

# King's Doctoral Workshop on Military Innovation and Defence Reform

## Workshop Report

The King's Doctoral Workshop on Military Innovation and Defence Reform was a 2-day doctoral workshop discussing multi-theoretical, cross-national, and multidisciplinary aspects of change in military organisations. Specifically, the event focused on:

1. Networking among doctoral students and early-career researchers (ECRs).
2. Enabling doctoral students and ECRs to get feedback from senior scholars.
3. Connecting doctoral students and ECRs with policymakers and practitioners in military innovation and defence policy.

The event, held in the Strand campus on May 04 – 05<sup>th</sup>, gathered presenters from more than eight countries, with representatives from Europe, Latin America, and Asia.



## About the workshop

The workshop comprised seven panels consisting of three to five presenting doctoral students and ECRs. Senior scholars from King's College London and Cranfield University chaired the panels, distributed as follows:

- KCL Department of War Studies (3 academics)
- KCL Defence Studies Department (3 academics)
- Cranfield University (1 academic)

The diverse programme comprised overarching topics of military innovation, ranging from doctrinal change, the future of warfare and procurement to ethical considerations about emerging technology and critical perspectives on military innovation.

Additional to the academic programme, participants could enjoy the following break-out activities:

1. *Fireside chat with Gabriela Cox, head of the Defence Innovation Unit in the UK MOD—*

chaired by Professor Wyn Bowen, Department of War Studies and the Freeman Air & Space Institute Co-Director.

2. *A chat with the editor, led by Prof. Andrew Dorman, editor of International Affairs and chair at the Defence Studies Department. At this event, he presented key suggestions on how to publish in high-impact academic journals.*
3. *Fireside chat with Peter Watkins, Former Director General of Strategy & International (2017-18) and Director General of Security Policy (2014-17) in the UK MOD—chaired by Arun Dawson, from the Freeman Air & Space Institute.*

Moreover, representatives from the Brazilian Embassy, the Brazilian Defence College (ESD), and other KCL students were among the venue attendees.

The complete programme is available in Annex 1.

## The workshop in numbers & graphs

Diversity was a key characteristic of the workshop programme and topics and a reality for the panellists.

### Institutional affiliation of the panellists per country

<i>Country affiliation</i>	<i>No. of affiliates</i>	<i>%</i>
United Kingdom	17	56.67
Brazil	4	13.33
Netherlands	3	10.00
Sweden	2	6.67
France	1	3.33
China	1	3.33
Italy	1	3.33
Germany	1	3.33

As plotted in the table and chart above, more than half of the 32 participants were based in universities within the United Kingdom, and the rest of the presenters were in universities outside the UK territory. Brazil, the Netherlands, and China led this second list, followed by France, Germany, Italy, and Sweden (with one speaker each).

<i>Institutional profile</i>	<i>No. of panellists</i>	<i>%</i>
European	25	83.33
Non-European	5	16.67

Furthermore, participants' internationality was not limited to the European continent but extended beyond it, with over 16% of participants travelling to the Strand from overseas (see table above).

### KCL vs non-KCL-based students

As the workshop's diversity in nationality and their institutions' country affiliation already implies, it attracted numerous external, non-KCL-based participants, despite being organised and based in the College's School of Security Studies.

<i>Institutional profile</i>	<i>No. of panellists</i>	<i>%</i>
Non-KCL based	22	73.33
KCL students	7	23.33

