



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA



Strategic Cultures and International Security: Russia, China and NATO

International academic conference organized in the framework of
NATO Allied Command Transformation's Academic Outreach Effort

28-30 September 2026

Centro Residenziale Universitario di Bertinoro (Forlì, Italy)

Organized by

Headquarters Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, Norfolk

Istituto Affari Internazionali, Rome

University of Bologna, Bologna

Sponsored by

Headquarters Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, Norfolk

Hosted by

University of Bologna, Bologna

Agenda to be held under Chatham House Rule¹

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AGENDA

Day 1 – September 28th

During the day *Arrival of Participants*

19:00 Welcome Remarks

SONIA LUCARELLI Professor of International Relations, University of Bologna

ALESSANDRO MARRONE Head of Defence, Security and Space Programme, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)

19:15 Keynote Speech

VLASTA ZEKULIC Director of Strategic Management and Communications, HQ SACT

19:30 *Dinner at Rocca*

Day 2 –September 29th

08:30 Introduction to the Academic Conference

SONIA LUCARELLI Professor of International Relations, University of Bologna

ALESSANDRO MARRONE Head of Defence, Security and Space Programme, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)

VLASTA ZEKULIC Director of Strategic Management and Communications, HQ SACT

08:45 I Plenary

The impact of strategic culture on strategy development and long-term transformation

Chair **FRANCESCO NICCOLÒ MORO** Professor of Political Science, University of Bologna

Panelists **ALICE EKMAN** Research Director, European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)

JULIEN LINDLEY FRENCH Chairman, The Alphen Group

KATRI PYNNÖNIEMI Professor, Mannerheim Chair of Russian Security Studies, University of Helsinki and Finnish National Defence University

ANDREW WINNER Professor Emeritus, U.S. Naval War College; Adjunct Professor, Johns Hopkins University SAIS Europe

10:30 *Coffee Break*

11:00 Working groups first session

WG1: Russian strategic culture

Facilitator **FABRIZIO COTICCHIA** Professor of Political Science, University of Genoa

Rapporteur **CHIARA BOLDRINI** Research Fellow of International Relations, University of Bologna

Paper Giver **TRACEY GERMAN** Professor of Conflict and Security, King's College London

WG2: Chinese strategic culture

Facilitator **MATTEO DIAN** Associate Professor of International Relations, University of Bologna

Rapporteur **ANDREA GHISELLI** Lecturer in International Politics Department of Social and Political Sciences, Philosophy, and Anthropology University of Exeter

Paper Giver **MATHIEU DUCHATEL** Director of International Studies, Institut Montaigne

WG3: Strategic Culture and the Western Alliance

Facilitator **ALESSANDRO MARRONE** Head of Defence, Security and Space Programme, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)

Rapporteur **MATTEO MAZZIOTTI DI CELSO** Postdoctoral Fellow, IRSEM

Paper Giver **HANNA OJANEN** Adjunct Professor Finnish National Defence University and the University of Helsinki

12:30 *Lunch*

14:00 Working groups second session

WG1: Russian strategic culture

Facilitator **FABRIZIO COTICCHIA** Professor of Political Science, University of Genoa

Rapporteur **CHIARA BOLDRINI** Research Fellow of International Relations, University of Bologna

Paper Giver **NICOLÒ FASOLA** Research Fellow and Adjunct Professor of Russian foreign policy, University of Bologna

	WG2: Chinese strategic culture
<i>Facilitator</i>	MATTEO DIAN Associate Professor of International Relations, University of Bologna
<i>Rapporteur</i>	ANDREA GHISELLI Lecturer in International Politics Department of Social and Political Sciences, Philosophy, and Anthropology University of Exeter
<i>Paper Giver</i>	JUSTYNA SZCZUDLIK Deputy Head of Research, Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM)
	WG3: Strategic Culture and the Western Alliance
<i>Facilitator</i>	ALESSANDRO MARRONE Head of Defence, Security and Space Programme, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)
<i>Rapporteur</i>	MATTEO MAZZIOTTI DI CELSO Postdoctoral Fellow, IRSEM
<i>Paper Giver</i>	JAMES SPERLING Professor of Political Science, University of Akron
15:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:00	Working groups third session: implications for NATO
	WG1: Russian strategic culture
<i>Facilitator</i>	FABRIZIO COTICCHIA Professor of Political Science, University of Genoa
<i>Rapporteur</i>	CHIARA BOLDRINI Research Fellow of International Relations, University of Bologna
	WG2: Chinese strategic culture
<i>Facilitator</i>	MATTEO DIAN Associate Professor of International Relations, University of Bologna
<i>Rapporteur</i>	ANDREA GHISELLI Lecturer in International Politics Department of Social and Political Sciences, Philosophy, and Anthropology University of Exeter
	WG3: Strategic Culture and the Western Alliance
<i>Facilitator</i>	ALESSANDRO MARRONE Head of Defence, Security and Space Programme, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)
<i>Rapporteur</i>	MATTEO MAZZIOTTI DI CELSO Postdoctoral Fellow, IRSEM
17:30	<i>End of day 2</i>
20:00	<i>Dinner at the restaurant Bistrot Colonna</i> <i>Address: Via Arrigo Mainardi, 10/12, 47032 Bertinoro FC</i>

Day 3 –September 30th

9:00 Working Group Reports

Chair **SONIA LUCARELLI** Professor of International Relations, University of Bologna

Rapporteur **MATTEO MAZZIOTTI DI CELSO** Postdoctoral Fellow, IRSEM
ANDREA GHISELLI Lecturer in International Politics Department of Social and Political Sciences, Philosophy, and Anthropology University of Exeter
CHIARA BOLDRINI Research Fellow of International Relations, University of Bologna

09:30 II Plenary: *Strategic cultures and NATO's Grand Strategy*

Speakers **ELIO CALCAGNO** Senior Researcher for Defence and Space, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)
MARIA DOMANSKA Senior Fellow and Deputy Head, Russian Department, Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW)
CHRISTIAN LEUPRECHT Professor, Royal Military College of Canada and Queen's University
MARIA MÄLKSOO Professor of International Relations, University of Copenhagen

11:00 *Closing remarks*

MICHAEL CHERINET Major General, Supreme Allied Commander Transformation's Representative in Europe
SONIA LUCARELLI Professor of International Relations, University of Bologna
ALESSANDRO MARRONE Head of Defence, Security and Space Programme, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)

11:30 *End of the event*

12:00 *Lunch (optional)*