How does the EU include "gender" within its support to security-sector reform (SSR) programs? The EU has committed to include gender perspectives by implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda (WPS) within its foreign security practices. While researchers and practitioners recognize the importance of integrating gender issues into SSR operational effectiveness, there is limited knowledge about how these functions within the EU's security architecture. This article uses Feminist Institutionalism (FI) to understand the process of gender mainstreaming within the EU's support to SSR programs. It uses two crucial theory-testing cases of SSR programs — Ukraine and Afghanistan. It finds that the EU's ability to promote gender inclusive approaches to SSR is limited by the structure of the EU's own assumptions and capabilities, and institutional constraints in third countries. [R, abr.]

Brexit casts a cruel light on the institutional fragility of the EU. Beyond the EU’s significant achievements the deficits in democracy and governance are enormous. The time has come to identify the “public goods” that EU Member States can effectively assume at the national level, on the one hand, and those that must now be collectively supported within the Union, on the other. More than ever, Europeans need “public goods”, some of which can be made available to them only by Europe. This is why Brexit gives Europe a chance to set itself the goal of becoming a world power. The EU would be better served by accepting the ineluctability of political disagreement, and in providing individuals with the real opportunity to vote on which kind of “Europe” they wanted. [R, abr.][See Abstr. 68.6489]

Transnational information-sharing among security agencies in the EU and beyond has grown considerably more important over the past decades. Centralized databases and numerous formal and informal networks now facilitate cooperation and information sharing. However, sharing intelligence may not only conflict with the protection of fundamental rights (data protection/privacy; presumption of innocence), but also with the organizational culture of institutions that are built upon secrecy. Police agencies often keep knowledge about individual cases and their strategies secret as long as possible. Intelligence services build their work and strategies upon secrecy even more. This paper analyses the variations of secrecy that can be expected for police agencies and secret services, and the relationship between information-sharing among security agencies, secrecy, trust, transparency and accountability. [R, abr.][See Abstr. 68.6806]

The choice of a text focused on the economy, governed by a functionalist logic and marked by a receding of supranationality involved excluding the cultural question from the field of community action. This was a historic break: culture was generally considered as a major vector in favor of the construction of Europe. Paradoxically, especially because the economy and culture cannot be totally separated, it is this same choice that will ultimately allow the institutions to intervene in this area. The space offered for culture thus appears to be symptomatic of the ambivalence and potentialities offered by the Treaty of Rome. [R]

“Country sanctions” refer to a range of measures taken against third States generally both in reaction to an alleged breach of their international obligations and to force the target to amend its conduct accordingly. Until recently, country sanctions were overshadowed by the case law on counterterrorism sanctions. As of now, country sanctions will probably prevail in terms of case load and innovation. The present study is based on the systematic analysis of over 100 decisions by the EU judicature forming the country-sanctions case law of the last four years and aims to interpret and set out the new perspectives of this case law. [R, abr.]

The EU’s policy response to the recent global economic crisis transferred significant powers from the national to the European level. When exogenous shocks make status quo policies less attractive, legislators become more tolerant to proposed alternatives, and the policy discretion of legislative agenda-setters increases. Given control of the EU agenda-setting process by pro-integration actors, we argue that this dynamic explains changes in voting patterns of the European Parliament during the crisis period. We observe voting coalitions increasingly driving legislators along the pro-anti integration, rather than the left-right dimension of disagreement, but only in policy areas related to the crisis. In line with more qualitative assessments of the content of passed legislation, the implication is that pro-integration actors were able to shift policy further toward integration than they could have without the crisis. [R]

The United Nations Security Council passed its first resolution on children in armed conflict in 1999, making it one of the oldest examples of Security Council engagement with a thematic mandate and leading to the creation of a dedicated working group in 2005. Existing theoretical accounts of the Security Council cannot account for the developing substance of the children and armed conflict agenda as they are macro-oriented and focus exclusively on states. I argue that Security Council decision-making on thematic mandates is a productive process whose outcomes are created by and through practices of actors across the three United Nations: member states (the first United Nations), United Nations officials (the second United Nations) and non-governmental organizations (the third United Nations). [R, abr.]

Autonomous weapons systems (AWS) are emerging as key technologies of future warfare. So far, academic debate concentrates on the legal-ethical implications of AWS but these do not capture how AWS may shape norms through defining diverging standards of appropriateness in practice. In discussing AWS, the article formulates two critiques on constructivist models of norm emergence: first, constructivist approaches privilege the deliberative over the practical emergence of norms; and second, they over-emphasize fundamental norms rather than also accounting for procedural norms, which we introduce in this article. Elaborating on these critiques allows us to respond to a significant gap in research: we examine how standards of procedural appropriateness emerging in the development and usage of AWS often contradict fundamental norms and public legitimacy expectations. [R, abr.]