### Gender balance of panellists\*

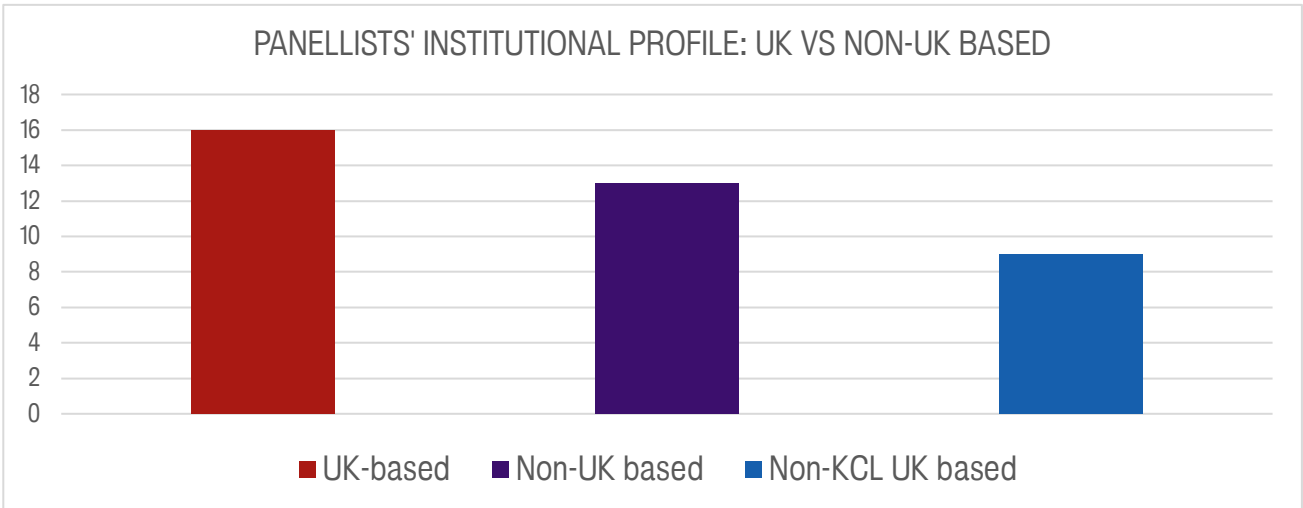
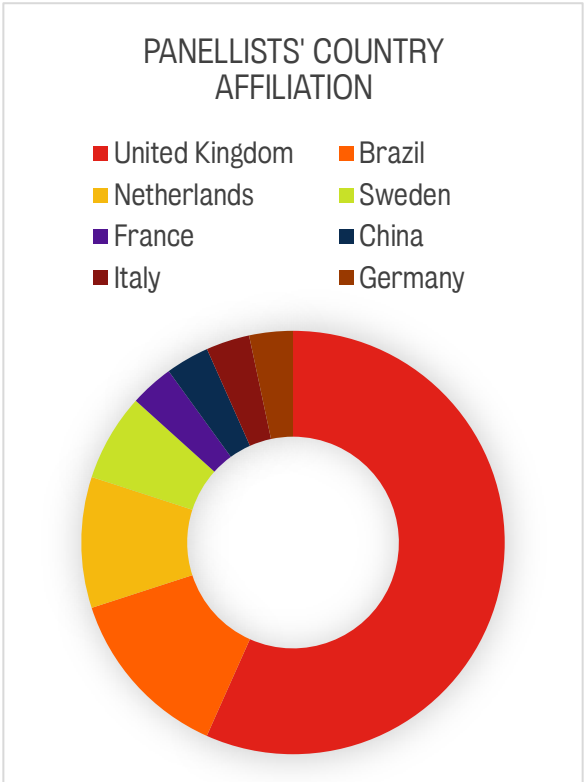
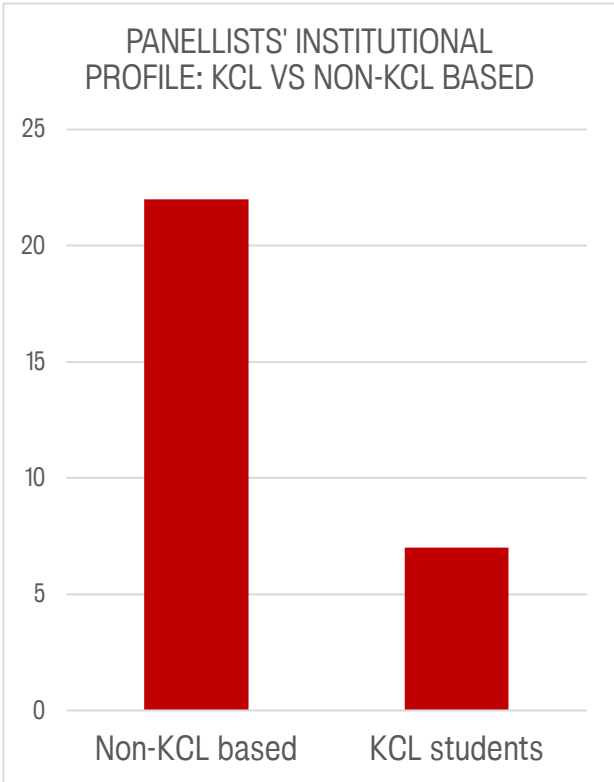
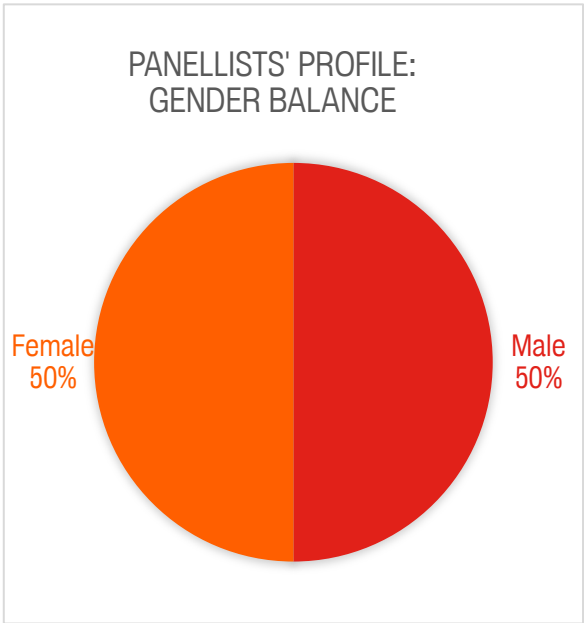
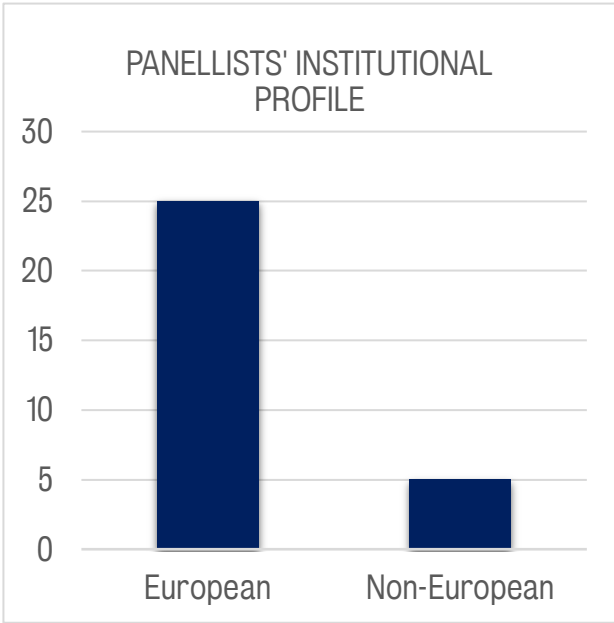
The workshop organisers were particularly delighted that the workshop did not confirm often-seen scenes in our field in which both panels and audiences predominantly identify as male. The workshop's participation was perfectly balanced in the gender variable.

