

LUIS SIMÓN

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BIOGRAPHY

Prof. Luis Simón is Director of the Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy (CSDS) at the VUB. He is concurrently the Director of the Brussels Office of the Elcano Royal Institute, a Senior Associate (non-resident) at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), and a Visiting Fellow at the Robert Schuman Institute for Advanced Studies (European University Institute). Luis is currently leading a European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator project on US-China Rivalry and its implications for Europe. His areas of expertise include international security, US foreign and defence policy, European security, transatlantic relations, and Asian security. Luis' research has appeared in prestigious journals, such as *Security Studies*, *International Affairs*, *Review of International Studies*, *Journal of European Public Policy*, *Contemporary Security Policy*, the *Journal of Strategic Studies*, *Geopolitics*, *Survival*, etc. Earlier, he was a postdoctoral FWO Fellow at the School of International and Public Affairs (Columbia University) and a visiting fellow at the School of Advanced International Studies (Johns Hopkins University). Luis holds a PhD in International Relations from the University of London, and a Master's degree from the Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po).

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 2018 *The Spectre of a Westphalian Europe*, RUSI Whitehall Paper, 90 (London: Routledge).
- 2014 *Geopolitical Change, Grand Strategy and European Security: The EU-NATO Conundrum in Perspective* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan).

Journal articles (peer-reviewed)

- “With or Without You: How Junior Allies Balance Security and Autonomy”, *European Journal of International Relations* (early online view) - with Klose, S.
- 2025 “Player and Playground: Europe in US-China Competition”, *Journal of European Integration*, 47(6): 785-803 - with Fiott, D.
- 2025 “Divided We Stand? Examining the European Union's Ability to Withstand External Wedging”, *Journal of European Integration*, 47(6): 805-823 - with Lovato, M.

- 2025 "Levels of Division: How Wedge Strategies Shape International Politics", *Contemporary Security Policy*, 46(3) (2025): 673-702, with Kim, T.
- 2025 "Face to Face: France, Germany and the Future of the European Defense Industry", *Journal of European Public Policy*, 32(6) (2025): 1389-1413 - with Calcara, A.
- "Better Safe Than Sorry: Why Great Powers Accommodate High Value Hedgers", *Review of International Studies*, (early online view) - with Figiaconi, F.
- 2023 "Competition with China and U.S. Defence Strategy: From Net Assessment to Competitive Strategies?", *Defence Studies*, 23(3) (2023): 359-380 - with Ernst, M.
- 2021 "A Reputation versus Prioritization Trade-off: Unpacking Allied Perceptions of US Extended Deterrence in Distant Regions", *Security Studies*, 30(5) (2021): 725-760 - with Kim, T.
- 2021 "Market Size and the Political Economy of European Defense", *Security Studies*, 30(5) (2021): 860-892 - with Calcara, A.
- 2021 "Greater Security Cooperation: U.S. Allies in Europe and East Asia", *Parameters*, 51(2) (2021): 60-71 - with Kim, T.
- 2021 "A Military Drawdown in Germany? US Force Posture in Europe from Trump to Biden", *The Washington Quarterly*, 44(1) (2021): 199-218 - with Lanoszka, A.
- 2021 "Europe as a Secondary Theater? Competition with China and the Future of America's European Strategy", *Strategic Studies Quarterly*, 15(1) (2021): 90-115 - with Desmaele, L. and Becker, J.
- 2021 "Nodal Defence: The Changing Structure of U.S. Alliance Systems in Europe and East Asia", *Journal of Strategic Studies*, 44(3) (2021): 360-388 - with Lanoszka, A. and Meijer, H.
- 2021 "Covert Balancing: Great Powers, Secondary States and US Balancing Strategies Against China", *International Affairs*, 97(2) (2021): 1-19 - with Meijer, H.
- 2020 "The Post-INF European Missile Balance: Thinking About NATO's Deterrence Strategy", *Texas National Security Review*, 3(3) (2020): 12-30 - with Lanoszka, A.
- 2020 "Between Punishment and Denial: Uncertainty, Flexibility, and U.S. Military Strategy Toward China", *Contemporary Security Policy*, 41(3) (2020): 361-384.
- 2017 "Preparing NATO for the Future - Operating in an Increasingly Contested Environment", *The International Spectator*, 52(3): 121-135.
- 2017 "Neorealism, Security Cooperation and Europe's Relative Gains Dilemma", *Security Studies*, 26(2) (2017): 185-212.
- 2017 "European Perspectives Towards the Rise of Asia: Contextualising the Debate", *Asia-Europe Journal*, 14(3) (2016): 239-260 - with Klose, S.

