

A Critical Relational Approach to Peace and Security

The CEE Security Hub of Tallinn University invites applications for a 3-year fully funded PhD-position (Junior Research Fellow) starting from 01.09.2024.

The PhD thesis needs to be related to the project topic: “A Critical Relational Approach to Peace and Security”. The PhD student’s work should be focused on contributing to the research focus of the new Twinning project. The Twinning project will aim to explore security in a more holistic, intersectional and in a deeply relational way. The Twinning project’s research focus: “Russia’s war against Ukraine is primarily told and analyzed from the perspective of the great powers and the West and in terms of military security. To the extent that other voices are included, they typically link up to these dominant discourses. This creates a blind spot for what the story would be if told from the perspective of small states, Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), and non-military security. The effect is an unfortunate polarization and dichotomization of political and academic debates. The CEE Security Hub aims to (re)discover the marginalized voices and to unpack the agency of the actors behind these voices in order to reconstruct academic and practical political middle grounds with important implications for understanding the prospects for peaceful change in Europe and a viable European security architecture.”

The PhD student should be able to situate their project into the described Twinning project’s research focus.

Skills/Qualifications

- Strong motivation and enthusiasm to embark on an early career researcher position
- Excellent self and project management skills
- Ability to work both independently and as part of an interdisciplinary team
- Strong academic achievements
- Excellent verbal and written communications skills
- Previous engagement with at least one part of the theoretical literature of the project (peace and conflict studies, relationalism, critical security studies)
- Master’s degree in a relevant field for the project
- Excellent knowledge of English (C1) is required. Knowledge of a CEE language is an advantage

Your tasks:

- Complete the doctoral studies and defend the PhD thesis in three years
- Conduct independent and collaborative research on the topic of the research project
- Taking a leading position together with the PI in managing the administrative side of the research project
- Support the activities of the research project (organizing workshops, conferences, staff exchanges, preparing calls for papers and activities)