

# SIMONE THOLENS – CV

## CURRENT POSITIONS (2022/2023)

**Associate Professor, International Relations**, Department of Politics and International Affairs, John Cabot University • **Part-time professor**, Robert Schuman Centre/European University Institute

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING PROFILE

International Security • Conflict & War • Security Governance • Interventions, Stabilisation and Proxy Wars • Arms & Disarmament • Borders • Europe • Middle East • Western Balkans • Norms, Practices, Contestation

## EDUCATION

- 2012            **PhD International Relations**, Department of Social and Political Sciences, *European University Institute*
- 2007            **MA International Relations**, International School for Humanities and Social Sciences, *University of Amsterdam*
- 2005            **BA Political Science**, Department of Political Science, *University of Oslo*

## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2022–present    **Part-time Professor**, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies  
*European University Institute*
- 2022–present    **Associate Professor** International Relations, Department of Politics and International Affairs  
*John Cabot University*
- 2016–2022       **Senior Lecturer** International Relations, School of Law and Politics  
*Cardiff University* [Lecturer until 2020]
- 2013–2016       **Postdoctoral Researcher**, Robert Schuman Centre  
*European University Institute*
- 2014; 2015;  
2022              **Adjunct Professor**, Paul H. Nitze School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS) Europe, *Johns Hopkins University*
- 2008– 2008       **Research Assistant**, Department of Political Science  
*University of Amsterdam*

## PUBLICATIONS

### *Edited volumes:*

- Tholens, Simone and Abdullah Al-Jabassini (Eds.). Online first. “Special Issue: (Re)ordering the Mediterranean: The Evolution of Security Assistance as an International Practice”, *Mediterranean Politics*.
- Del Sarto, Raffaella A., and Simone Tholens. (Eds.) 2020. *Resisting Europe: Practices of Contestation in the Mediterranean Middle East*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
- Tholens, Simone and Lisa Groß. 2015. (Eds.) “Special Issue: Norm Diffusion, Contestation and Localisation in the Western Balkans”, *Journal of International Relations and Development*, Vol.18, Issue 3, pp. 249-382.

### *Journal Articles:*

- Tholens, Simone and Chiara Ruffa. Online first, “The Elephant in the Med: Postcolonial Legacies in European Security Assistance”, *Mediterranean Politics*.
- Tholens, Simone. 2021. “Intervention Practices: Assembling Security Force Assistance in Lebanon”, *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding*, Vol. 15, Issue 5, pp. 647-664.
- Tholens, Simone. 2019. “Winning the Post-War: Norm Localization and Small Arms Control in Kosovo and Cambodia”, *Journal of International Relations and Development*, Vol. 22, Issue 1, pp. 50-76.
- Santini, Ruth Hanau, and Simone Tholens. 2018. ‘Security assistance in a post-interventionist era: the impact on limited statehood in Lebanon and Tunisia’, *Small Wars and Insurgencies*, Vol. 29, Issue 3, pp. 491-514.
- Tholens, Simone. 2017. “Border management in an era of ‘Statebuilding Lite’: Security Assistance and Lebanon’s hybrid sovereignty”, *International Affairs*, Vol. 93, Issue 4, pp. 865-882.
- Tholens, Simone and Lisa Groß. 2015. “Diffusion, contestation and localisation in post-war states: 20 years of Western Balkans reconstruction”, *Journal of International Relations and Development*, Vol.18, Issue 3, pp. 249-264.
- Tholens, Simone. 2014. “The EU-South Mediterranean Energy Community: The Right Policy for the Right Region?” *International Spectator*, Vol. 49, Issue 2, pp. 34-49.
- Strazzari, Francesco and Simone Tholens. 2014. “‘Tesco for Terrorists’ Reconsidered: Arms and Conflict Dynamics in Libya and in the Sahara-Sahel Region” *European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research*, Vol. 18, Issue 1, pp. 343-360.
- Tholens, Simone. 2012. “Which and Whose Authority? EU Support to Security Governance in Aceh”, *European Security*, Vol. 21, Issue 2, pp. 294-309.
- Strazzari, Francesco and Simone Tholens. 2010. “Another Nakba: Weapons Availability and the Transformation of the Palestinian National Struggle, 1987-2007”. *International Studies Perspectives*, Vol. 54, Issue 2, pp. 112-130.

