Jean Monnet Circle Seminar: European Integration and Institutional Studies

Guidebook

Winter Term 2019-20

Friday, 2 pm – 5:15 pm

Building 20.30 Room 0.016

Centre for Cultural and General Studies
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)
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<td>Prof. Dr. Dirk Wentzel</td>
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<td>29.11.19</td>
<td><strong>The European Union. Institutional Design, Democratic Deficit and Options of Reform</strong></td>
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<td>- Competencies and legislative procedures of the EU</td>
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<td>Prof. Dr. Caroline Y. Robertson-von Trotha</td>
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<td>13.12.19</td>
<td>- The development of EU’s economic integration since 1950</td>
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Europe seen from Outside: Europe and Its Role in the World

European integration is a success model without precedent. The biggest internal market in the world and the strength of the European currency signify that the EU is an “economic giant” (Henry Kissinger) that continues to grow. The attractiveness of the European integration for non-EU-members still is enormous as the list of countries – in the Balkans and in former states of the Soviet Union – willing to join the EU shows. An obvious and astonishing discrepancy exists between the interior view of the Europeans, who become more and more aware of their strength, and the exterior view on Europe, which in manifold respects turns out to be more critical. European trade policy is perceived as unfair and protectionist by developing countries; European agricultural policy is an exclusive example of regulatory policy. At the same time, the European’s commitment is perceived as too little regarding peace making and peace keeping missions in global trouble spots. The odds of European foreign policy are an essential characteristic for the outside.

This Jean Monnet lecture aims at a clear outside view on Europe on the basis of academic insights. Economic dynamics and political perspectives need to be developed in equal measure to sustainably strengthen Europe’s importance.

Literature:


Contact: dirk.wentzel@hs-pforzheim.de
Dr. Ingo Bott
Lawyer “Plan A”, Düsseldorf;
Lecturer University of Applied Sciences Niederrhein;
Expert for Criminal Law for the Council of Europe

Law within the European Union; Human Rights

Our workshop will begin by dealing with the sources of European Union Law. We will talk about the main organs and institutions that create and apply European regulations. One of our focuses will be the fundamental principles as main pillars of European law. We will learn and discuss how European institutions define the normative groundwork upon which the Union is supposed to grow. Another main topic will be how and why Human Rights apply when talking about the European Union and its institutions.

The lecture is meant to be and will be interactive. Active participation and discussion is highly encouraged. We will follow a very practical approach dealing with real cases and decisions. Exemplary scopes are: freedom of speech; migration; labour mobility; Brexit; Foreign relations; criminal investigation and prosecution beyond national borders.

Literature and links:

- Meyer-Ladewig, Jens; Nettesheim, Martin; von Raumer, Stefan: Europäische Menschenrechtskonvention, 4. Auflage, 2017
- Oppermann, Thomas; Classen, Claus Dieter; Nettesheim, Martin, Europarecht, 7. Auflage, 2016

Contact: bott@kanzleiplana.de
Prof. Dr. Hans-Peter Schütt
Former University Professor – European History of Ideas
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology

Europe and Her Stories – Aspects of Current Narratives Concerning the History of Present Europe

In English Europe is a “she” anyway. Thus, the narrations I shall present are in no way restricted to the stories about that famous young virgin which once upon a time was transferred from the Levante coast to the isle of Creta crossing the Mediterranean Sea on a white bull’s back. The proper subject of the stories I want to talk about is rather the more recent history of the European continent Europe and, especially, of the European Union as only a part of that very continent.

As a matter of fact, the political and cultural discourse about European affairs, even in our time, is shaped by certain narrations. With most of them we are more or less familiar — more or less: therefore, a closer and critical view on these narrations may be helpful for orientation concerning this discourse.

Literature:


Contact: hans-peter.schuett-groth@kit.edu
Julian Plottka
Institut für Europäische Politik Berlin and University of Passau

The Future of the European Union after the European Elections

Since 2008, the EU has faced a number of crises. They created new policy challenges and disclosed the need for institutional reforms. The crisis in the Euro zone revived the debate on completing the monetary union; increasing numbers of refugees showed that decision-making procedures in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice are insufficient; the looming Brexit stimulates proposals to deepen integration through the means of differentiation; and anti-democratic reforms of the Hungarian and Polish governments call for new instruments to enforce European values. There is agreement that the required institutional reforms have to be targeted at delivering concrete policy outputs in the short-term to face Eurosceptics who question the legitimacy of the Union.

However, before the European elections in May 2019 the reform progress slowed down. Fearing that European voters could turn to Eurosceptic parties, few politicians publicly supported deeper integration or EU level reforms. In the new legislative term, it will be most likely even more complicated to find broad support for necessary reforms.

Against this backdrop, the course will take stock of the current challenges which the EU faces in selected policy areas and review the reform progress since the Commission published its five scenarios. Finally, the course will discuss which reforms or scenario might find support among member states and the EU institutions of the new institutional cycle.

Literature:


Contact: julian.plottka@iep-berlin.de
Prof. Dr. Monika Oberle  
Professor of Political Science and Civic Education  
University of Göttingen  

The European Union:  
Institutional Design, Democratic Deficit and Options of Reform

The European Union (EU)’s political decisions affect the life of citizens in its 28 member states more than ever. Not only the number of its members, but also the Union’s competencies have been growing steadily since its original foundation more than sixty years ago. Furthermore, the EU has been “deepened” by introducing the majority vote to decisions in a growing number of policy areas leading to a loss of national sovereignty, a development which – some argue – the democratization of the Union has not kept pace with. The Treaty of Lisbon, ratified in 2009 as an alternative to the failed Constitution, promised to bring both more efficiency and more democracy to the EU-27+, however, it still needs to prove its problem solving capacities. The seminar will give an introduction to the main institutions (esp. European Parliament, European Commission, European Council and Council of Ministers), competencies and legislative procedures of the European Union, provide an understanding of the much-discussed problem of the EU’s so-called “democratic deficit” and discuss options of institutional reform, taking a critical look at those brought about by the Treaty of Lisbon.

