

Notes on Contributors

Natalia Chaban is Jean Monnet Chair and Professor in the Department of Media and Communication, University of Canterbury (UC), New Zealand. As vice-leader of the working group “Perceptions and Communication”, COST Action *EU Foreign Policy Facing New Directions* (ENTER) and Director of Public Diplomacy and Political Communication Forum at UC, she leads multiple transnational research projects supported by the European Commission, EEAS and NATO.

Aistė Deimantaitė is a final-year PhD student at Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, Lithuania. Her thesis focuses on the perception of the concept and idea of sovereignty, and its transformation in a modern democracy. Aistė participated in the research project of the Research Council of Lithuania “Creation and Recognition of the Lithuanian State in 1917-1918: Historical and Political Aspects”. Aistė has a Bachelor and a Master degree in political science from Vilnius University Institute of International Relations and Political Science.

Pauline Heinrichs is a strategic narrative and ontological security scholar. Her PhD thesis has looked at how different actors negotiate state identity narratives around moments of uncertainty, anxiety and crises. Pauline has worked for Jean Monnet funded projects, in particular in critical public diplomacy contexts. She was selected as an emerging scholar at the Milton Wolf Seminar on Public Diplomacy.

Vineta Kleinberga is a PhD student and a Researcher in the Faculty of European Studies at Rīga Stradiņš University. Her research interests focus on EU integration, and the dynamics between policy formation, strategic communication and societal perceptions. Vineta has ten years of experience at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia, and holds a Master degree in Political Science from Central European University.

Jan Osička is a Lecturer in the Energy Policy Studies Program at Masaryk University in the Czech Republic. His academic background is at the intersection of International Relations and International Political Economy. His research activities are dedicated to energy transitions, energy trade, and cross-border effects of unilateral energy policy reforms.

Muriel Cathérine Pluschke studied political science and economics (BA) at Bielefeld University and completed her MA in “Intercultural Communication and European Studies” at Fulda University of Applied Sciences in 2019. She has been a doctoral fellow and scholarship holder at Fulda UAS since August 2020 and continues to work there as a research assistant. Her research interests lie in European integration, the European public sphere, (local) journalism and research on democracy.

Boris Popivanov is Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski“, Bulgaria. He has authored papers in the area of political participation, European mobility and ideological processes in Europe. His current research interests are primarily focused on historical fascism in Eastern Europe and contemporary radical right movements and policies.

Maili Vilson is PhD research fellow at the University of Tartu, Estonia. Her dissertation focuses on the Europeanisation of national foreign policy of EU member states. She has

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Veronika Zapletalová is an Assistant Professor in the Department of International Relations and European Studies at the FSS at Masaryk University (Czech Republic) and an academic researcher at the International Institute of Political Science. Her major research interests are the EU energy policy, liberalisation of the energy market in the EU, and the shape of governance in the EU.