

**“Culture wars’ in the European Union:
apex of EU politicisation, new cleavages,
or much ado about nothing?”
Wednesday, June 17, 2026, CES Dublin,
Research Network: European Culture**

**9:00–10:30. Panel 1: ‘Culture Wars’ in Europe? History,
Definitions, Data, Comparisons**

- François Foret, Andrea Apollonio & Anemona Constantin (Université Libre de Bruxelles), *‘Culture Wars’ in the EU*
- Harald Wydra (University of Cambridge), *Cultural War or Mimetic Conflict? Illiberalism as Legitimacy*
- Tadeas Cely (Aarhus University), *Moralized Policy Communication and Conflict Extension*
- James Guth & Brent Nelsen (Furman University), *MAGA Across the Pond: A Comparative Analysis of Right-wing Populist Voters in the US and Europe*
- **Chair:** François Foret (ULB)

11:00–12:30. Panel 2. Actors and Battlefields of ‘Culture Wars’

- Andrea Apollonio (ULB), *‘European culture wars’ as an outdoor game: Perceptions of value-laden cleavages and strategies of politicisation management in the European Parliament.*
- Estelle Delaine (Université Rennes 2), *How to behave as “cultural warriors” in the European Parliament? Far-right radicalisation at the heart of European consensus democracy.*
- Anemona Constantin (CESSP – Paris 1), *European Experts in “Culture Wars”: the Quest for Relevance in European Politics*
- François Foret (ULB), *Politicisation and ‘European culture wars’ in the Brussels’ media sphere: a shortage of publics, markets and effects?*
- **Chair:** Andrea Apollonio (ULB)

2:00–3:30. Panel 3: Stakes and Cleavages of ‘Culture Wars’

- Ronan McCrea (UCL), *What Common Values? Distinguishing between the Fundamental and the Desirable*
- Emilia Salminen (ULB), *Exploring EU Legitimization Narratives Using LGBTIQ+ Rights: A Rainbow Road or a Roadblock?*
- Claske Vos (University of Amsterdam), *Battling culture wars through cultural policy – former Yugoslavia*
- Natasza Quelvennec (EHESS): *“This is war”: the war of symbols. Relational dynamics in the politicization of gender in Poland*
- Zora Hesová (Charles University), *The EU as the Other: Transformation of the Czech Culture Wars*
- **Chair:** Anemona Constantin (ULB)