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THE RETURN OF GEOPOLITICS IN EUROPE



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The end of the Cold War demonstrated the historical possibility of peaceful change and seemingly showed the superiority of non-realist approaches in International Relations. Yet in the post-Cold-War period many European countries have experienced a resurgence of a distinctively realist tradition: geopolitics. Geopolitics is an approach which emphasizes the relationship between politics and power, on the one hand, and territory, location and environment, on the other. This lecture shows how the revival of geopolitics came not despite of, but because of, the end of the Cold War. Disoriented in their self-understandings and conception of external roles by the events of 1989, many European foreign policy actors used the determinism of geopolitical thought to find their place in world politics quickly. The talk is based upon a book and develops a constructivist methodology to study causal mechanisms, and its comparative approach allows for a broad assessment of some of the fundamental dynamics of European security.



Prof. Stefano Guzzini

Stefano Guzzini is Professor at Uppsala University and PUC-Rio de Janeiro, and Senior Researcher at the Danish Institute for International Studies. His research focuses on international theory, social and political theories of power, critical security studies, approaches to foreign policy analysis, and interpretivist methodology. He has published nine books, including *The Return of Geopolitics in Europe? Social Mechanisms and Foreign Policy Identity Crises* (Cambridge UP), and *Power, Realism and Constructivism* (Routledge), winner of the 2014 ISA Theory Section Best Book Award. He currently serves as President of the Central and East European International Studies Association (CEEISA).