



# RED SPINEL

2025 Annual Conference

## Respond to Emerging Dissensus: SuPranational Instruments and Norms of European Liberal Democracy

**17-19 March 2025**

**Institut d'études européennes  
de l'Université libre de Bruxelles**  
39 Avenue Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1050 - Brussels

## Palgrave Handbook of Dissensus over Liberal Democracy

Co-edited by Ramona Coman, Claudia Badulescu (IEE-ULB), Thomas Christiansen, & Marta Simoncini (Luiss University)  
with the support of Pauline Thinus (IEE-ULB) - [Editorial Assistant]

Tuesday, 18th March - AM

### 9:00 - 10:00 About the Handbook and the Core Concepts

Chair: **Thomas Christiansen** (Luiss University)

Discussants: **Gábor Halmai** (EUI) & **Ece Özlem Atikcan** (University of Warwick)  
-Spaak Room~

- **Introduction**

by Ramona Coman, Claudia Badulescu (IEE-ULB), Thomas Christiansen, & Marta Simoncini (Luiss University)

- **Conceptualizing Dissensus over Liberal Democracy in Europe**

by Ramona Coman (IEE-ULB)

- **EU Responses to Dissensus over Liberal Democracy in the EU Neighbourhood**

by Luca Tomini (IEE-ULB) & Claudia Bădulescu (IEE-ULB)

10:00 - 10:15 Coffee break

~Foyer~

### 10:15 - 11:45 Dissensus over Liberal Democracy in Europe

Chair: **Marta Simoncini** (Luiss University)

Discussant: **Nathalie Brack** (IEE-ULB)

-Spaak Room~

- **Militant Democracy and Dissensus**

by Iwona Wróblewska (UN, Torun)

- **International Relations and Dissensus over Liberal Democracy,**

by Frederik Ponjaert (IEE-ULB)

- **Human Rights and Dissensus over Liberal Democracy**

by Piotr Krajewski (Universiteit van Amsterdam)

- **Artificial Intelligence and Dissensus over Liberal Democracy**

by George Christou (University of Warwick)

11:45 - 12:00 Coffee break

~Foyer~

## Palgrave Handbook of Dissensus over Liberal Democracy

Tuesday, 18th March - PM

### 12:00 - 13:00 EU Institutions and Dissensus over Liberal Democracy

Chair: **Claudia Bădulescu** (IEE-ULB)  
Discussant: **Amandine Crespy** (IEE-ULB)  
-Spaak Room~

- **Dissensus over Liberal Democracy and Democratic Arrhythmias in the EU**  
by Nicola Lupo (Luiss University)
- **Impact of Crises on EU Modes of Governance and Dissensus over Liberal Democracy**  
by Sergio Fabbrini (Luiss University)
- **The Commission and Dissensus over Liberal Democracy**  
by Thomas Christiansen & Dora Hegedus (Luiss University)
- **The European Social Dimension and Dissensus over Liberal Democracy**  
by Adriano Dirri (Luiss University)

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch break

~Foyer~

### 14:00 - 15:00 EU Internal Policies & Dissensus over Liberal Democracy

Chair: **Thomas Christiansen** (Luiss University)  
Discussants: **László Andor** (FEPS,) & **Paul Dermine** (IEE-ULB)  
-Spaak Room~

- **EU Spending Conditionality and Dissensus over Liberal Democracy**  
by Pauline Thinus (ULB) & Saskia Hollander (Clingendael)
- **Macro-Economic Governance and Dissensus over Liberal Democracy**  
by Andrea Capati (Luiss University)
- **Economisation and Dissensus over Liberal Democracy**  
by Louise Fromont (HEC Paris)
- **Strategic Climate Litigation and Dissensus over Liberal Democracy,**  
by Christina Eckes (Universiteit van Amsterdam)