- 2016 “The “Third” US Offset Strategy and Europe’s “Anti-Access” Challenge”, *Journal of Strategic Studies*, Vol. 39, No. 3 (2016), pp. 417-445.
- 2016 “Balancing Priorities in America’s European Strategy”, *Parameters*, 46(1) (2016): 13-24.
- 2016 “Seapower and Forward Presence in the Middle East: US Retrenchment in Perspective”, *Geopolitics*, 21(1) (2016): 115-147.
- 2015 “Europe, the rise of Asia, and the future of the transatlantic relationship”, *International Affairs*, 91(5) (2015): 269-289.
- 2015 “Understanding US Retrenchment in Europe,” *Survival: Global Politics and Strategy*, 57(2) (2015): 157-172.
- 2014 “Assessing NATO’s Eastern European “Flank””, *Parameters*, 44(3) (2014): 67-79.
- 2014 “Back to Basics and Out of Area: Towards a Multipurpose NATO”, *RUSI Journal*, 159(3) (2014): 14-19.
- 2014 “Europe After the U.S. Pivot”, *Orbis: A Journal of World Affairs*, 58(3) (2014): 411-428 - with Fiott, D.
- 2013 “Reaching Beyond the Indo-Pacific”, *Comparative Strategy*, 32(4) (2013): 331-353.
- 2013 “Setting the Tone: The 2013 French Defence White Paper and the Future of European Defence”, *RUSI Journal*, 158(4) (2013): 38-44.
- 2013 “The Spider in Europe’s Web? French Grand Strategy from Iraq to Libya”, *Geopolitics*, 18(2) (2013): 403-434.
- 2012 “CSDP, Strategy and Crisis Management: Out of Area or Out of Business”, *The International Spectator*, 47(3) (2012): 100-115.
- 2011 “British Geostrategy for a New European Age”, *RUSI Journal*, 156(2) (2011): 52-58 - with Rogers, J.
- 2010 “The Return of European Geopolitics? All roads run through London,” *RUSI Journal*, 155(3) (2010): 57-63 - with Rogers, J.

Book chapters (selected)

- 2019 “The European Union”, in Thierry Balzacq, Peter Dombrowski, and Simon Reich (eds.), *Comparative Grand Strategy: A Framework and Cases* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019) – with Fiott, D.
- 2017 “Core Europe: France and Germany”, in Amelia Hadfield, Ian Manners and Richard H. Whitman (eds.), *Foreign Policies of EU Member States: Continuity and Europeanisation* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2017).
- 2016 “The EU-NATO Conundrum in Perspective”, in Lorenzo Cladi and Andrea Locatelli (eds.), *International Relations Theory and European Security: We Thought We Knew* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2016).

Commissioned studies

- 2023 “EU Defence After Versailles: An Agenda for the Future”, (European Parliament) - with Fiott, D.
- 2023 “Two Fronts, One Goal: Euro-Atlantic Security in the Indo-Pacific Age”, *The Marathon Initiative*, August 2023 - with Fiott, D. and Manea, O.
- 2023 “Centre of Gravity: Security and Defence in the Indo-Pacific – What Role for the European Union”, *CSDS In-Depth* 4/2022 - with Fiott, D.
- 2009 “The Status and Location of the Military Installations of the Member States of the European Union and their Potential Role for the European Security and Defence Policy”, (European Parliament) – with Rogers, J.

