



MFJMCE

GRADUATE STUDENT EU RESEARCH GRANT

Interview with grantee Jing Ge



Jing Ge is a Ph.D. Candidate in International Relations at the Department of Politics and International Relations, Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, Florida International University. This year, she received the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence Graduate Student

EU Research grant for her research "Under what conditions are Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) able to effectively manage regulatory competition among the EU, the US and the PRC?" She sat down with Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, to answer a few questions about her research.



MFJMCE: Can you tell us a little bit about yourself and what studies you pursued at FIU?

My name is Jing Ge. I am a PhD Candidate majoring in International Relations at FIU. My research interests include International Organizations, global technological governance, and social constructivism. I am currently working on the role of non-state actors in reshaping global norms. Prior to this, I earned my MA degree in Global Affairs (2021), and BA degree in Translation and Interpretation; Japanese minor, cum laude and with distinction (2018).

I worked as a research assistant at the Jack D Gordon Institute for Public Policy (2024), focusing on global cybersecurity governance and AI policy analysis. I also dedicate myself to advancing civic engagement. I served as a communications specialist at Maurice A. Ferré Institute for Civic Leadership (2021-2022).

MFJMCE: Can you tell us in a few words what the focus of your EU research project is?

My research project examines how intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) manage regulatory disputes and facilitate international regulatory coordination, focusing on the EU's role as a major regulatory power in shaping global standards. Although the EU actively participates in international standard-setting and

regulatory harmonization efforts, existing literature lacks a comprehensive theory explaining how IGOs support regulatory alignment involving the EU. Therefore, the goal of the research is to fill the gap by analyzing the EU's engagement with three key IGOs, such as the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and the World Trade Organization (WTO). The research seeks to explore how IGOs promote regulatory compatibility and manage conflicts by promoting a structured Neutrality- Incrementalism- Flexibility (NIF) mechanism. Also, it aims to develop a new theoretical framework for understanding international regulatory governance and provide practical insights into how the EU can enhance its influence and effectiveness in global regulatory policymaking.

MFJMCE: What are your plans for the research you are conducting?

I plan to develop a comprehensive theoretical framework for understanding how IGOs facilitate international regulatory coordination, with particular emphasis on the EU's role.

To achieve this, I will conduct in-depth case studies of the EU's participation in three major IGOs: the ITU in telecommunications regulation, the IMO in maritime and energy regulation, and the WTO in trade regulation. These cases will allow me to examine how the EU navigates regulatory competition and cooperation within different institutional settings.

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Source: <https://archives.un.org/>

Methodologically, I will employ archival research to analyze historical documents, institutional records, and key policy developments within these IGOs. This will enable me to trace how institutional structures, negotiation dynamics, and technical standards have evolved over time to facilitate or hinder regulatory coordination.

The goal is to identify the systemic factors and mechanisms that enhance regulatory compatibility between the EU and global frameworks, thereby offering theoretical insights for academic research and practical recommendations for policymakers involved in international regulatory governance.

MFJMCE: How do you hope your research will contribute to the field of International Relations?

My research will contribute to the field of International Relations by developing a novel theoretical framework to explain how IGOs facilitate international regulatory coordination, particularly through the lens of the EU's engagement. Although existing scholarship recognizes the growing role of IGOs in global governance, it lacks a comprehensive explanation of the mechanisms through which IGOs manage regulatory competition and promote regulatory harmonization.

By examining case studies across telecommunications, maritime energy regulation, and trade, this project introduces the concept of a structured NIF mechanism as a new model of IGO-facilitated coordination. This concept highlights how IGOs can move beyond traditional negotiations to build self-regulating ecosystems that enhance compatibility among regulatory systems — a dynamic especially critical in the EU's external regulatory activities.

Through archival analysis, the project will identify systemic patterns, successes, and challenges in the EU's collaboration with IGOs, offering empirical insights that bridge theoretical gaps in understanding international regulatory cooperation. Above all, the research not only advances academic discussions about the developing role of IGOs but also provides practical policy implications for managing regulatory disputes and enhancing governance frameworks in an increasingly interconnected international system.

MFJMCE: Why do you think this research is essential to conduct at the present time? Once completed, this project “will help foster...”

This research is essential to conduct at the present time because international regulatory competition is intensifying in an increasingly fragmented global order. Amid rising geopolitical tensions and divergent regulatory approaches, particularly between major actors like the EU, the U.S., and China, there is an urgent need to understand how IGOs can mediate disputes and promote regulatory compatibility. As a leading normative power, the EU faces growing challenges in aligning its regulatory standards with global frameworks while safeguarding its internal market and values. However, the absence of a comprehensive theory explaining how IGOs facilitate regulatory coordination leaves policymakers without clear guidance at a critical juncture.

Once completed, this project will help promote a deeper understanding of how IGOs can enhance international regulatory harmonization through structured mechanisms like a structured NIF mechanism. It will provide both theoretical and empirical foundations for strengthening the EU's strategic engagement with IGOs, offering actionable insights into managing regulatory disputes, promoting alignment, and building resilient global regulatory systems. The findings will contribute to more effective international governance, reduce regulatory fragmentation, and support the EU's role as a stabilizing force in global regulatory affairs.

MFJMCE: Do you have any last thoughts to share?

I sincerely appreciate the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet European Center of Excellence for awarding me this grant. Special thanks go to Dr. Markus Thiel and Madame Christine Caly-Sanchez for their invaluable support throughout my application and doctoral research planning. Also, I am grateful for the support from my major advisor, Dr. Thomas A. Breslin, and my committee members, Dr. Alexander D. Barder, Dr. John G. Oates, and Dr. Kenneth James Lipartito, for their guidance and support of my research.

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez