

Academic year 2026–2027

EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR

***UNDERSTANDING GEOPOLITICS:
POWER, NARRATIVES AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS***

Teacher: Professor Xavier Guillaume *

DATES – HOURS:

Tuesday, October 6, 2026 (17:00–21:00)
Wednesday, October 7, 2026 (17:00–20:00)
Thursday, October 8, 2026 (17:00–21:00)
Tuesday, October 13, 2026 (17:00–20:00)

Application deadline: **Friday, October 2, 2026**

SEMINAR ATTENDANCE:

- ✓ In person.
- ✓ Online, using a computer equipped with speakers and headphones. A microphone is required for active participation (e.g. asking questions, contributing to discussions, etc.).

Online attendance is available to:

- Participants who do not reside in Athens.
- Participants living in Athens only when in-person attendance is not possible due to exceptional circumstances (e.g. illness, family obligations, etc.).

* **Xavier Guillaume** is an Associate Professor of International Relations at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands and has also taught at the Université de Genève (where he is from), the University of Edinburgh and Sciences Po Paris. Xavier specializes in security and international issues connected to the mundane ways by which people constitute their identities in relation to others, the state, or to other international actors.

DESCRIPTION:

Geopolitics is often presented as an objective way of understanding international affairs, explaining world events through geography, strategic interests and power relations. Yet geopolitical thinking also shapes how we imagine the world: it defines regions and identities, frames threats and opportunities, and influences which political and military responses appear possible, necessary or legitimate.

This interactive seminar introduces participants to a reflexive approach to geopolitics by combining practical exercises, case studies and short lectures. Rather than treating geopolitics as a fixed body of knowledge, participants will explore how geopolitical narratives and representations are produced, circulated and mobilised by governments, media, military institutions, businesses and international organisations.

Drawing on concrete examples from contemporary international affairs, the seminar progressively develops analytical tools to identify the assumptions underlying geopolitical reasoning, understand how different actors frame the same events differently, and examine the consequences of these representations for decision-making and policy. Throughout the programme, participants work in mixed groups to analyse media coverage, interpret strategic narratives, simulate crisis responses and critically examine the geopolitical assumptions embedded in their own analyses.

Designed for professionals and students alike, the seminar places particular emphasis on dialogue across different forms of expertise. Its objective is neither to replace strategic analysis nor to challenge the importance of geopolitics, but to cultivate greater analytical reflexivity. By making visible the narratives, spatial imaginaries and assumptions that underpin geopolitical thinking, participants will strengthen their ability to interpret international developments, engage with diverse perspectives and make more informed decisions in complex geopolitical environments.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Distinguish between geopolitics as strategic practice and geopolitics as a form of representation.
- Identify geopolitical narratives, assumptions and spatial imaginaries in policy, media and strategic discourse.
- Understand how different institutional perspectives shape interpretations of the same international event.
- Develop greater awareness of the assumptions underpinning strategic and military reasoning.
- Apply analytical tools to evaluate competing geopolitical framings and their policy implications.
- Strengthen reflexive thinking in the analysis of contemporary international affairs.

Submission of applications : deca@idis.gr (Maria Deca)

Application Deadline

and Tuition Fee Payment Deadline: **Friday, October 2, 2026**

TUITION FEES:

- **€90** for students and junior researchers of the H.I.S.D. Students must submit a valid student ID card together with their application.
- **€150** for all other participants, without exception (including members of the general public, military personnel, journalists, etc.).

Tuition fee payment : At any EUROBANK branch* or via e-banking.
The payment receipt must include the applicant's name in the "Payment Reference" field and should be sent by email to laina@idis.gr (Popi Laina).

* **EUROBANK** Bank Account: 0026.0105.30.0200099114
/BAN: GR6002601050000300200099114
SWIFT CODE-BIC CODE: ERBKGRAA
Account holder: Institute of International Relations

EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL:

The seminar course materials will be sent to participants electronically.

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE:

Upon completion of the seminar, participants will be awarded a Certificate of Attendance..

We thank you for your interest.