<i>Gender</i>	<i>No. of panellists</i>	<i>%</i>
Male	15	50
Female	15	50

\*Panellists provided no information about other gender designations.

### UK vs. Non-UK-based institutions

<i>Institutional profile</i>	<i>No. of panellists</i>	<i>%</i>
UK-based	16	56.67
Non-UK based	13	43.33
Non-KCL UK based	9	30.00





## Participants' Feedback

Recent global developments have created new challenges for military organisations. Think, for example, of changing civil-military relations or emerging technologies like artificial intelligence. The King's Doctoral Workshop did a terrific job in bringing scholars with different disciplinary backgrounds and experiences together to explore how innovative policies and defence reforms could address such challenges in democratic, effective, and sustainable ways. *Alies Jansen, Leiden University (Netherlands)*

Diverse topics, well organised, exceptional discussants. Well done! *Mariah Loukou, City University London*

It was an amazing opportunity to reach out to relevant people with our research not only to get feedback but also to get to see other insightful works. *Mehmet Onur Sahin, University of Warwick*

I really enjoyed hearing about the broad range of projects and engaging with the other researchers. *Stephen van de Put, Netherlands Defence Academy (Netherlands)*

In addition to the knowledge learned and the possibilities of connecting studies between the works presented, we invited some Brazilian participants to be evaluators in our Academic Congress on National Defense

event, and all accepted the invitation. In this way, the network was valid for disseminating knowledge in Defence between Institutions. All of this is provided by participating in this event. *Aline Muniz, National Defence College (Brazil)*