Policy papers

- 2025 “Three Alternative Approaches to Deterrence in Europe and the Indo-Pacific”, *War on the Rocks*, 19 June 2025.
- 2025 “Hanging Together or Hanging Separately? Europe and the Indo-Pacific in US-China Rivalry”, *CSDS In Depth* 15/2025 - with Fiott, D. (eds).
- 2025 “Primed for Deterrence: NATO and the Indo-Pacific in the Age of Great Power Competition”, *CSDS In Depth* 14/2025 - with Fiott, D., Mattelaer, A., Masuda, M., Boswinkel, L., Lanoszka, A. and Meijer, H.
- 2025 “Destined for Division? US and EU Responses to the Challenge of Chinese Overcapacity”, Peterson Institute for International Economics, April 2025 - with Bora, S. and Lovely, M.
- 2025 “The Trump Administration vs. the Axis of Upheaval”, *War on the Rocks*, 29 January 2025.
- 2025 “Can Europe Fight for Taiwan?”, *War on the Rocks*, 8 January 2025.
- 2024 “Alliance Networking in Europe and the Indo-Pacific”, *War on the Rocks*, 17 December 2024.
- 2024 “Ukraine, Europe and the Art of the Deal”, *War on the Rocks*, 8 November 2024.
- 2024 “NATO Should Think Big About the Indo-Pacific”, *War on the Rocks*, 1 July 2024.
- 2024 “Shades of Grim: Scenarios for Ukraine and Global Order”, *CSDS In-Depth* 12/2024 - with Boswinkel, L.
- 2023 “Thinking About NATO-EU Relations in Wartime”, *Elcano Royal Institute*, 31 May 2024.
- 2023 “NATO’s China and Indo-Pacific Conundrum”, *NATO Review*, 22 November 2023.

- 2022 “America’s Indo-Pacific Strategy Runs Through the Indo-Pacific”, *War on the Rocks*, 16 December 2022.
- 2022 “Bridging U.S.-led Alliances in the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific”, *CSIS Report*, 12 May 2022.
- 2022 “Ukraine and the Balance of Power: An Inter-Theater Perspective”, *CSIS Commentary*, 31 January 2022.
- 2021 “The Geopolitics of Multilateralism: What Role for the EU in the Indo-Pacific”, *CSDS Policy Brief* 14/2021.
- 2021 “Subject and Object: Europe in Sino-American Competition”, *Policy Brief* RSC 2021/42, European University Institute.
- 2020 “Biden and Europe’s Dilemmas”, *War on the Rocks*, 15 December 2020.
- 2021 “EU-NATO Cooperation in an Era of Great-Power Competition”, *German Marshall Fund of the United States*, 26 November 2019.
- 2020 “Battle-Ready? Preparing European Military Forces for a More Competitive Environment”, in Brustlein, Corentin (ed), *Mutual Reinforcement: CSDP and NATO in the Face of Rising Challenges*, Paris: IFRI, *Focus Strategique* 93, pp. 33-44 (with Corentin Brustlein).
- 2019 “East Asia First, Europe Second: Picking Regions in U.S. Grand Strategy”, *War on the Rocks*, 7 August 2019.
- 2019 “What Is Europe’s Place in Sino-American Competition”, *War on the Rocks*, 14 February 2019.
- 2018 “Natural partners? Europe, Japan and security in the Indo-Pacific” (editor, with Ulrich Speck), *Elcano Policy Paper*, November 2018.
- 2017 “Europe in 2030: Four Alternative Futures”, (editor, with Ulrich Speck) *Elcano Policy Paper* 2 2017, December 2017.
- 2017 “Don’t Believe the Hype About European Defense”, *War on the Rocks*, 27 June 2017.
- 2017 “Trump, Europe and the Non-Handshake Seen Round the World”, *War on the Rocks*, 20 March 2017.
- 2017 “Demystifying the A2/AD Buzz”, *War on the Rocks*, 4 January 2017.
- 2016 “Britain and the fate of the Europe we know”, *War on the Rocks*, 24 October 2016.
- 2016 “EU Strategy and European Defence: What Level of Ambition?”, *Clingendael Policy Brief*, November 2016.
- 2016 “European Strategy in Times of Geopolitical Interdependence”, *European Defence Matters*, Issue 11 (2016)
- 2016 “A European Perspective on Anti-Access/Area Denial and the Third Offset Strategy”, *War on the Rocks*, 3 May 2016.
- 2016 “Securing the Middle Spaces: Geography, Strategy and the Future of European Power”, 21 March 2016, *Egmont Institute*.

- 2016 “Offsetting NATO’s “Anti-Access” Challenge”, in Alexandra de Hoop Scheffer et. Al, *Solidarity Under Stress in the Transatlantic Realm*, *Policy Paper* (March 2016), German Marshall Fund of the United States.
- 2015 “Securing the Eastern European Flank: A Joint (EU-NATO) Endeavour”, *European Leadership Network*, 18 September 2015.
- 2015 “Europe and Japan: Towards a Trans-Eurasian Partnership”, *Policy Brief* April 2015, German Marshall Fund of the United States.
- 2010 “Command and Control? Planning for EU Military Operations”, *Occasional Paper* n° 81, EU Institute for Security Studies (January 2010).