*Book chapters:*

- Tholens, Simone. 2023. "Regional entanglements: MENA states as providers of Security Assistance", in Hisham Alaoui and Robert Springborg (eds.) *Security Assistance in the Middle East: Challenges ... and the Need for Change*, Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner.
- Tholens, Simone and Rosa Maryon. 2022. "European Counter-terrorism and organised crime", in Erik Jones and Veronica Anghel (eds.) *Developments of European Politics Vol 3*, London: Bloomsbury Academic.
- Bueger, Christian and Simone Tholens. 2021. "Theorizing Capacity Building", in Bueger, Christian, Timothy Edmunds and Robert McCabe (eds.) *Understanding Capacity Building: Maritime Security and the Western Indian Ocean Experience*, London: Palgrave.
- Del Sarto, Raffaella and Simone Tholens. 2020. "Introduction: Practices of Contestation in the Mediterranean Middle East" in Del Sarto, Raffaella A., and Simone Tholens (Eds.) *Resisting Europe: Practices of Contestation in the Mediterranean Middle East*. Ann Arbor: Michigan University Press.
- Del Sarto, Raffaella, and Simone Tholens. 2020. "The Power to Contest in Europe-Middle East Relations" in Del Sarto, Raffaella A., and Simone Tholens (Eds.) *Resisting Europe: Practices of Contestation in the Mediterranean Middle East*. Ann Arbor: Michigan University Press.
- Tholens, Simone. 2018. "Practices of imperial identity: patterns and paradoxes in EU trade and energy policies towards the Maghreb", in: Serres, T. and Haleh Davies, M. eds. *North Africa and the Making of Europe: Governance, Institutions and Culture*. London: Bloomsbury
- Tholens, Simone. 2014. "Which and Whose Authority? EU Support to Security Governance in Aceh" in Oya Dursun-Ozkanca (ed.) *The European Union as an Actor in Security Sector Reform: Current Practices and Challenges of Implementation*, London: Routledge.
- Strazzari, Francesco and Simone Tholens. 2011. "Multi-stakeholder Partnerships in DDR and SALW-Control: Local Ownership, Norms and Human Security", in Brzoska, Michael, Hans-Georg Ehrhart and Jens Narten (eds.) *Multi-stakeholder partnerships in post-conflict security building*. Baden-Baden: Nomos.
- Strazzari, Francesco and Simone Tholens. 2009. "Privatized security in the Western Balkans: a blank in Security Sector Reform", (in eds) Giampiero Giacomello and R. Craig Nation, *Security in the West: Evolution of a Concept*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Tholens, Simone. 2009. "Small Arms and Light Weapons Control", in (eds) B. Peccegati and W. Nanni, *Nell'occhio del ciclone. Rapporto di ricerca su ambiente e povertà, emergenze e conflitti dimenticati*. Bologna: Il Mulino.

*Commentaries, Reviews and Press*

- 2021, 21<sup>st</sup> October. Op-ed: "The uncomfortable track record of outsourcing global security", *La Repubblica*.
- 2020, 11<sup>th</sup> February: Quoted in *The Independent*, 'Key NATO summit to open amid Trump isolationism and nose-diving support among members'.

2019. Book review: “Inside the Arab State”, by Marvan Kamrava, *International Affairs* Vol. 95, Issue 4, pp. 952-954.
2017. Book review: “Bosnia's paralysed peace”, by Christopher Bennett, *International Affairs* Vol. 93, Issue 1, pp. 217-218.
2014. Book review: “European Integration and Transformation in the Western Balkans: Europeanisation or Business as Usual?”, Arold Elbasani (ed.), in *East European Politics*, Vol. 31, Issue 1, pp. 122-123.
2014. Op-ed: “Partnership or Power Projection? The EU and its ‘Neighbourhood’” (with Raffaella A. Del Sarto), *Open Democracy*.
2013. Op-ed: Conflict at the EU’s Southern Borders: The Sahel Crisis. (With Raffaella A. Del Sarto), *Open Democracy*.
2012. Op-ed: “Extending European borders? Paradoxes in Balkan politics between EU accession and statebuilding”, *Open Democracy*.

