. The evolution of narratives across time and space is analyzed in its relation to political, economic, and technological change.

## Organising Committee



**Jean-Louis Moortgat** is, since 2017, Director of the Waseda University Brussels Office for Europe. Since 2008, he is also International Senior Officer in charge of ULB's relations with Asia. In this capacity, he was project director for the EuropeAid project: "Promoting appropriate technologies for small-scale farmers to increase food security for indigenous populations in Cambodia and Laos" (2013 - 2015). Prior to this, Jean-Louis Moortgat was successively: ULB - Deputy Secretary General (1990-1998); Budget Advisor to the Minister of Culture and Continuing Education, French-speaking Community of Belgium (1998-1999); Responsible for evaluating the quality of university education for the Council of Rectors, French-speaking Community of Belgium - CReF (1999-2002); Advisor to the Cabinet of the Government Delegate to the ULB (French-speaking Community of Belgium) (2002-2003); Administrative and Financial Director of the Museum of Contemporary Art (MAC's) of the French-speaking Community of Belgium (2003-2008).



**Frederik Ponjaert** is a researcher at the Institute for European Studies at Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) and Assistant Lecturer in Comparative Regionalism at SciencesPo (IEP-Paris). His research is on comparative regionalism, with an emphasis on European and Asian realities. He equally works on EU external action and inter-regional partnerships, again with a specific focus on Euro-Asian dynamics. More recently, both of these research strands have focussed on the developing EU-Japan relationship in light of the recently signed Economic Partnership and Strategic Partnership Agreements. His teaching covers topics such as "comparative regionalism", "EU external action" and "EU-East Asian Relations" as well as "Japanese Foreign Policy. At the ULB, he is a member of both the Institut d'Études Européennes (IEE) and the East Asian Studies Center (EASt). He is also the scientific coordinator of the GEM Ph.D. School on "Globalisation, the European Union and Multilateralism". He is also co-editor of two Routledge book series: the GEM series on 'Globalisation, Europe and Multilateralism' and the CES series on "Contemporary Asian Societies".

## Speakers



**Andrea-Apollonio** is a PhD candidate in Social and Political Change at the University of Turin (Department of Culture, Politics and Society) and at the University of Florence (Department of Political and Social Sciences). My research interests concern the social construction of the past and the political use of memory, mainly in the European and Japanese contexts. I hold a Master's degree in Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences.

## Speakers



**Anemona Constantin** is a political sociologist by training. She holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Paris Nanterre (2019), where she taught seminars in political science and social history of ideas for MA and BA students (2006-2011). Her works examine the transformations of the Romanian intellectual field after 1989, the public debates around the political past that sparked in Eastern Europe during the post-socialist period, and the (re)-writing of national histories after the fall of the Berlin Wall in Romania, Bulgaria, and the Republic of Moldova.



**Natsuko D'Aprile** is a PhD student in political science at the Center for the Study of Political Life (CEVIPOL) of the ULB and Aspirante FNRS, my thesis project is entitled "France and Japan, two public diplomacies in comparison (1990-2022), or how the construction of the Nation conditions its promotion". After a master's degree in political science and international relations at ULB during which I compared the cultural diplomacies of these two countries (with language and religion as objects of study), my objective today is to understand the way whose historical construction over the long term of these two Nations influences the promotion of their national identity. To do this, I will first establish a map of the two public diplomacies, and I will then focus on their narrative practices, to understand what image of the Nation these two countries project.



**Guibourg Delamotte** is a French and Australian dual citizen, Guibourg Delamotte is a tenured Full-Professor of Political Science at the Japanese studies department of the French Institute of Oriental Studies (Inalco), of which she is presently the Head and a Research Fellow with the French Research Institute on East Asia (Inalco/CNRS). She is a Distinguished Research Fellow of the Japan Forum on International Relations (JFIR, Tokyo) and an Academic Fellow of the Institute for Contemporary Asian Studies (Temple University Japan, Tokyo). From 2021 to 2023, she was also invited by the University of Tokyo's Research Centre for Advanced Science & Technology. She was a National Institute of Defense Studies Fellow (Tokyo) in 2010. She works on Japan's foreign and security policies and Japanese domestic politics. She most recently published *Le Japon, un leader discret* (Eyrolles, 2023), *La Démocratie au Japon, singulière et universelle* (ENS Ed., 2022), and coedited (with J. Brown and R. Dujarric) *The Abe Legacy. How Japan has been shaped by Abe Shinzô*, Lexington, 2021; *Géo-politique et géoéconomie du monde contemporain. Conflits et puissances* (with C. Tellenne), La Découverte, 2021.



