STUDENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Media Narratives on Defending Democracy, the Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights in Europe

3 DECEMBER 2026 | 08:00–14:00 | IEE, ROOM SPAAK

TRAN-O-610 – The Rule of Law, Democracy and Human Rights in the EU

Coordinated by Prof. Ramona Coman and Prof. Cecilia Rizcallah

With the support of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence "Boundaries" of the Institut d'études européennes.

SESSION I | DEFENDING DEMOCRACY: PARTIES & CONSTITUTIONALISM 08:05–09:39

08:05 **The Rise of the AfD in Germany: Democratic Legitimacy and the Protection of the Constitutional Order**
Chimène De Mulder · Victoire Brichard · Hanni Schlee · Tess Cartier · Maria Aparicio

08:38 **Democratic Tool or Threat to Political Representation? How Do German and Belgian Media Talk About the Cordon Sanitaire?**
Ayvat Belinay · Emelyne Berrichi · Aurel Dörflinger · Auriane Staes · Chloé Cuny

09:11 **Breaking the Riserbo: Judges Weighing in on Italy's 2026 Constitutional Referendum and Their Portrayal in Domestic Media**
Brecht Reede · Faustine Guislain · Léo Souchon · Jean-Cassien Jacquemin

09:39–09:49 · COFFEE BREAK

SESSION II | SOCIAL CONTESTATION & FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS 09:49–11:28

09:49 **Right to Protest or Threat to Public Order? A Comparative Media Analysis of Protests in Italy and France**
Carlo Martinico · Andrea Mariani · Lucie Nicolas · Maria-Andreea Popescu · Elena Vanni

10:22 **Disorder or Democracy? How the French Left- and Right-Wing Press Framed the Same Protests**
Emre Ergöçmez · Margherita Norbiato · Zack Balzan · Luca Brocato · Talie Bonelli

10:55 **Mind the Gap: Housing as a Human Rights Issue in the Irish Press**
Remy Vic · Lilou Blengini · Mathys Dufresnoy · Clara Moisan · Guillaume van der Veer

11:28–11:38 · COFFEE BREAK

SESSION III | MIGRATION, HUMAN RIGHTS & STATE AUTHORITY 11:38–13:12

11:38 **No ICE in Belgium? A Cross-Media Framing Analysis of the Belgian Home Visits Bill**
Jakov Vukadin · Berenice Juillard · Christina Butchynsky · Camille Sicchia

12:06 **Home Visits in Belgium: Migration Policy Enforcement Challenging Human Rights**
Houda Azaroual · Anouk Gallaga · David Iordăchescu · Olivia Michaux · Eva Semelet

12:39 **Media Framing of Human Rights and Rule of Law Challenges in Belgian Asylum and Migration: A Comparison of French-Speaking and Dutch-Speaking Belgian Media**
Miguel Amaro · Mélanie Lopes Da Costa · Iván García Lorenzo · Anne Delvaux · Yannick Leusink

13:12–13:22 · COFFEE BREAK

SESSION IV | EUROPEAN INTEGRATION & ENLARGEMENT 13:22–13:55

13:22 **Enlarge Now, Think Later: Media Narratives on (Accelerated) European Enlargement Through the Example of Montenegro**
Chloé Thiebaux · Victor Mendoza Rosende · Layna Martens · Esteban Huot-Marchand · Leila Ghienne

08:00–08:05 Welcome • **13:55–14:00 Closing remarks**

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