



## **Studying EU-Russian Relations: Research Agenda in Russia and in the West**

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- Teaching track
  - Lectures on various issues are put online (ppt + video as of the next year)
  - Model EU
  - Students' debates
- Research track
  - Looking at how EU-Russian relations have been studied in the last 25 years in Russia and in the EU
- [www.euactive.ru](http://www.euactive.ru)

## Some general remarks

- In Russia
  - About 60 books on EU-Russian relations with major academic publishers (including collections of articles)
  - More articles but even in specialised journals – less than 5%
- Outside Russia
  - About 45 books on EU-Russian relations with major academic publishers (including collections of articles)
  - More articles but do not dominate the agenda (although there have been a few special issues)

EU-Russian relations have not become central to the research agenda in either Russia or the EU, despite the relative importance of the two players for each other

## What has been researched in Russia?

- Enlargement
  - CFSP
  - Shared neighbourhood
  - Economic relations
  - Energy relations
  - Russia's belongingness to Europe
  - Cross-border cooperation (Kaliningrad)
  - New initiatives (common spaces, PfM, post-PCA)
  - Role of MSs in EU-Russian relations
  - EU reforms and their effect
  - JHA – limited attention
  - EU experience of the EAEU
- Three changes:
- From admiring and stressing the EU's specificity to the emphasis on pragmatic cooperation, interests and specificity of Russia
  - From EU-Russian cooperation to the cooperation within the WTO, and between the EU and the EAEU
  - From relations, conditioned by Russian internal developments, to the focus on the EU's internal developments

## How has it been researched in Russia?

- Traditions of socio-economic studies in Russia: historical approach, systemic approach and economic analysis
- Empirics-oriented research + description-oriented
- Domination of realist / neorealist thinking
- Increased dialogue with Western scholars
  - neoinstitutionalism, actorness, enhanced cooperation, federalism, europeanisation, MLG
  - sometimes distorting, frequently just repeating Western studies
  - But: mostly kept for the research of the EU, not for the studies of EU-Russian relations
  - Some exceptions: normative power, civilian power, actorness, europeanisation, MLG , new institutionalism, neofunctionalism, constructivism

## What has been researched in the EU?

- EU's internal evolution
    - Relations with Russia as a context to test various issues
    - Russian perception of the EU
    - → similar demands as to candidate countries (in terms of both rights and obligations)
    - Role of MSs in EU-Russian relations
  - Russia-specialists, for who EU-Russian relations are but a particular case
  - Normative power vs. pragmatic cooperation with Russia
  - Russia as a meaningful other
  - non integration of Russia →
    - Russia as a security threat (rather than a partner)
    - Energy – securitisation
    - Competition in the shared neighbourhood region
  - Cross-border cooperation
  - Limited attention to
    - Institutional developments
    - Economic cooperation
    - Enlargement
    - Cooperation in AFSJ
- Gradual rapprochement of the two approaches

## How has it been researched in the EU?

- Transfer of *acquis communautaire* →
  - europeanisation
  - institutionalism (frequently by lawyers, classical institutionalism)
- Normative power, soft power;
  - frequently just a theoretical cover for empirical studies + binary logics
- International relations:
  - Geopolitics became a buzz-word
  - Regime concepts, interdependence
- Constructivist studies

## Russian research meets non-Russian research

- Despite the fact that issues repeat, their relative importance and research questions inside each subject seem to diverge
  - Enlargement, economic relations
  - Energy
  - Russia's belongingness to Europe ...
- Endogenous, internal factors of EU-Russian relations are more important for the non-Russian studies
- Russian research is more driven by empirics and realism tradition
- Non-Russian research more theoretical-oriented but with a huge dominance of international relations rather than political science or integration theories
- Low level of interpenetration, which locks not only research but also political agendas on both sides



**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**