15:00 - 15:15 Coffee break

~Foyer~

## Palgrave Handbook of Dissensus over Liberal Democracy

Tuesday, 18th March - PM

### 15:15 - 16:15 Dissensus over Liberal Democracy in the EU's Member States

Chair: Ramona Coman (IEE-ULB)  
Discussant: Luca Tomini (IEE-ULB)  
~Spaak Room~

- **Dissensus over Liberal Democracy in Hungary**  
by Viktor Kazai (IEE-ULB)
- **Dissensus over Liberal Democracy in Poland**  
by Maciej Serowaniec, Katarzyna Jachimowicz, & Malgorzata Lorencka (UNC, Torun)
- **Dissensus over Liberal Democracy in Romania**  
by Sergiu Mişcoiu (UBB)
- **Dissensus over Liberal Democracy in Italy**  
by Giovanni Piccirilli (Luiss University)

16:15 - 16:30 Coffee break

~Foyer~

### 16:30 - 17:30 External Influences on Dissensus over Liberal Democracy in Europe

Chair: Claudia Bădulescu (ULB)  
Discussant: Georges Christou (UoW)  
~Spaak Room~

- **Africa and Dissensus over Liberal Democracy in Europe**  
by Andrew Bradley (IEE-ULB)
- **Turkey and Dissensus over Liberal Democracy in Europe**  
by Seda Gürkan (Leiden University and ULB) & Ece Özlem Atikcan (UoW)

# PALGRAVE HANDBOOK OF DISSENSUS OVER LIBERAL DEMOCRACY

Time: Tuesday, 18 March 2025 : 9:00 - 17:30

Location: Spaak Room - Institut d'études européennes (ULB)

## Co-Editors

Ramona Coman (IEE-ULB), Claudia Bădulescu (IEE-ULB),  
Thomas Christiansen (Luiss University), & Marta Simoncini (Luiss University)  
with the support of Pauline Thinus (IEE-ULB) [Editorial Assistant]

## Objective

This research workshop is an important milestone in producing the RED-SPINEL's scheduled handbook. The handbook's co-editors - *Ramona Coman*, *Thomas Christiansen*, *Marta Simoncini*, and *Claudia Bădulescu* - set it up to both take stock of the relevant findings within RED-SPINEL and discuss a first set of draft chapters.

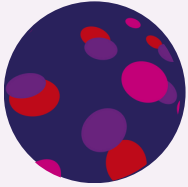
This handbook will revolve around the concept of dissensus over liberal democracy, "*defined as a conflict between different types of actors, either about the key principles of liberal democracy (its institutions or polity), their implementation through specific policies, or both. Dissensus encapsulates a conflict which drives actors "apart" (dis-) about the sense (-sensus) of liberal democracy*" (see Coman R. & Brack N., Dissensus Over Liberal Democracy: Concept-Building and Typology, *European Political Science*, 2025).

The handbook's 63 chapters are encouraged to build on this central definition and its implications.

Against this backdrop, this handbook aims to address the following questions:

- *What forms does dissensus over liberal democracy take in the European Union, in different institutional arenas, both at the national and supranational levels?*
- *How have EU institutions responded over the past decades to increased dissensus over liberal*
- *democracy and its core values, including the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of minorities?*
- *How does dissensus reshape the EU's internal policies and main policy instruments?*
- *What are the implications of dissensus over liberal democracy for the EU's capacity to act beyond its borders through its external policies and instruments?*
- *How do external actors - including states and non-state actors - influence dissensus over liberal democracy in the EU and its neighbourhood?*

Over the course of the workshop's five panels, 16 draft chapters (co-)authored by RED-SPINEL members will be presented and discussed. The initial draft of the chapters are expected to be submitted by the 12th of March 2025 and subsequently circulated to all named participants in advance of the workshop. **Authors will be given a maximum of 5 minutes to present their chapter's argument and how it relates to the handbook's central concept - i.e. dissensus - before having the chair, the discussant(s), and audience members provide comments and suggestions during a 30-40 minutes-long Q&A.**



## OPENING PANEL

09:00 - 10:00

~Spaak Room~

### Chair



Thomas Christiansen (Luiss University)