Meeting so many scholars working with military innovation from various approaches was fascinating. It was encouraging and refreshing to be among very driven, interested colleagues and share experiences and perspectives that can only add to research and academic production. Professors and students had insightful, provocative, and supportive comments and questions that made the event a very engaging experience, and the chats with policymakers and journal editors were brilliant. Many thanks to the organisation, and I can't wait to see more from the Network! *George Cox, King's College London*

This was an excellent workshop with many interesting topics and exciting presentations. It was a great chance to meet fellow researchers and longstanding academics. The administration and organisation were excellent. *Stephen Campbell, University of St. Andrews*





## The beginning of a network

The workshop marked the official launch of the Military Innovation Network, a PGR and ECR-led network that aims to:

1. Promote discussions on military innovation through interdisciplinary, cross-national, pluri-theoretical, and critical perspectives.
2. Connect doctoral students, early career researchers, senior academics, and practitioners.

The research network is currently led by its secretariat, composed by:

Raphael Lima, Aleix Nadal & Linus Terhorst (all KCL), Tamiris Santos (Loughborough Univ.), Megghi Pengili (Univ. of Leeds), Lucie Pebay (Univ. of Bath) & Cristina Fontanelli (Univ. of Genoa).

Our past activities included the workshop, a KCL conference panel and panels at the BISA '22 and '23 conferences:

- Doctoral Workshop at KCL, May 2023
- Panel about 'Defence Reform and Military Transformation', KCL Conference 2022

- The Panel about 'Defence Reform and Military Transformation- Cross National Perspectives' BISA 2022
- The Panel about 'The challenge of being prepared- Military Transformation as a Response' BISA 2023.

## Our next steps

While you may not have heard of us much during the immediate weeks after the workshop, we have been busy collecting ideas for future events and research collaboration, and we should be in touch very soon on concrete steps. These include two proposals for journal special issues on various themes and more extensive projects and events going forward.

To facilitate further cooperation, we are creating a database on your research fields and areas of interest to ensure our initiatives reach the right people. Please help by filling out the form provided through the QR Code.