*Publications in progress:*

- Tholens, Simone. Monograph. *Assembling Security Assistance: Knowledge, Networks and Materiality of a Global Practice*. Book proposal under review with Oxford University Press.
- Tholens, Simone. Article. “War Mosaics: Mobilising non-knowledge in and of security assistance”, for submission with *Security Dialogue*.
- Fregonese, Sara, Francisco Mazzola, and Simone Tholens (Eds.). Edited book. *Bordering Beyond the West: Rethinking Border Practices in Lebanon*. Under review with Routledge (*Worlding Beyond the West* book series).
- Calderaro, Andrea and Simone Tholens. Book chapter. “Intangible artefacts as sites of (B)ordering: The Making of the Lebanese Cyber Security Strategy”, in Sara Fregonese, Francisco Mazzola and Simone Tholens (eds.) *Bordering Beyond the West: Rethinking Border Practices in Lebanon*. Under review with Routledge (For submission with Routledge, *Worlding Beyond the West* book series).
- Peirollo, Silvia and Simone Tholens. Article. “Revisiting Retreat: Italy and the Infrastructural Power of “Train and Equip” interventions, for submission with *The International Spectator*.
- Tholens, Simone. Book chapter. “Resistance and contestation: hidden transcripts and their effects on norm decay”, in *Contestation in Prism. Patterns of norm evolution, consolidation, and decay*, edited by Cecilia Ducci and Flavia Lucenti. Springer (for submission with *Norm Research in IR*, book series).
- Tholens, Simone. Paper. *For the Peace Yet to Come: Boundaries of knowing/unknowing the future and the emergence of situational awareness in UN Peacekeeping operations*. For presentation at Hamburg University, April 2023.

## TEACHING

2022-present	<b>John Cabot University:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- “World Politics” (BA)</li><li>- “European Security” (BA)</li><li>- “Interventions in the 21<sup>st</sup> century” (BA)</li></ul>
2016-2022	<b>Cardiff University:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- “Conflict Management: From the Cuban Missile Crisis to the Syrian War” (MA)</li><li>- “International Security: Concepts and Issues” (BA)</li><li>- “Introduction to International Relations” (BA)</li><li>- “Multilateralism” (MA)</li></ul>
2014; 2015; 2022	<b>Johns Hopkins University SAIS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- “Europe and the Mediterranean Middle East” (MA)</li><li>- “Principles and Practices of Conflict Management” (MA)</li></ul>
2021; 2022; 2023	<b>Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- “The Conflict Management toolbox” (MA)</li></ul>

## FELLOWSHIPS

2021-2022	<b>Associate Fellow</b> , Paul H. Nitze School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS) Europe, <i>The Johns Hopkins University</i>
2020-2022	<b>International Academic Fellowship</b> <i>Leverhulme Trust</i>
2020-2022	<b>Visiting Fellow</b> Robert Schuman Centre, <i>European University Institute</i>
2019 – present	<b>FHEA</b> Fellow of the <i>UK Higher Education Academy</i>
2011-2012	<b>Visiting Fellow</b> , Department of International Affairs <i>Norwegian Institute of Foreign Affairs (NUPI)</i>
2010-2011	<b>Visiting Fellow</b> , Unit for Transnational Conflicts and International Institutions <i>Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB)</i>

## GRANT CAPTURE

2023-2024	<b>Research Grant.</b> <i>Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.</i> ‘Inclusivity and Secrecy: Governing information flows when negotiating peace in complex conflict contexts’: €100.000 (total)
2020–2022	<b>International Academic Fellowship.</b> <i>Leverhulme Trust.</i> ‘Knowledge, Networks and Practices of Security Assistance’: £63,584
2020–2021	<b>International Workshop Grant.</b> <i>Cardiff University/ AHSS International Initiatives Fund.</i> ‘Globalising Security Network Launch’: £7650.