### Discussants



Gabor Halmai (EUI)



Ece Özlem Atikcan  
(University of Warwick)

## Introduction by the co-editors

*Ramona Coman (IEE-ULB), Claudia Badulescu (IEE-ULB),  
Thomas Christiansen (Luiss University), & Marta Simoncini (Luiss University)*

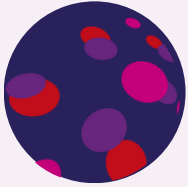
## Conceptualizing Dissensus over Liberal Democracy in Europe

*Ramona Coman (IEE-ULB)*

## EU Responses to Dissensus over Liberal Democracy in the EU neighbourhood

*Luca Tomini (IEE-ULB) & Claudia Bădulescu (IEE-ULB)*





## DISSENSUS OVER LIBERAL DEMOCRACY

10:15 - 11:45

~Spaak Room~

### Chair



Marta Simoncini (Luiss University)

### Discussant



Nathalie Brack (IEE-ULB)

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### Militant Democracy and Dissensus

*Iwona Wróblewska (UNC Torun)*

### International Relations and Dissensus over Liberal Democracy

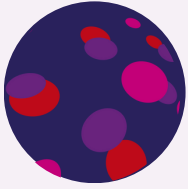
*Frederik Ponjaert (IEE-ULB)*

### Human Rights and Dissensus over Liberal Democracy

*Piotr Krajewski (Universiteit van Amsterdam)*

### Artificial Intelligence and Dissensus over Liberal Democracy

*George Christou (University of Warwick)*



## EU INSTITUTIONS & DISSENSUS OVER LIBERAL DEMOCRACY

12:00 - 13:00

~Spaak Room~

### Chair



Claudia Bădulescu (IEE-ULB)

### Discussant



Amandine Crespy (IEE-ULB)

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### Dissensus over Liberal Democracy and Democratic Arrhythmias in the EU

*Nicola Lupo (Luiss University)*

### Impact of Crises on EU Modes of Governance and Dissensus over Liberal Democracy

*Sergio Fabbrini (Luiss University)*

### The Commission and Dissensus over Liberal Democracy

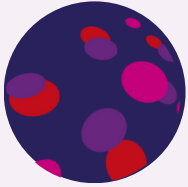
*Thomas Christiansen & Dora Hegedus (Luiss University)*

### The European Social Dimension & Dissensus over Liberal Democracy

*Adriano Dirri (Luiss University)*







## THE EU'S INTERNAL POLICIES AND DISSENSUS OVER LIBERAL DEMOCRACY

14:00 - 15:00

~Spaak Room~

### Chair



Thomas Christiansen (Luiss University)

### Discussants



László Andor (FEPS)



Paul Dermine (IEE-ULB)

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## EU Spending Conditionality and Dissensus over Liberal Democracy

*Pauline Thinus (IEE-ULB) & Saskia Hollander (Clingendael)*

## Macro-Economic Governance and Dissensus over Liberal Democracy

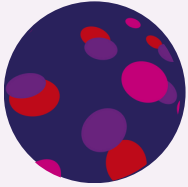
*Andrea Capati (Luiss University)*

## Economisation and Dissensus over Liberal Democracy

*Louise Fromont (HEC Paris)*

## Strategic Climate Litigation and Dissensus over Liberal Democracy

*Christina Eckes (Universiteit van Amsterdam)*



## EU INSTITUTIONS & DISSENSUS OVER LIBERAL DEMOCRACY

15:00 - 16:00

~Spaak Room~

### Chair



Claudia Bădulescu (IEE-ULB)

### Discussant



George Christou (University of Warwick)

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## Africa and Dissensus over Liberal Democracy in Europe

Andrew Bradley (IEE-ULB)

## Turkey and Dissensus over Liberal Democracy in Europe

Seda Gürkan (Leiden University & IEE-ULB) & Ece Özlem Atikcan (University of Warwick)

