Civilian power or soft imperialism? The EU as a global actor and the role of interregionalism

the EU debates on normative and civilian nature of the power; Russia’s soft power: learning how to be smart. Main problems of the Russia-EU soft power cooperation. Soft, Hard and Smart Power. Western-based power structure dominated by the US viewed as a global hegemon. Presence of hegemonic power makes it clearly impossible to accumulate soft power without a solid ‘hard power’ base; Relationships between hard power and soft power – is not really clear and makes a lot of confusion. Civilian power is an actor which uses civilian means for persuasion, to pursue civilian ends, and whose foreign policy making process is subject to democratic control or public scrutiny. Ideal type civilian powers: Austria, Finland, Ireland, Sweden, Switzerland.