**François Heinderyckx** is a full professor at the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), where he teaches media sociology and political communication. He is an advisor to the Rector of the ULB for the European University Alliance CIVIS. He is Series Editor in chief of the Wiley Blackwell - ICA International Encyclopedias of Communication. He is a member of the Academia Europaea and a Fellow of the International Communication Association. He was Dean of the Faculty of Letters, Translation, and Communication at ULB (2015-2019), Visiting Scholar at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism (2019-2020), and a Chang-Jiang Scholar Professor at the Communication University of China, Beijing (2013-2018). He was President of the European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA) from 2005 to 2012. He was also the 2013-2014 President of the International Communication Association (ICA)



**Sohail Luka**, PhD, is MSCA policy Officer in the C2 Unit – Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions in the Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture of the European Commission. Former Deputy Head of Cabinet for the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management (2014-2019). Held other EU positions, at its Foreign Affairs service (the EEAS) and at the Commission working on research policy. Specialized in Molecular Microbial Genetics, he received his B.Sc. from Ain Shams University (Cairo) and Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee (USA). He occupied several academic positions in Egypt, and then in Italy as a Visiting Professor at the International Institute for Genetics and Biophysics. He is the author of many articles in the scientific literature. During 1997-2005, he worked at Procter & Gamble (P&G) in Brussels as External Relations Manager for Europe, Africa and the Middle East. He speaks Arabic, English, Italian, and French. He is a musician of classical Arabic music and a Judo coach/Referee. He had a musical release in the USA and two published food recipes.

## Speakers



**Alvaro Oleart** is an FNRS postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Political Science and Institute for European Studies of the Université Libre de Bruxelles. Previously, he was a postdoctoral researcher at Studio Europa and the Department of Political Science of Maastricht University, and a postdoctoral researcher and lecturer at the department of Political Science and Public Administration of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. He is the author of the book “Framing TTIP in the European Public Spheres: Towards an Empowering Dissensus for EU Integration” (Palgrave, 2021). He has spent the last year and a half observing the Conference on the Future of Europe from both empirical and normative perspectives.



**Layla Radjai** is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Graduate School of Education, The University of Tokyo. She earned her Ph.D. and MA from the Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University. Previously, she served as a Program Advisor at the Secretariat of International Peace Cooperation, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan, and as a Project Coordinator at the Center for Research on International Cooperation in Educational Development at Tsukuba University. Additionally, she contributed as a Youth Engagement Officer for a peacebuilding project at the United Nations in Sri Lanka. Her research interests include the internationalization and regionalization of higher education, the internationalization of curriculum, and multicultural and intercultural education.



Dr. **Syuzanna Vasilyan** has been based at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) since 2015 as a Research Fellow, Adjunct Professor and Scientific Collaborator. Prior to that she was Assistant Professor and Jean Monnet Chair of EUropean Studies at the American University of Armenia (2011-2015), Visiting Professor at the Central European University in Hungary (2010-2011), PhD Researcher and Lecturer at Ghent University in Belgium (2006-2010). Additionally, Dr. Vasilyan was a Visiting researcher or Visiting Professor at the European University Institute (EUI) and University of Padova in Italy, Waseda University in Japan, SciencesPo Paris in France, Georgetown University and the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in the USA, College of Europe, Natolin campus in Poland, Kent University Brussels campus in Belgium, University of Tartu in Estonia, etc. She holds two MA degrees from Leiden University in the Netherlands (2005) and the Central European University in Hungary (2002) and was a BA exchange student at Otterbein College/University in Ohio, USA (1999-2000). Since 1999 she has also been selected to partake in 16 honors classes, executive trainings, summers schools, debate fora, colloquia, projects, etc. Dr. Vasilyan has been a recipient of 20 awards, scholarships, fellowships and grants. Specialized in EU Studies and international relations since 2006 she has taught 7 MA courses and lectured for PhD Schools in different countries of the world. She has (co-)authored 47 publications, i.e. policy papers, policy briefs, op-eds, academic articles and book chapters published by international think tanks, peer-reviewed journals, book volumes and restricted reports. Syuzanna Vasilyan is the author of “‘Moral Power’ of the European Union in the South Caucasus” monograph published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2020.



**Jing-Syuan Wong** is a PhD candidate in political and social science at Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), affiliated with Centre d'Étude de la Vie Politique (Cevipol). She is also a Marie Skłodowska-Curie doctoral fellow of Globalisation, Europe, and Multilateralism (GEM)- Democratic Institutions, the rise of Alternative MOdels and mounting Normative Dissensus (DIAMOND) research project. Under the GEM-DIAMOND framework, she is writing a dissertation entitled Responding to competing authoritarian models: Japan and EU's respective neighbourhoods compared' (ESR 14) under the joint supervision of Prof. Luca Tomini from ULB, Brussels, and Prof. Ken Miichi from Waseda University, Tokyo. She graduated from the School of Research at Sciences Po in 2022 with a master degree in political science (public policy). Her master thesis was supervised by Prof. Colin Hay and analyzed the political economy of long-term care policy transformations in Taiwan with the angle of politicization. She also holds a bachelor degree in politics and government from the Collège universitaire de Sciences Po (2017-2020).