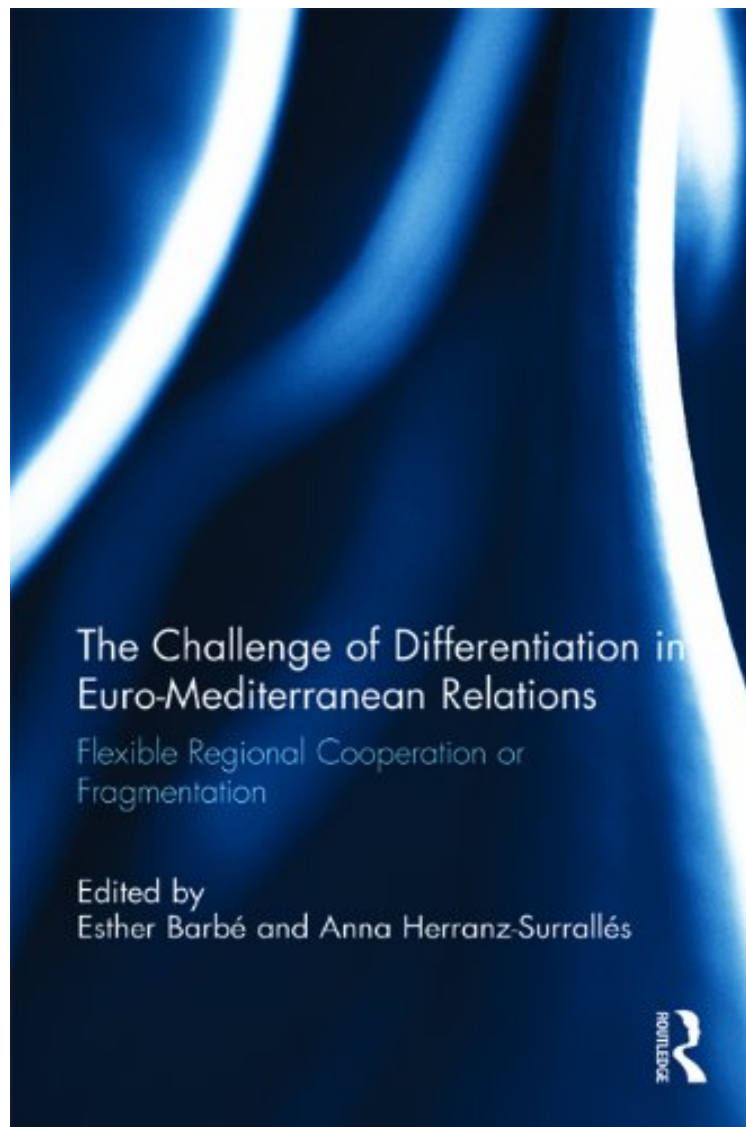


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## **The Challenge of Differentiation in Euro-Mediterranean Relations: Flexible Regional Cooperation or Fragmentation**

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The tension between the aim of creating sustainable multilateral region-building dynamics and the need to find more differentiated and flexible forms of cooperation has been ever-present in Euro-Mediterranean relations. The proliferation of different and partially overlapping initiatives in recent years – the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, the European Neighbourhood Policy and the Union for the Mediterranean – is a plain expression of this tension. The 2011 episodes of regime-change in the Arab world have once again placed the debate about differentiation in EU's relations with Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries at the top of the Union's foreign policy agenda. This book contributes to theoretical and practical debates on whether differentiation processes can aid or hinder policy convergence processes and region-building efforts more widely. The contributions to this collection assess the actual significance and consequences of differentiation in Euro-Mediterranean relations through sector-specific in-depth analyses, covering issue areas as varied as environmental policy, migration, foreign and defence policy, trade, energy, civil protection and democracy promotion. The particular angle and comprehensive analysis of this book will make it of great interest for both scholars and policy makers alike in a moment when Euro-Mediterranean are in need of a thorough rethink. This book was based on a special issue of Mediterranean Politics.

[The book] challenges the impact of differentiated dynamics of cooperation with Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries (SEMC) on policy convergence and region building in diverse policy fields. It is a very good reference for approaching the complex debate about Euro-Mediterranean relationships.' - Federica Zardo is a PhD candidate in Political Science and International Relations at the University of Turin. About the Author Esther Barbeate; is Professor of International Relations at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) and Coordinator of the Program "Security, Power and Multilateralism in a Global World" of the Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (IBEI). She has extensively published on European foreign policy, especially Euro-Mediterranean relations, and on Spanish foreign and European policy. Anna Herranz-Surrallate; is Juan de la Cierva researcher at the Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (IBEI). Her research and publications have dealt with EU enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, the external dimension of EU's energy policy, and the parliamentary dimension of European foreign policy.