



# IBEI RESEARCH SEMINAR

24 October 2014, 2pm  
Room Fred Halliday 24.133 – IBEI (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)

**Martijn Vlaskamp**  
Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals

## *Why are 'Blood Diamonds' Treated Differently than 'Conflict Timber'? The EU's Policies to Curb the Trade in Natural Resources that Finance Civil Wars*

The talk will argue that the divergent policies of the EU can be explained as a combination of endogenous and exogenous factors. The EU's level of support for measures depends both on the economic relevance of the natural resource in question for the European economy and on the ability of NGOs to promote possible measures by linking it to "shared European norms". In the global arena, the growing importance of the emerging powers, in economic, political and social terms, has complicated the design of multilateral solutions. Most of the emerging economies require imported natural resources to sustain their economic growth and are also for normative reasons rather reluctant to commit themselves to binding international agreements that could conflict with the norm of "state sovereignty". As a consequence, in cases in which the EU wants to impose sanctions on specific conflict resources but meets an unfavorable global context -such as in the case of timber- it opts for unilateral measures instead of working on a compromise in a multilateral setting for any price. In cases in which there already international institutions in place -such as in the case of the Kimberley Process for diamonds- it seeks to defend them as a matter of its principle of "effective multilateralism".

### **Martijn Vlaskamp**

Martijn Vlaskamp is a predoctoral research fellow at the Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (IBEI) since September 2010. He is a PhD-Candidate in "International Relations and European Integration" at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona - Institut Universitari d'Estudis Europeu (IUEE) and his thesis is supervised by Professor Esther Barbé. In his dissertation project he is analysing the EU activities regarding conflict resources (e.g. diamonds and minerals), in particular in international organisations. Martijn Vlaskamp got his bachelor in Public Administration at the University of Twente (The Netherlands) and holds two master degrees in European Studies from the Universities of Twente and Münster (Germany). He works primarily on EU Foreign Policy and is a member of the research group "Observatori de Política Exterior Europea". At IBEI he took part in the DYNAMUS-project, which explored the interaction between the European Union and global institutions. He is responsible for the organisation of the follow-up research project EU-IANUS (The EU in an Unsettled International System: Crisis, Polarity and Multilateralism).

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