2019	<b>Conference Organisation Grant</b> <i>Cardiff School of Law and Politics/ Research Support Scheme</i> . “NATO@70: Past, Present and Future of the Alliance”: £3000
2019	<b>Research Assistance Grant.</b> <i>Cardiff School of Law and Politics/ Research Assistance Support Scheme</i> . ‘Non-Western Security Force Assistance’: £530
2011–2012	<b>Grant</b> for completion of PhD thesis. <i>European University Institute</i> : €15.000.
2008–2011	<b>Doctorial Research Grant.</b> <i>Norwegian Research Council</i> : €110.000.

## PHD SUPERVISION

2017-present	<b>Rosa Maryon</b> [“Securing the secular state in Egypt and Tunisia: Reconfiguring regime legitimacy in an age of Authoritarian Neoliberalism”], <i>Cardiff University</i>
2016-2018	<b>Hanin Abou Salem</b> [“Palestinian Refugees: A crises of recognition under international law”], <i>Cardiff University</i>

## CITIZENSHIP

2021-present	<b>External Examiner, Degree Programs:</b> MA International Strategy and Security, Department of Defence Studies, <i>King’s College London</i>
2021-present	<b>Grant evaluator:</b> <i>Leverhulme Trust, UK</i>
2016-present	<b>Examiner, PhD defences:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2022: Mahad Ainab, <i>Cardiff University</i> [Tides of change: to what extent is the East African maritime security agenda locally owned?]</li> <li>- 2019: Denise Abboud, <i>Portsmouth University</i> [“Study on the status of information-sharing among law enforcement agencies: a case study of Lebanon”]</li> <li>- 2017: Lina Grip, <i>Helsinki University</i> [“Small Arms Control in Africa”]</li> <li>- 2016: James Stasey, <i>Swansea University</i> [Critical constructivism and human rights contestation between the EU and ASEAN]</li> </ul>
2019-2022	<b>Directorship:</b> Founder and Co-Director, Centre for Conflict, Security and Societies, <i>Cardiff University</i>
2018-2020	<b>Advisory Board Member:</b> “Security Force Assistance in the Sahel”, <i>Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PRIO)</i>
2012-present	<b>Journal Reviewer:</b> <i>Security Dialogue, European Journal of International Relations, International Affairs, Journal of Common Market Studies, Cooperation and Conflict, Journal of International Relations and Development, Geopolitics, The International Spectator, Third World Quarterly, Government and Opposition, Democratization, Italian Political Science Review</i>
2012-present	<b>Member</b> of the <i>International Studies Association (ISA)</i>
2012-present	<b>Member</b> of the <i>European International Studies Association (EISA)</i>

## MANAGEMENT ROLES

2019-2022	<b>Director</b> of the Centre for Conflict, Security and Societies, <i>Cardiff University</i>
2019-2021	<b>Member</b> of the REF Environment Statement Drafting Group, Department of Politics and International Relations, <i>Cardiff University</i>
2016-2020	<b>Member</b> of the Extenuating Circumstances Committee (UG and PG), Department of Politics and International Relations, <i>Cardiff University</i>
2016-2020	<b>Disability and Diversity lead</b> , Department of Politics and International Relations, <i>Cardiff University</i>
2016-2017	<b>Member</b> of the Departmental Research Committee, Department of Politics and International Relations, <i>Cardiff University</i>