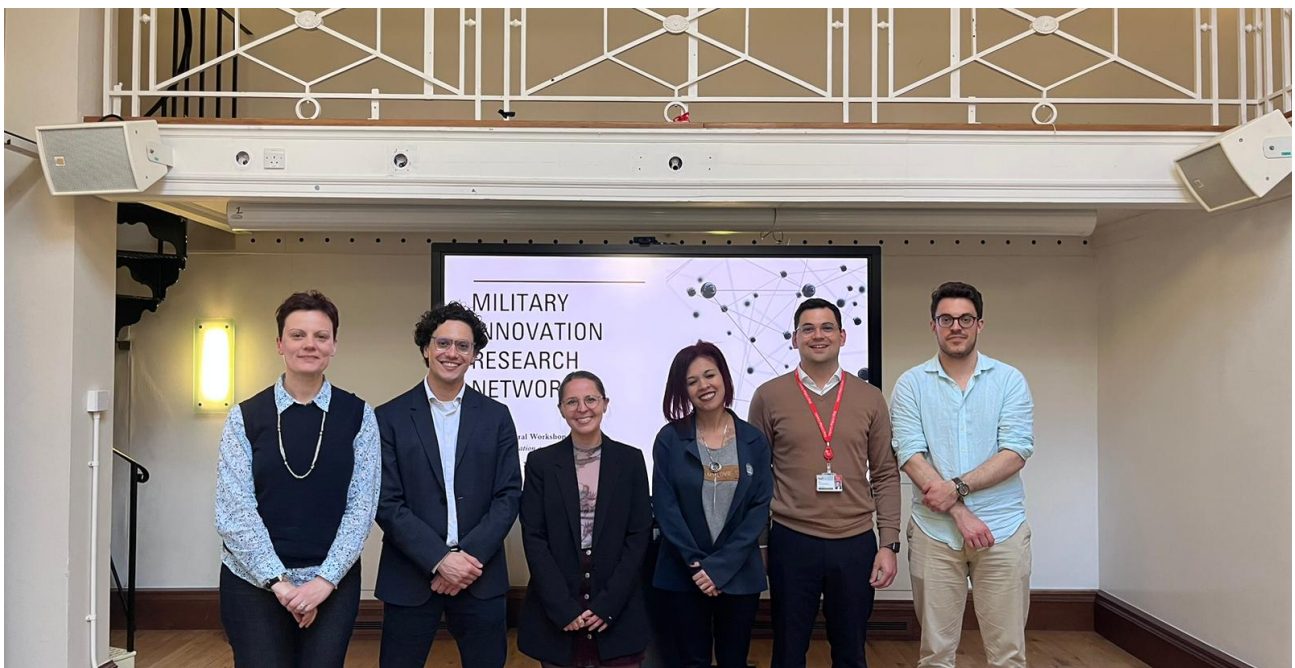
## Final remarks

In a nutshell, besides learning outcomes and academic experience, the following remarks add-up to what this doctoral workshop consisted of according to the organisation committee's perspective and expectations:

1. We had an impressive reach considering we did not offer a single travel grant.
2. We had significant support from senior academics.
3. We were able to achieve a remarkable gender balance.
4. We captured research from many topics pertinent to defence scholarship, policymaking, and practice, such as procurement, emerging technologies, ethics, strategies and doctrines, gender and warfare, diffusion, and emulation.
5. We aim to further the network's upward trajectory, building on the work done so far.
6. We would like to widen the KCL workshop remit and integrate emerging

issues and research around methodology, epistemology, ethics, governance, etc.

7. We would like to see a second edition of the workshop research covering a diverse geographical and temporal range of cases and drawing from various perspectives and methodological underpinnings, particularly those underrepresented in the literature.



### The organising committee

Raphael Lima, King's College London  
Aleix Nadal, King's College London  
Linus Terhorst, King's College London  
Tamiris Santos, Loughborough University  
Megghi Pengili, University of Leeds  
Lucie Pebay, University of Bath  
Cristina Fontanelli, University of Genova

### Institutional Support

Faculty of Science and Public Policy (SSPP), King's College London  
Department of War Studies, King's College London  
Department of Defence Studies, King's College London

### Contact

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[www.kcl.ac.uk/warstudies](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/warstudies)

[www.kcl.ac.uk/defencestudies](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/defencestudies)

[www.militaryinnovation.network](http://www.militaryinnovation.network)



# Annex 1: Programme

*School of Security Studies  
Department of War Studies & Defence Studies Department*



## King's Doctoral Workshop on Military Innovation and Defence Reform

**THURSDAY, 4 MAY 2023**

### INTRODUCTORY SESSION

**09:15** Welcome remarks

Professor Jelke Boesten, Associate Dean School of Social Science and Public Policy

**09:30** Opening statement

Secretariat of the Military Innovation Network

### FIRST PANEL

**09:45** The Future of Warfare

*Chair:*

Professor Tracey German, Defence Studies Department, King's College London

*Speakers:*

Overcoming challenges to defence decision-making in times of crisis: The AI-Public Private Partnership and the anticipatory governance

Megghi Pengili, University of Leeds

Tamiris Santos, Loughborough University

Space infrastructure vulnerability and strategic planning

Julia Balm, King's College London

The impact of aerial technology in Brazil's Air Force: The case of the Remotely Piloted Aircraft System

Mariana Janot, São Paulo State University

Artificial Intelligence and military decision-making

Alies E. Jansen, Leiden University

Understanding the evolution of the British military space posture in the New Space age

Aleix Nadal Campos, King's College London

**11:30** Break



## SECOND PANEL

### 11:45 Military procurement and defence economics

*Chair:*

Professor Matthew Uttley, Defence Studies Department, King's College London

*Speakers:*

The modernization of the French nuclear arsenal: What is modernization in the context of nuclear weapons? And what motivates such efforts?

