The European Union and its Arctic endeavour **EU-Arctic policy-making from a critical geopolitical perspective** 

# why space and geography matters: the construction of space determines foreign policy behaviour and the development of a related policy toolkit

### What is Critical Geopolitics?

CG is a post-structuralist reading and criticalconstructivist framework of International Relations.

CG defines space and geopolitical narratives as constructed, man-made and negotiable.

Framing of space implies the construction of specific

### Is the European Union a geopolitical actor?

Plenty of studies tried to answer a rather simple question: what sort of (geopolitical) power is the EU?

> The EU is a geopolitical subject in the making - an unfinished business in an on-going construction process.

> > Geopolitics of Dimensionality: many "centres" form various geopolitical thoughts.

> > > the-making:



United States

## preliminary findings

Different types of Arctic perceptions and a related step-by-step institutional learning process

### define the development of the EU's Arctic policy toolkit. HOWEVER one essential political question remains:

### "What does the Arctic actually mean for the European Union?"

### **An EXACT Marie Curie ITN Research Fellow**

a g	University of Cologne October 2011 - March 2012 TEPSA, Trans European Policy Studies Association April 2012 - September 2012 University of Cologne - University of Edinburgh October 2012 - December 2013	<ul> <li>The European Union's gateways to the Arctic, co-authored (under review: European Foreign Affairs Review, forthcoming)</li> <li>The Arctic and New Technologies, Arctic Yearbook 2013, co-authored (under review)</li> <li>The Maritime Dimension of CSDP: Geostrategic Maritime Challenges and their Implications for the European Union, Study for EP SEDE Subcommittee, co-authored (2012)</li> <li>The EU as a shipping actor in the Arctic, SWP Working Paper, co-authored (2012)</li> <li>The future of Arctic shipping along the Transpolar Sea Route, Arctic Yearbook 2012, co-authored (2012)</li> <li>From 'Great Wall' to 'Great White North': Explaining China's politics in the Arctic, Long Post European Geostrategy, co-authored (2012)</li> </ul>	a p e r
S		ropean Geostrategy, co-authored (2012) <b>The future of Arctic shipping</b> , Port Technology International, co-authored (2012)	S

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