

Call for EISA EWIS workshop contributions: “Fractured solidarities with Gaza: Regionalism, diplomacy, and the limits of global cooperation”

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For submission to the EISA 13th European Workshops in International Studies, İzmir University of Economics, 1-3 July 2026 “[Navigating a Fractured World: Struggles for Survival and Solidarity](#)”

Potential contributors are warmly invited to express their interest to u.staeger@uva.nl and mona.saleh@uni-due.de, indicating their tentative paper title and institutional affiliation. Expressions of interest are not binding, as an open call for submissions will be issued through EISA. Deadline: Friday 21 November 2025.

Workshop outline

Two years of the devastating wars in Gaza and the resulting humanitarian collapse have exposed deep shortcomings of the international system. A recent United Nations report describing Israel’s actions as amounting to genocide underscores the gravity of the situation and the silence, fragmentation, and double standards that define the global and multilateral politics of the Gaza genocide. Regional and multilateral bodies, often framed as engines of cooperation, have shown their limited capacity to respond to atrocity and their tendency to sustain hierarchies rather than challenge them. From the paralysis of the United Nations to the fragmented positions of the European Union, the rhetorical activism of the African Union, and the laggard Arab League, the G20’s engagement with Gulf States, the Gaza genocide reveals how diplomacy operates under moral and geopolitical exhaustion. Beyond these formal intergovernmental organizations, new forms of global cooperation transnational transport corridors and delocalized digital infrastructures have equally shaped inertia and (in)action on the Gaza genocide.

The workshop asks: How do regional and international organizations, multilateral diplomacy, and transnational cooperation shape the global politics of the Gaza genocide? We approach these sites not simply as (in)formal institutions but as intersubjective arenas where politics of survival, solidarity, and resistance are negotiated, denied, and amplified. The theoretical approaches invited are deliberately eclectic and include theories and approaches including, but not limited to, regional integration, international organizations, inter-organizational relations, alliance and practice theory, diplomacy studies, international public administration, and international political sociology. Critical and innovative theoretical and methodological approaches are welcome, as studying the global politics of a genocide requires epistemic openness.

The workshop critically foregrounds the normative assumptions embedded in dominant approaches to regionalism, regional organizations, and multilateral diplomacy. Much of this

scholarship rests on liberal assumptions that cooperation is inherently positive and that institutions function as engines of order. The Gaza genocide exposes the limits of these assumptions. The ‘international’ has become an arena of performative inaction, where silence and fragmented responses reinforce hierarchies of power and legitimize complicity with state interests.

The empirical focus of the workshop will center on regional cooperation, multilateral diplomacy, and transnational cooperation in multiple forms. This includes minilateral formats, ad-hoc coalitions, non-state actors’ foreign policy behavior, strategies of resistance and public diplomacy, and norm dynamics within international and regional organizations. In addition, the global diplomacy and para-diplomacy of Israeli and Palestinian actors deserve critical examination, including, for example, initiatives such as the Abraham Shield Coalition for Regional Security. Summit diplomacy and transnational civil society efforts, for example, the High-Level International Conference on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine, the Boycott, Divest and Sanction (BDS) movement and the Hague Group, also fall within the scope of this workshop.

Beyond documenting failure, the workshop aims to understand what forms of cooperation, care, and resistance remain possible in a fractured world. By situating Gaza within broader trajectories of regional and multilateral action, it engages with core debates on the fragility of global order, the limits of institutional legitimacy, and the search for political alternatives beyond Western hegemony.

Possible themes and papers

Potential papers and topics include:

- **Regionalism in crisis:** Regional organisations such as the Arab League, African Union, and Organization of Islamic Cooperation as fractured arenas of response to Gaza.
- **Fragmented multilateralism:** Coordination failures and competitive positioning among regional and global institutions around the Gaza genocide.
- **Regional organizations as moral actors:** Explaining dynamics of rhetorical activism and institutional paralysis in atrocity response.
- **Non-Western diplomacy and hierarchies of legitimacy:** Countries such as South Africa, Türkiye, Indonesia, and Brazil as norm entrepreneurs in a divided multilateral order.

- **Minilateralism as substitute regionalism:** The Abraham Accords and ad-hoc (non-state driven) coalitions as alternative architectures of Middle Eastern security.
- **The humanitarian register of regional diplomacy:** How aid coordination and humanitarian discourse structure regional engagement with Gaza.
- **Inter-organizational relations under strain:** Linkages between organizations like the UN, AU, EU, GCC and the limits of cross-regional coherence.
- **The procedural politics of silence:** How decision-making routines within regional organizations produce and excuse collective inaction.
- **Regional diplomacy and the management of legal complicity:** Unpacking legalism, neutrality, and the avoidance of political responsibility.
- **South–South coordination and its discontents:** Domestically and transnationally contested solidarities and representational claims in African, West Asian, and East Asian fora.
- **The performativity of multilateral diplomacy:** Language, declarations, and summits as techniques of symbolic order amid genocide.
- **Reconstituting multilateralism from the margins:** Lessons from regional diplomacy on Gaza for the future of global governance.