July Decarpentrie, Swedish Defence University

Military innovation into military capability

Therese Tärnholm, Swedish Defence University

Path dependencies in German procurement choices

Linus Terhorst, King's College London

An unappreciated field of endeavour: The development of a conceptual framework to explore the Expeditionary Supply Chain of the UK military and the role of adhocacy as a dynamic capability for competitive advantage

Tony Clark, University of Lincoln

### 13:15 Lunch break (Catering)

## THIRD PANEL

### 14:15 The ethics of emerging technologies

*Chair:*

Dr. Jack McDonald, Department of War Studies, King's College London

*Speakers:*

Beyond the responsibility gaps in the use of autonomous weapons: A new ethical framework within a democratic political context

George Kiourktsoglou, University of Bath

A giant leap for humankind: The bridge between space law and international humanitarian law

Steven van de Put, Netherlands Defence Academy

No trifling with force: Controlling the use of force in the age of autonomous weapons

Laure de Roucy-Rochegonde, Sciences Po

Arms control and historical sociological institutionalism

Lincoln Sheff, University of Bath

### 15:45 Break (Tea, coffee & biscuits)

## FOURTH PANEL

### 16:15 National security strategies and defence policies

*Chair:*

Dr. Vinicius de Carvalho, Department of War Studies, King's College London

*Speakers:*

A new Anglo-Japanese alliance? Britain-Japan security partnership in a post-Brexit era  
Kun Wang, China Foreign Affairs University

The enemy within: The military-industrial complex under Thatcher  
Thomas Kelsey, University of Oxford

International defence collaboration: A case study on NORDEFECO  
Mehmet Onur Sahin, University of Warwick

Drivers and restraints of military equipment spending  
Ana Carolina de Oliveira Assis, Federal University of Pernambuco

### 17:45 Break

## FIRESIDE CHAT

### 18:15 Defence Innovation in the UK Ministry of Defence

*Chair:*

Professor Wyn Bowen, Co-Director of the Freeman Air and Space Institute, King's College London

*Speaker:*

Gabriella Cox, Head of Strategy and Policy, Defence Innovation Unit Head Office, UK Ministry of Defence

### 19:30 Wine reception and snacks – End of First Day

## FRIDAY, 5 MAY 2023

## KEYNOTE SPEECH

### 09:00 Chat with the editor

Professor Andrew Dorman, Editor International Affairs Journal, Chatham House

### 09:20 Questions & Answers

### 10:00 Break (Tea, coffee & biscuits)

## FIFTH PANEL

10:15 **Doctrinal change and military reform**

*Chair:*

Professor Laura Cleary, Cranfield University

*Speakers:*

A dual use Army? Italy and the limits of military's role expansion

Matteo Mazziotti di Celso, University of Genoa

Resources versus culture: A competing theoretical framework to identify key explanatory factors for doctrinal change

Jéronimo Barbin, Centre for Military History and Social Sciences of the Bundeswehr/ Helmut Schmidt University

International standards for defence sector reform and governance

Plinio Cardoso, Leiden University

11:30 **Break**

## SIXTH PANEL

12:00 **Critical perspectives on military innovation**

*Chair:*

Dr. Amanda Chisholm, Department of War Studies, King's College London

*Speakers:*

Military innovation: Pan-critical feminism and military education

Mariah Loukou, City University London

Transforming to survive: The role of OST in understanding and shaping French Army transformation

Lucie Pebay, University of Bath

America's inability to create and maintain enduring and effective influence in Africa: Between strategic racism and strategic ignorance

Kaitlin Essig, King's College London

13:15 **Lunch (catering)**

## SEVENTH PANEL

### 14:30 Military diffusion and emulation

*Chair:*

Professor Andrew Dorman, Defence Studies Department, King's College London

*Speakers:*

The use of modified commercial drones in Ukraine: Adoption capacity theory and adaptation under fire in practice

Andro Mathewson, King's College London

What is military transformation? Conceptualising an overstretched concept

Raphael Lima, King's College London

Assessments of developments in Soviet aviation during the Cold War

George Cox, King's College London

Competence mapping of the Brazilian Defense College in partnership with the Institute of Defense Analyses: an experience of military diffusion and emulation

Patricia Pontes, Brazilian Defence College

Aline Muniz, Brazilian Defence College

Civil-military relations in the UK: A new theory

Stephen Campbell, University of St. Andrews

### 16:15 Break

## FIRESIDE CHAT

### 16:30 Insights and Lessons from a Former Director General of the UK Ministry of Defence

*Chair:*

Arun Dawson, King's College London

*Speaker:*

Peter Watkins, Former Director General Strategy & International (2017-18) and Director General of Security Policy (2014-17) in the UK MOD.

### 17:30 Break

## CLOSING REMARKS

### 18:00 Concluding remarks and Reflections from participants

### 18:30 End of the Doctoral Workshop