

FACING A DECADE OF POLYCRISIS: THE EU AND ITS INSTITUTIONS

Professor: Natasha Wunsch

Session 1

Language of instruction: English

Number of hours of class: 2.5

Summary

Objective of the class: The main objective of this Master Class is to familiarize participants with the institutions and day-to-day functioning of the European Union in a context characterized by a multiplication of crises that challenge the EU's ability to reach compromise and deliver public goods to its citizens.

Summary: This Master Class introduces the institutional architecture of European integration, explaining the main competences of the EU's key institutions and addressing the formal and informal interactions between them. It addresses the tension between intergovernmental and supranational elements in EU governance, as well as the ongoing debate about the EU's democratic deficit.

Adopting an institutional perspective, we will discuss the EU's response to a range of current challenges facing the European continent – the Euro crisis, migration crisis, Brexit, and the Covid-19 pandemic – and their impact upon institutional dynamics and the relative power of key actors at the European level. We will also address possible reforms to bring the EU closer to its citizens and reduce the scale and impact of Euroscepticism as an additional constraint on EU-level action.

Main Professor Biography



Natasha Wunsch is an Assistant Professor at the Centre d'études européennes et de politique comparée at Sciences Po. Her research concentrates on European integration and comparative democratisation in the Post-Communist region. She explores the impact of EU enlargement, recent trends of democratic backsliding, as well as the role of citizens in different political processes. Natasha teaches courses on European Integration and Comparative Politics.