Literature:

- http://europa.eu (official site of the European Union)

Contact: monika.oberle@sowi.uni-goettingen.de
Identity and Diversity: Unity in Diversity as a European Vision

In the course of globalization and internationalization, people of different cultures are characteristic for modern European societies. Only meeting with the cultural “other” raises awareness for the own cultural identity, for cultural similarities and differences. Accepting other cultures presumes openness for cultural dialogue on the one hand. On the other hand it implies limits of tolerance towards values and norms of foreign cultures that can be in extreme contradiction with existing values and norms of the receiving country. Due to the multicultural composition of European cities, with migrants now living there in the third and even fourth generation, the very concept of “other” has to be questioned. Where European cultural dialogue is constrained it is necessary to question the legal framework of living together. The receiving country can make specific integration offers, such as language courses. Cultural dialogue is only possible if the host society is open regarding other cultures and if migrants are willing to accept the major underlying democratic conditions in the receiving country. Integration in following generations is dependent on many factors, particularly on inclusive practices, levels of education and attitudes of the first generation towards their new home.

Regarding the development of European societies this seminar focuses on:

- Theories of identity and diversity
- Concepts of integration in European societies
- Cultural pluralism and multiculturalism in Europe

The seminar aims to challenge the sociopolitical discourse regarding identity and diversity in Europe.

Literature:

- Barrett, Martyn (2013): Interculturalism and Multiculturalism: Similarities and Differences. Council of Europe Publishing

Contact: caroline.robertson@kit.edu
Economic Aspects of European Integration

When the European Integration started 1951 with the European Coal and Steel Community and 1957 with the European Economic Integration, the wounds and scars of World War II were still omnipresent. But based on the Schuman declaration and the Monnet plan, the founding members Italy, France, Belgium, Luxemburg, the Netherlands and West-Germany started an economic cooperation long before a political cooperation was feasible. In several steps, the members abolished all kind of trade obstacles and formed one economic area that is unprecedented in world history. The six founding members were followed by 22 other European countries and the list of further applications is long.

The core economic principles of the European Integration are the “four liberties”, the free movement of goods, of services, of capital, and of people. In addition to that, Europe has a strong anti-trust policy and many other fields of cross border economic cooperation. The introduction of the Euro in the year 2000 as a single currency that is adopted meanwhile by 19 different countries is another keystone of economic and monetary development, followed by a banking union in 2014. All these economic treaties contributed to an unprecedented growth and prosperity on the European continent and to the longest period of peace in European history.

The future of the European economic integration is not clear. It is challenged by populist parties like the Brexit Party in the UK, intending to give up the four liberties and to reintroduce border controls. The necessity to protect and strengthen the economic and monetary union is obvious.

Literature:


Contact: dirk.wentzel@hs-pforzheim.de
EURIIS – European Integration and Identity Studies

EURIIS „European Integration and Identity Studies“ is a qualification module within our General Studies programme. It is offered at ZAK since the winter term 2007/2008 and open to students of all faculties. The module provides insights into the social, political and economic developments of Europe in the context of globalisation and European integration.

The following courses are offered for this winter term 2019/20:

- Jean Monnet Circle Seminar: European Integration and Institutional Studies (Prof. Dr. Caroline Robertson-von Trotha et al.)
- Die Zukunft der europäischen Stadt (Dr. Consuelo Galvani)
- Intercultural Online Debates – Virtual Exchange (Aissam Benaissa)
- Russische Kulturgeschichte zwischen Ost und West (Dr. Annett Jubara)
Formal requirements regarding the Jean Monnet Circle Seminar

- Participation in all lectures of the Circle Seminar is obligatory.

- Credits can be received through a paper which deepens the topic of one lecture (in agreement with the respective lecturer).

- 2 ECTS credits can be acquired through active participation and preparation of the seminar.

- 3 ECTS credits can be acquired through a scientific paper (of 4 to 5 pages) elaborating on the assigned topic within 4 weeks after the respective lecture date.

- 4 ECTS credits can be acquired through a scientific paper (of 8 to 10 pages) elaborating on the assigned topic within 6 weeks after the respective lecture date.

- 5 ECTS credits can be acquired through a scientific paper (of 10 to 15 pages) elaborating on the assigned topic within 6 weeks after the respective lecture date.

- 6 ECTS credits can be acquired through a scientific paper (of 15 to 20 pages) elaborating on the assigned topic within 6 weeks after the respective lecture date.

- If you want to write a scientific paper the topics will be assigned to you in consideration of your preferences. Please send an email with your preferred order of all 7 topics within the Circle Seminar directly to your preferred lecturer.

- Please use the MLA Style Guide for citations or another consistent way of quotation. Your paper should meet the usual academic standards in its formal presentation, i.e. designate quotations as such (no plagiarism!), etc.

- It is your responsibility to submit your paper on time.

- Please submit your paper (including a signed declaration on the independent writing and citation of all used sources) in digital and printed version either to Ines Bott (ZAK) or directly to the respective lecturer.

- For formal questions please contact: Ines Bott, M.A. (ines.bott@kit.edu)