G. Marius Ghincea

Postdoctoral Researcher in Political Science, ETH Zurich

Department of Humanities, Social and Political Sciences, ETH Zurich, Haldeneggsteig 4, 8092 Zürich, Switzerland.

marius.ghincea@eup.gess.ethz.ch · ORCID 0000-0001-8061-6769

Academic positions

Sept 2024–present	Postdoctoral Researcher, European Politics (Prof. Frank Schimmelfennig), ETH Zurich
Sept 2024–June 2026	Visiting Fellow, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute
Jan 2023–May 2024	External Lecturer, Syracuse University, Daniel and Gayle D'Aniello Program in Florence
Sept 2022–Aug 2023	Research Fellow, Centre for International Security, Hertie School, Berlin

Education

2024	PhD, Political and Social Sciences, European University Institute Jury: Jeffrey T. Checkel (supervisor), Stephanie Hofmann, Elizabeth Saunders, Wolfgang Wagner.
2020	MRes, Political and Social Sciences, European University Institute Coursework at the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration, George Washington University, as a Fulbright Scholar (2018–2019).
2018	MA, International Relations (with distinction), Central European University
2016	BA, Political Science (valedictorian), University of Bucharest

Publications

Books

Ghincea, M.*, Invernizzi, A., Nasr, M. & Schimmelfennig, F. (2027). *The European Union and the Russia–Ukraine Crisis*. *Cambridge Elements in European Politics*. Cambridge University Press. Forthcoming.

Freudlsperger, C., **Ghincea, M.**, Invernizzi, A., Nasr, M. & Schimmelfennig, F. (in preparation). *The European Union in Crisis*. Monograph in preparation for Oxford University Press.

Peer-reviewed articles

Ghincea, M. (2026). Steering or Building? How Crisis Type Shapes Organizational Change in the EU. *West European Politics*. Online first.

Ghincea, M. (2026). Crisis Windows and Reversible Empowerment in the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy. *Journal of European Public Policy*. Online first.

Ghincea, M.* & Plesca, L. (2025). From transformation to demarcation: explaining the EU's shifting motivations of the enlargement policy. *Journal of European Public Policy* 32(12): 2999–3033.

Ghincea, M. (2025). Shrouded in Secrecy: Explaining Why Some Countries Refuse to Disclose Their Military Aid to Ukraine. *Foreign Policy Analysis* 21(2): oraf002.

Book chapters

Ghincea, M. & Plesca, L. (2026). Ukraine. In B. C. H. Fong (Ed.), *The Palgrave Geopolitical Atlas: State and Quasi-States in Great Power Competition*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Ghincea, M. (2025). Economia politică a relațiilor civil–intelligence sub președinția Iohannis [The political economy of civil–intelligence relations under the Iohannis presidency]. In M. Bâlici, A. Bîrnoiu, V. Lazăr, C. Rădoi & V. Stan (Eds.), *Epoca Klaus Iohannis? România între 2014 și 2025*. Editura Tact.

Ghincea, M. (2025). Între Deal și Aleea Alexandru: Politica externă românească în epoca Iohannis [Between the Hill and Aleea Alexandru: Romanian foreign policy in the Iohannis era]. In M. Bâlici, A. Bîrnoiu, V. Lazăr, C. Rădoi & V. Stan (Eds.), *Epoca Klaus Iohannis? România între 2014 și 2025*. Editura Tact.

Ghincea, M.* & Zulean, M. (2024). Protracted Transition: Civilian Control over the Military and Intelligence in Romania. In L. Stan & D. Vancea (Eds.), *Post-Communist Progress and Stagnation at 35: The Case of Romania*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Ghincea, M. (2022). The Russo-Ukrainian War and Great Power Competition. In V. Năumescu (Ed.), *Great Powers' Foreign Policy: Approaching the Global Competition and the Russian War against the West*. Brill.

Working papers

Ghincea, M.* & Plesca, L. Geopolitical Enlargement as a Demarcation Project. Working Paper.

