Jean Monnet Circle Seminar: European Integration and Institutional Studies

Guidebook

Winter Term 2022-23

Friday, 2 pm – 5:15 pm

Hybrid

KIT students meet at KIT:
Building 20.30, SR 0.016
EPICUR students join online

Centre for Cultural and General Studies
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)
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Law within the European Union; Human Rights

Our workshop will begin by dealing with the sources of European Union 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:

- Oppermann, Thomas; Classen, Claus Dieter; Nettesheim, Martin, Europarecht, 7. Auflage, 2016.

Contact: bott@kanzleiplana.de
‘Europe in diaspora: Europe meets the others – the others meet Europe’

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:**

- Robertson-von Trotha, Caroline Y. (ed.) (2011); Europe: Insights from the Outside (= Interdisciplinary Studies on Culture and Society, Volume 5).

**Contact:** [caroline.robertson@kit.edu](mailto:caroline.robertson@kit.edu)
Europe and the Stars – Images, Narratives and the Embodiment of a European Vision

The idea of Europe as a cultural entity is the result of manifold literary and visual traditions that suggest a civilizing movement from Orient to Occident, from the sunrise to the sunset, from the origin of things to the claim of perfection. An etiological myth about an abducted Asian Princess gave Europe its name, the exile of the Trojan warrior Aeneas that founded Rome gave Europe its political identity, and an Asian prophet called Jesus gave Europe its religion. Consider the European flag: A crown of twelve stars against a sunset-blue sky evokes a rich symbolism that connects Greek and Christian traditions – from Ariadne’s wedding crown (constellation Corona Borealis) to the star crown of the Immaculate.

In this seminar, we will focus on canonical – and often ambiguous – narratives and pieces of art that still shape our awareness of Europe in cultural and political terms. We will discuss how strong these visual and literary traditions are, which artifacts and symbols embody them, and to what extent they have changed their meaning since the birth of the European project.

Literature:


Contact: jesus.munozmorcillo@kit.edu
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:


Contact: monika.oberle@sowi.uni-goettingen.de
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
Julian Plottka

Researcher Associate at the Jean Monnet Chair for European Politics at the University of Passau and the University of Bonn.

The Conference on the Future of Europe: Limits and Potential of a Supranational Experiment in Deliberative Democracy

Between May 2021 and 2022 representatives of the EU institutions, national parliaments and governments as well as civil society and randomly selected citizens discussed reforms of the EU in the co-called Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE). They came up with 49 recommendations entailing more than 320 concrete reform proposals.

Since then, the EU institutions discuss about the best way to implement these reforms, as there is wide agreement that the EU has to respond to citizens’ demands expressed during the CoFoE. The European Parliament has triggered art. 48 Treaty on the European Union to reform the EU treaties – the de facto constitution of the EU. In her State of the Union Speech 2022, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen expressed support for the parliament’s push for treaty reform. The member states are more hesitant to open the “Pandora’s box” of treaty reform.

While a few governments are in principle open to treaty reform, 19 mostly Northern and Eastern European countries are concerned that it is not the time for reforms, when a war takes places in Europe. However, the EU’s decision to grant Ukraine and Moldova the perspective of becoming EU member states in the future is turning the debate. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Commission President von der Leyen, both underlined that treaty reform is a precondition for future enlargement.

During the seminar the participants will be briefly introduced to the Conference on the Future of Europe and the underlying conflicts between the EU institutions – most notably between the European Parliament and the member states in the Council of the EU. Following a brief update on the state of discussion on the question of treaty reform and putting other recommendations of the CoFoE into practice, the participants will discuss from their perspective about the necessity or desirability of treaty reform.

Literature:


Contact: julian.plottka@uni-passau.de
The Resilience of the Eurozone in Times of Crisis

This online seminar analyzes the governance of the EU's monetary union (EMU). It explains the basic pillars of EMU as laid down in the Maastricht Treaty and looks back at the experience of the Eurozone crisis years 2010-12 that almost led to a breakup of EMU.

It looks at a series of governance reforms to stabilize the Eurozone, to prevent future crises and to strengthen its capacity to deal with economic shocks, most importantly with asymmetric shocks hitting some parts of the currency area more than others. The seminar will discuss alternative models of how to govern the Eurozone. A rules based model will be compared to an “economic government” model with a higher level of centralization and more fiscal capacity building at the European level. Students will discuss advantages and drawbacks of different ways to organize the Eurozone’s governance. How resilient is the Eurozone after a series of reforms during the last decade? This question will guide us through the seminar. Did policy-maker draw the right lessons from the past crisis? Did reforms make the Eurozone more resilient?

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic provides us with a test case to assess the resilience of the Eurozone when facing major economic shocks. How did the EU and the Eurozone react to this challenge, which existing instruments were used and which new instruments created to face this situation of emergency? Will this crisis lead to a paradigmatic shift in the Eurozone’s governance? Will a more centralized fiscal union be a likely outcome? Based on past experiences, options on how to improve the Eurozone’s resilience shall be broadly discussed.

Literature:

Contact: schild@uni-trier.de
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 Janina Hilberer (ZAK) or directly to the respective lecturer.

- For formal questions please contact: Janina Hilberer (janina.hilberer9@kit.edu)