

**EUROPEAN DOCUMENTATION CENTRE**

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UNIVERSITY OF MALTA  
INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES



**Can the European Union Feel? When Political Psychology encounters Foreign Policy**

Lecture by Professor Michelle Pace (Roskilde University, Denmark)

Venue: European Documentation Centre, Institute for European Studies, University of Malta

Date: Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017

Time: 14:00-15:00



**Bio-note:** Michelle Pace is currently Professor MSO (at the Department of Society and Globalisation, Roskilde University in Denmark) within The External Relations of the European Union with special emphasis on the relations with the Middle East. Her research areas of interest include: migration/refugee studies, human rights, identity politics, perceptions of democratisation in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), the development of the public sphere in the MENA region since the Arab “Uprisings”, de-democratisation, governance and pluralism in the Middle East, Egypt and Palestine.

## **Abstract**

"This public talk focuses on the impact of emotions on the European Union (EU)'s international agency. Conceptually, emotions are not reducible to a product of either simply cognitive or physiological processes. They have a social component and they involve judgements as well as perceptions and feelings. Thus, in this presentation, emotions are understood as performances through which an actor – be it an individual or a collective one – expresses itself to others while constructing its identity, creating its agency, and potentially affecting the social order. Empirically, the speaker explores this impact in relation to the EU's engagement in the Israel-Palestinian prolonged conflict that has many underlying emotions linked with past traumatic experiences. By doing so her aim is to instigate a discussion between the emotions literature in International Relations and the European Union studies literature to nuance understanding of the politics of emotions that increasingly constrain what kind of a global actor the EU actually is or can become."

**The lecture is open to the public. Places are limited. Book your place by sending an email to: [stefan.bezzina@um.edu.mt](mailto:stefan.bezzina@um.edu.mt)**