

Name:	Markus Jachtenfuchs
Professor of...	European and Global Governance

## Advisor Information

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Office Hours	By appointment

**Research & Advising Profile:****General Academic Field:** What is your academic field, and what are your areas of supervision?

I am a political scientist with a background in international relations and a strong interest in law and institutions. My empirical focus is the European Union. I am a generalist interested in a diverse range of topics such as power sharing in the EU, politicization, democracy, internet governance, the integration of core state powers, or the changing institutional setup of the EU. My strength is to know a lot about a variety of topics and to link them rather than to know everything about a particular issue.

**Specific Expertise:** What is your specific area of expertise, and what topics are you supervising?

I am most interested in three EU related areas: internet governance, the integration of core state powers and, importantly, how to organize solidarity in the EU. I am the director of the Jacques Delors Centre (<https://www.delorscentre.eu/en/>) and currently involved in two research projects as a PI (principal investigator: Internet Interfaces (<https://www.hertie-school.org/en/delors-berlin/internet-interfaces/>) and Integrating diversity in the EU, workpackage on core state powers (<https://www.hertie-school.org/en/delors-berlin/indiveu/>)). Thesis proposals related to these topics and projects are most welcome. I am happy to discuss topics in advance in order to make them feasible.

**Methodology:** What methodologies and methods are you able to supervise?

Qualitative methods including process tracing. I strongly encourage comparison.

**Supervision Style:** Please include information on what your advisees can expect from you in terms of supervision format:

The colloquium is designed to provide a structured space for supervision and feedback – it is therefore envisaged that comments and supervision will normally take place within the colloquium sessions rather than on a 'one on one' basis. For the next academic year, I will run the colloquium together with Mark Dawson. The colloquium sessions may be moved online where required by social distancing or related rules.

For each session, you are expected to be present, prepared, and to actively participate; this includes contributing thoughtful and constructive feedback to your fellow classmates work during sessions and circulating short preparatory texts or slides in advance of each session. Group projects between students are encouraged.

**Examples of Previously Supervised Thesis Topics:** *(if applicable)*

- The 2015 refugee crisis in Italy and the consequences of the absence of solidarity in the European Union
- The Political Economy of Economic and Monetary Union Reform
- The European Union in International Trade: Normative Power Aspirations and Strategic Market Interests.
- Analysing the EUAM: an Evaluation of EU Security Sector Reform in Ukraine
- The Eurosceptic misfit. Popular Euroscepticism and electoral support for Eurosceptic parties
- Preparing for the next generation of warfare. A Classification of Cybersecurity Strategies from the European Union, North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the United States of America
- Motor or Brake Block of the Digital Transformation? The Impact of Franco-German Cooperation in Digital Policies on the EU
- Culture, competition and commitment. Assessing challenges to the European Union's comprehensive approach and civil-military cooperation in crisis management missions.

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is an infringement of § 11 Good Academic Conduct, 2a: "Infringements of the standards of good academic conduct include for instance to use wordings, ideas or other intellectual work of others in an academic work without clearly indicating the author. The obligation to indicate the authorship of others shall apply irrespective of whether or not the sources used are protected by copyright" (See: Exam Rules, § 11 Good Academic Conduct for more information).

It is vital to keep track of your sources and to cite all material properly.

The Library will offer a session available to all students on resource management and proper citation.

**Attendance:**

Students receive 8 ECTS for the Master's thesis colloquium. Attendance for supervision—whether in the form of a colloquium or an individual meeting—is compulsory. Students are expected to be present, prepared, and engaged in each session, and to adhere to deadlines set for assignments.

In case of an excused absence, students must notify their supervisor. Absence must be compensated with an additional assignment.

Students on an academic exchange programme in the Fall Semester should be given the opportunity of remote supervision.

**Participation & Milestones:**

Milestones for individual sessions appear below. Active participation is a core element of the colloquium and necessary to ensure that each participant receives the best possible feedback. This will be facilitated by certain exercises e.g. presenting or commenting on the thesis projects of other colloquium participants, in particular sessions.

**Colloquium & Meeting Information:**

	Colloquium Dates	Session Title
Meeting times (suggested)	Session 1: November 2020	Choosing and Defining a Research Topic
	Session 2: December 2020	The Research Question
	Session 3: Early February 2021	Research Methodology
	Session 4: late February 2021	Dependent and Independent Variables
	Session 5: Late March 2021	First Substantive Section
	Session 6: Mid-April 2021	Q&A

**Colloquium Sessions:**

Session 1: xx.xx.2020 Choosing and Defining a Research Topic	
Aim	This session is designed to give you a clearer idea of the topic you would like to explore via your Masters thesis. Choosing a topic that is properly defined, realistically attainable and interesting enough to warrant further research is an important step. In the session, we will conduct a brainstorming session designed to clarify and define your topic.
Assignment	Please come armed with idea on topics you would like to explore (considering more than one possible topic is advisable). Be prepared to present possible topics for approximately 5 minutes as well as to comment on the topics of others.

Session 2: xx.xx.2020 The Research Question	
Aim	Defining a topic and defining a research question are two very different things. In this session, we will explore what makes a good research question and work on defining a feasible and testable question for your theses.
Assignment	Prepare 1-2 slides and a 5 minute presentation on your research question

Session 3: xx.xx.2021 Research Methodology	
Aim	In this session, we will explore choices over research methodology. Which methods are appropriate given your research questions and the materials and data available to you? Should your study be comparative, should it use cases, or will it have a quantitative dimension? And how will you build on existing literature and concepts?
Assignment	Prepare 1-2 slides and a 5 minute presentation on your proposed methodology

Session 4: xx.xx.2021 Dependent and Independent Variables	
Aim	Practically all theses deal with something that is to be explained, changed or conceptualized and something that somehow has an influence on the latter. These are the dependent (DV) and independent variables (IVs) of the inquiry. Being clear about what they actually mean and how they can be operationalized is essential to successful research. In this session, we will discuss your conceptualization and operationalization of your variables and any problems related to that
Assignment (e.g. first chapter)	Prepare 1-2 slides and a 5 minute presentation on your IV and DVs

Session 5: xx.xx.2021 First Substantive Section	
Aim	Starting to write in time is of significant importance for improving your work. There is always a part of your thesis that can be ready early on – usually but not necessarily the literature review and/or the part on methodology and research design. The goal of this session is to move from the discussions of abstract research design to concrete texts.
Assignment	Submit an initial chapter (ca. 10 pp.), discuss a text of another participant.

Session 6: xx.xx.2021 Q&A	
Aim	In this session, we will discuss open or unresolved questions relating to the completion of your thesis
Assignment	No assignment