## CONFERENCES & TALKS (SELECTED)

2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Event Organiser:</b> 'Peace diplomacy and geopolitical crisis', Talk by Norway's Ambassador to Italy, <i>European University Institute/RSC</i> (29<sup>th</sup> November)</li> <li>- <b>Chair:</b> 'Worse than the Cold War? Euro-Mediterranean Perspectives on Sino-American Rivalry', <i>John Cabot University</i> (17<sup>th</sup> October)</li> <li>- <b>Chair:</b> 'Italy, United States and the New Transatlantic Moment', <i>John Cabot University</i> (20<sup>th</sup> September)</li> <li>- <b>Panel organiser, Paper presenter, Roundtable participant, Discussant:</b> European International Studies Association (EISA) – Pan-European Conference on IR, <i>Panteion University, Athens</i> (12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> September)</li> <li>- <b>Conference Organiser:</b> 'Rethinking global knowledge production of 'the local' The role of political anthropology in international interventions', <i>European University Institute</i> (20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> June)</li> <li>- <b>Discussant:</b> 'Colonialism and EU Legal Categories', <i>European University Institute</i> (18<sup>th</sup> May)</li> <li>- <b>Discussant:</b> POMEPS seminar, <i>George Washington University</i>, Elliott School of International Affairs (25<sup>th</sup> March)</li> </ul>
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Discussant:</b> "Doing International Political Sociology", <i>King's College London</i> (10<sup>th</sup> December)</li> <li>- <b>Discussant:</b> "Peace, politics and paperwork workshop", Department of Social and Political Sciences, <i>European University Institute</i> (26<sup>th</sup> November)</li> <li>- <b>Workshop organiser:</b> "Bordering Beyond the West: Rethinking Border Practices in Lebanon", Robert Schuman Centre, <i>European University Institute</i> (28<sup>th</sup> October)</li> <li>- <b>Roundtable participant:</b> "Borderlands: Europe and the Mediterranean Middle East Panel", <i>Johns Hopkins University SAIS Europe</i> (23<sup>rd</sup> September)</li> <li>- <b>Paper giver:</b> <i>European International Studies Association (EISA)</i> Annual Conference, "The Travelling Towers: Materiality of Security Assistance", (16<sup>th</sup> September)</li> </ul>

- **Invited talk:** “Studying Interventions in the 21<sup>st</sup> century”, *Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna* (16<sup>th</sup> September)
- **Invited talk:** “Re-framing EU-MENA Relations after the 2011 Arab Uprisings”, *University of Turin* (12<sup>th</sup> May)
- **Workshop organiser:** “Security Assistance in the Middle East”, Robert Schuman Centre, *European University Institute* (24<sup>th</sup> April)
- **Invited book talk:** “Resisting Europe: Practices of Contestation in the Mediterranean Middle East”, Robert Schuman Centre, *European University Institute* (5<sup>th</sup> May)
- **Invited guest lecture:** “The EU in the Southern Neighbourhood”, EU Neighbourhood Summer School, *College of Europe, Natolin Campus* (26<sup>th</sup> April)
- **Invited book talk:** “Resisting Europe: Practices of Contestation in the Mediterranean Middle East”, ACES, *University of Amsterdam* (4<sup>th</sup> March)
- 2020**
  - **Organiser and Chair:** “NATO and the Nordic dimension”, CCSS Event with the Norwegian Ambassador to the UK and the Defence Attaché, *Cardiff University* (4<sup>th</sup> February)
  - **Organiser and Chair:** “War and the City: Urban Geopolitics of Beirut”, CCSS Book Talk with Dr Sara Fregonese, *Cardiff University* (8<sup>th</sup> December)
- 2019**
  - **Organiser and Opening Statement:** “NATO at 70: The Past, the Present and the Future”. *King’s College London*, Department of War Studies (6<sup>th</sup> December)
  - **Panel organiser and paper presenter:** *European International Studies Association* (EISA) Annual Pan-European Conference on IR, University of Sofia, Bulgaria (15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> September)
  - **Paper giver:** “Remote Warfare Conference”, *University of Kent*, Canterbury (10<sup>th</sup> February)
- 2018**
  - **Paper giver:** “Security Force Assistance”, *Peace Research Institute of Oslo* (PRIO) (10<sup>th</sup> December)
- 2017**
  - **Large-scale conference organiser:** *European Workshops in International Studies* (EWIS), Cardiff University

## LANGUAGES

<b>English</b>	Fluent	<b>German</b>	Intermediate
<b>Italian</b>	Fluent	<b>Norwegian</b>	Mother tongue