Ghincea, M. & Minatti, W. Domestic Politics and Military Aid to Ukraine: Explaining Transparency Policies in France and Germany. Revise and resubmit, International Studies Quarterly.

Ghincea, M. A Game Changer or Just Another Crisis? A Bayesian Assessment of the EU's Political Development After the Russian Invasion of Ukraine. Revise and resubmit, European Union Politics.

Freudlsperger, C. & **Ghincea, M.** Economic Deterrence and the Design of Anti-Coercion Instruments. Under review, International Security.

Ghincea, M. & Schimmelfennig, F. Divided over What? Crisis Types and Intergovernmental Conflict in the European Union. Working paper.

Policy papers and reports

Ghincea, M. & Chiscop, C. (Eds.) (2025). Mai multă vizibilitate. Politica externă românească în context european și global [More visibility: Romanian foreign policy in a European and global context]. Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Bucharest.

Butnaru-Troncotă, M., **Ghincea, M.**, Bărăgănescu, C. & Răuță, R.-V. (2025). The (Geo)politics of EU Enlargement: Romanian Perspectives on the Western Balkans. Tritonic. ISBN 978-606-749-777-9.

Ghincea, M. (2025). Making waves: Romania is determined to reshape the Black Sea's security architecture. *International Politics & Society*. Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung.

Butnaru-Troncotă, M., **Ghincea, M.**, Răuță, R.-V. & Bărăgănescu, C. (2024). The European Integration Process in the Western Balkans: Romanian Perspectives and Directions. European Institute of Romania.

Ghincea, M. & Inayeh, A. (2024). Security Cooperation in the Wider Black Sea Region. Policy paper, Global Focus Center.

Ghincea, M. (2021). Zeitenwende: Time for a Reassessment of Romania's Foreign Policy? Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung.

Ghincea, M., Volintiru, C. & Nikolovski, I. (2021). Who Summons the Dragon? China's Demand-Driven Influence in Central and Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans. Global Focus Center.

Book reviews

Ghincea, M. (2025). Review of Crises of European Integration: Joining Together or Falling Apart?, by Lucas Schramm. *Swiss Political Science Review* 31(2): 367–369.

Ghincea, M. (2022). Review of Greatness and Decline: National Identity and British Foreign Policy, by Srdjan Vucetic. *Cambridge Review of International Affairs* 35(6): 936–938.

* lead author

Public commentary (selection)

2026	"Dismantling Transnistria's Self-Declared Statehood: Structural Decay as Strategic Opportunity." With Laurențiu Plește. *Small Wars Journal*, 17 July 2026.
2026	"La Romania, l'Unione Europea e la NATO." *Il Veltro. Rivista della Civiltà Italiana*, 1–4/2026.
2026	"Romania's Deterrence Problem Is Bigger Than One Drone." *Review of Democracy*, CEU Democracy Institute, 4 June 2026.
2025	"Enlargement reimagined: the shifting logics behind the EU's expansion." With Laurențiu Plește. *The Loop* (ECPR), 15 July 2025.
2024	"What role can Romania play in facilitating Western Balkan integration?" With Miruna Butnaru-Troncotă. *New Eastern Europe* 1–2/2024, 7 February 2024.
2022	"Power competition will bring new opportunities – and crises – for small powers." *The Loop* (ECPR), 7 November 2022.

Fellowships, grants and awards

2026	Policy Research Grant, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (€10,000)
2026	Workshop Grant, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (€2,000)
2025	Workshop Grant, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (€3,000)
2023	Re:Constitution Fellowship, Forum Transregionale Studien (€15,000)
2021	Dahrendorf Fellowship, St Antony's College, University of Oxford
2020	Early Career Researcher Grant, European University Institute (€2,500)
2019–2024	Doctoral Grant, European University Institute
2019	Research Assistantship, George Washington University ($7,000)
2018	Fulbright Scholarship, Romanian–U.S. Fulbright Commission ($70,000)

