

STRAX

Final Conference

The New Generation in Strategic Culture Research

10-12 June 2026



Programme

The study of strategic cultures has gained renewed importance in recent years, particularly in the context of global upheaval. STRAX - Transforming strategic cultures in contemporary Europe is a research project funded by the Research Council of Finland, bringing together researchers from Tampere University, the Finnish National Defence University, and the Finnish Institute of International Affairs. Launched in early 2023, the project has focused on key contemporary issues in the academic and policy debates surrounding strategic culture in Europe, including interaction, change, and agency in strategic culture.

This final conference marks the culmination of the STRAX project. It will celebrate and further the project's work by bringing together key scholars and the new generation of strategic culture students and researchers. With a focus on European perspectives, the conference provides a platform for exploring the state-of-the-art in strategic culture studies. It creates space for future collaborations, maps potential pathways forward and envisages what the future of this multidisciplinary field could look like.

Conference venue is Botta events (Museokatu 10, 00101 Helsinki).

The conference dinner on 11 June is at the Restaurant 10. Kerros (10th floor). (Kaivokatu 3, 00100 Helsinki).

Wednesday 10 June

17:00-19:00: **Icebreaker reception: The New Generation in Strategic Culture research meets Finnish strategic culture**

Room: Topelius cabinet

Speakers: Christian Perheentupa, Niklas Helwig (moderator)

Thursday 11 June

08:30-09:00: Morning coffee, Ballroom

09:00-10:30: **Plenary Session: What is the role of strategic culture research in a world of uncertainty and upheaval?**

Room: Ballroom

Speakers: Olivier de France, Mai'a Davis Cross, Christoph Meyer, Antti Seppo (moderator)

10:30-10:45: Break

10:45-12:15: **Parallel panel sessions**

1. Strategic Cultures in Europe: Before and After 2022

Room: Chydenius cabinet

Chair: Barbara Kunz, Presenters: Yingjian Li, Teemu Oivo, Anton Pisarenko, Nino Tabeshadze

2. Expanding the Scope of Strategic Culture Studies: Practices, Ways of Knowing, and Transformations

Room: Snellman cabinet

Chair: Sven Biscop, Presenters: Melis Adaer-Doeh, Bayan Almasri, Alejandra Barrios Allan, Alekski Kivimaa, Signe Winter Lindbjerg

12:15-13:15: Lunch

13:15-13:45: **Poster session**

Room: Ballroom

Presenters: Bayan Almasri, Elmir Badalov, Alina Cherri, Taylor Sarah Ginieczki, Medet Suleimen, Maximilian Wachter

13:45-15:15: **Parallel panel sessions**

3. Navigating the New European Security Environment, Global Instability, and External Relations

Room: Chydenius cabinet

Chair: Hanna Ojanen, Presenters: Filiz Doğan, Domenico Farinelli, Ivan Fraternali & Lorenzo Di Stefano, Nir Levitan, Bradley Reynolds

4. Developing Frameworks in Strategic Culture Studies

Room: Snellman cabinet

Chair: Niklas Helwig, Presenters: Elmir Badalov, Alina Cherri, Yingjian Li, Giovanni Parente, Teemu Rantanen

15:15-15:45: Coffee

15:45-17:00: **Closing Session: What lies ahead for strategic culture studies?**

Room: Ballroom

Speakers: Barbara Kunz, Sven Biscop, Niklas Helwig, Hanna Ojanen, Tamir Libel, Katariina Mustasilta (moderator)

18:30-20:30: **Conference dinner**

Venue: Restaurant 10. Kerros (10th floor). (Kaivokatu 3, 00100 Helsinki)

Friday 12 June

08:30-09:00: Morning coffee, the Ballroom

09:00-10:30: **Public seminar: Strategic thinking under stress: devising strategy in the evolving security landscape**

Room: Ballroom

Speakers: Nathalie Tocci, Sven Biscop, Lars Schümann, Jyri Raitasalo, Tommi Koivula (moderator)

10:45-11:15: **The role of military education: Presentation of the STRAX European Manual on Strategic Culture**

Room: Ballroom

Speakers: Tommi Koivula, Antti Seppo, Fergal Ó Regan, Hanna Ojanen (moderator)

11:30-12:30: Lunch

Room: Topelius cabinet

12:30-14:00: **Brainstorming workshop: The Future of Strategic Culture Studies, in cooperation with the Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra**

Room: Ballroom