2018	Global Leaders Fellowship, George Washington University ($20,000)
2017	Master's Excellence Scholarship, Central European University (€20,000)
2016	Master's Scholarship, Central European University (€18,000)
2014	Erasmus Study Grant, University of Bucharest (€3,000)

Invited talks and lectures

Oct 2026	"External Coercion and European Polity-Building." KU Leuven, Leuven
June 2025	"Maritime Connectivity, Cooperation, and Security in the Black Sea." Burgas Connectivity Forum, Burgas
Feb 2025	"Shaping a Sustainable Security Architecture for Europe." British American Security Information Council workshop, Istanbul
Jan 2025	"Great Power Competition and European Integration." Zürichberg Colloquium, Zurich
Nov 2024	"The European Security Architecture and the U.S. Elections." Rethink Romania Summit, Brașov
July 2023	"Black Sea Security and the Russo-Ukrainian War: A Policy Agenda." Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Bulgaria
June 2022	"Security Policy and Theory in the 21st Century." Romanian Diplomatic Institute

Conference presentations

APSA	2019, 2024, 2025, 2026
ECPR Joint Sessions	2021, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026
ECPR General Conference	2021, 2023, 2026
EISS	2022, 2024, 2026
Other	EWIS 2023; EISA 2024; ISA–CEEISA 2024; EPSA 2025; SPSA 2026; CES 2026; SGEU 2026

Workshops organised

May 2026	"The 'New' Domestic Politics of Romanian Foreign and Security Policy." With Sorina Soare and Laurențiu Plesca, University of Bucharest

Teaching

ETH Zurich	Methods I: Research Design, Qualitative Methods, and Data Collection (graduate, co-taught), Fall 2025 and 2026
ETH Zurich	Contemporary European Politics (undergraduate, co-taught), Spring 2025 and 2026
Lucerne	European Security and Great Power Competition (graduate), Spring 2026
Syracuse Florence	NATO in Crisis: The Ukraine War (undergraduate), Spring and Fall 2023, Spring 2024

Teaching assistant	Introduction to Theories of International Relations (graduate, Prof. Nina Hall), Johns Hopkins SAIS Bologna, Winter 2020, Winter 2021, Fall 2022
Teaching assistant	Policies and Processes of Transnational Governance (graduate, Prof. Diane Stone), EUI School of Transnational Governance, Fall 2022
Teaching assistant	Markets and Politics (undergraduate, Prof. Ernie Englander), George Washington University School of Business, Winter 2019

Service to society

Feb 2026–present	Member, Strategic Reflection Group for European Affairs, Presidential Administration of Romania
Aug 2025–present	Member, Advisory Board of the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2025	Member, Working Group on the National Security Strategy of Romania, convened by the President of Romania
May 2025–present	Member, 'Club Europa' Expert Network, European Commission
December 2021–present	Co-founder, Quartet Institute, Bucharest

Academic service

Nov 2025–present	Member, Academic Advisory Board, EU Security Initiative, European University Institute
Sept 2025–Feb 2026	Member, Hiring Committee for Assistant and Full Professor in History of Technology and Philosophy of Science, ETH Zurich
Sept 2023–present	Member, Editorial Board, Euro-Atlantic Resilience Journal
2021–2024	Convener, International Relations Working Group, European University Institute
2020–2024	Founder and convener, Talk Series on International Politics, European University Institute
Reviewer	Bloomsbury, Contexto Internacional, European Union Politics, European Politics and Society, Government and Opposition, JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies, Journal of European Integration, Journal of European Public Policy, Nationalities Papers, New Perspectives, SAGE Open
Grant reviewer	Czech Research Foundation; Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Methods

Research design	Process tracing, qualitative Bayesian reasoning (Fairfield and Charman), (cross-)case study research, congruence analysis, multi-method triangulation
Measurement	Hand-coded and dictionary-based content analysis; original event datasets with codebooks and robustness checks
Fieldwork	Elite interviews with EU and national officials (more than 50)

Software	R, AQDA, NVivo