2nd CEU-Columbia Workshop on European Studies

European integration and the analysis of contemporary European politics and policy-making

Central European University, Budapest

3 November 2013, 14.30 – 18.40 hrs

Room 001, Nador u. 13.

This event follows a similar workshop organized by the Blinken Institute at Columbia in Paris in May this year. The aim is to bring together a small group of faculty and PhD students from CEU and Columbia for an open academic exchange on ongoing research in the field of European studies. The aim is to explore common academic interests and to debate current research from different perspectives. We hope that through this event we encourage further exchanges between researchers at our two institutions which may lead to the joint organization of future activities. This workshop combines historical perspectives on Europe and European integration with the discussion of academic work related to contemporary European politics and policy-making. The workshop is hosted by the CEU Center for European Union Research (CEUR).

The workshop is organized in three discussion rounds during which faculty and PhD students provide brief interventions focusing on their recent research and/or an issue of particular concern to the wider field of European studies. These interventions are intended to be short and concise (8-10 min). Afterwards the floor is open for discussion among the group. The idea is to comment on each other’s work and to provide direct reactions but also to advance our understanding of how each of us approaches the study of ‘Europe’ in their respective work.

For more information visit: http://ceur.ceu.hu
Coffee
14:00 – 14:30

Welcome
14:30 – 14:40

John Shattuck, Rector and President, Central European University
Uwe Puettter, CEUR Director

Round I – Solidarity, welfare and supranational actors in contemporary European integration
14:40 – 15:40

Turku Isiksel, Columbia
European disunion: The limits of "de facto solidarity"

Evelyne Huebscher, CEU
European welfare and social risk

Marie-Pierre Granger, CEU
The changing role of the European Court of Justice in European integration

Coffee break (20 minutes)
Round II  – Transnational organization, Europeaness and the history of integration

16:00 – 17:00

Chair: Nadia Al-Bagdadi, CEU
Head, Department of History

Victoria de Grazia, Columbia, Director, Blinken Institute
Standard of Living Europe: A variable in EEC/EU Project?

Carsten Wilke, CEU
The Human Rights Idea as the Basis of Transnational Organization: Nineteenth-Century Jewish Precedents

Thomas Fetzer, CEU
Economic Europeaness

Coffee break (20 minutes)

Round III  – The politics of European integration and the study of bureaucracy – four PhD projects

17:20 – 18:20

Chair: Uwe Puetter, CEU

Alexandra Cirone, Columbia
The Rise of the Europarty: Party Reform and Supranational Party System Development

Robert Csehi, CEU
Self-rule, shared rule and intergovernmental relations: understanding the federal dynamics of the EU integration process

Brett Meyer, Columbia
The Space Between: The Insider-Outsider Divide and Attitudes toward Trade Unions and Far-Right Parties across Labor Market Regimes

Eva Zemandl, CEU
The tango between politicization and expert independence in public organizations: implications for behavior, performance, and governance in the transition to democracy
Closing remarks

18:20 – 18:40

Victoria de Grazia, Columbia, Director, Blinken Institute
Nadia Al-Bagdadi, CEU, Head, Department of History
Uwe Puetter, CEU, Director, CEUR

Workshop dinner, Café Gerlóczy, 19:15
Paper abstracts

Turku Isiksel, Columbia

European disunion: The limits of "de facto solidarity"

From the beginning, the European integration project has been characterized by a mismatch between means and ends: its political aspirations have been carefully concealed under the guise of technocratic cooperation. This presentation will assess the successes and limitations of Monnet and Schuman's plans for a "de facto solidarity" among European states.

Evelyne Huebscher, CEU

European welfare and social risk

I intend to relate (changes) in European welfare and social risks with potential political implications these changes have, in particular how changing social risks influence may influence individual party preferences and party landscapes in established democracies. The short talk will briefly summarize key results of a working paper, which assesses the micro-foundations of open economy politics (which substantially altered welfare states and individual's social risks) and how political choices of individuals are affected by these changes. The second part of my contribution sketches potential ways to further explore how changing societal and social risks affect political preferences and party positions in Western democracies.

Marie-Pierre Granger, CEU

The changing role of the European Court of Justice in European integration

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) has generally been portrayed as an effective engine of integration in Europe. Most legal scholars and political scientists agree that the Court, in cooperation with supranational institutions (Commission, European Parliament) and sub-national actors (national courts, litigants), fashioned what is now the European Union according to its ideal of European integration: a supranational Europe, organized around a an autonomous federal constitutional structure, and in which
legal and judicial processes play a central role in creating an 'ever closer union between the peoples of Europe'. The Maastricht treaty however set the ground for alternatives modes and goals of European integration, as captured under the analytical label of new intergovernmentalism. The presentation explores the main claims made by new intergovernmentalism, and what they mean for the role of Court in European integration. It thus opens a number of research avenues, and identifies specific developments in the case law and practices of the ECJ which offers preliminary clues as to the Court's (difficult) adaptation to a changing Europe.

Victoria de Grazia, Columbia, Director, Blinken Institute

Standard of Living Europe: A variable in EEC/EU Project?

Arguing as an historian, I highlight the importance of the idea and reality of converging living standards to the European project from the 1960s down to the 1990s, to speculate on the impact of growing cross-regional and intra-class divergences on the project, in the wake of global structural change, financial crisis, and austerity politics.

Carsten Wilke, CEU

The Human Rights Idea as the Basis of Transnational Organization: Nineteenth-Century Jewish Precedents

Thomas Fetzer, CEU

Economic Europeanness

The existence of a 'European' economy is often taken for granted, and there is a great deal of academic and public debate about an alleged 'European' socio-economic model. Inspired by a constructivist approach, this project seeks to problematize such assumptions. Based on contributions from an interdisciplinary group of scholars, it examines a range of processes through which a 'European' economic space has been created and re-created. Attention is paid to the role of discourses and material culture, as well as to that of government and business practices.
Alexandra Cirone, Columbia

The Rise of the Europarty: Party Reform and Supranational Party System Development

This presentation looks at the evolution and passage in the European Parliament of (endogenous) party reform laws that empower a theoretically new and transnational form of political actor, the Europarty.

Robert Csehi, CEU

Self-rule, shared rule and intergovernmental relations: understanding the federal dynamics of the EU integration process

How do intergovernmental practices make up for the lack of formal decision-making procedures to deal with cross-jurisdictional policy problems in the EU? By revisiting and revising the traditional theory and practice of federalism, the presentation aims to develop a framework that could account for the changing nature of intergovernmental relations in the EU.

Brett Meyer, Columbia

The Space Between: The Insider-Outsider Divide and Attitudes toward Trade Unions and Far-Right Parties across Labor Market Regimes

I argue that labor market outsiders (those in less than full-time or temporary employment) will be more likely to have negative attitudes toward trade unions and to favor far-right political parties in countries with high labor market rigidity.
Eva Zemandl, CEU

The tango between politicization and expert independence in public organizations: implications for behavior, performance, and governance in the transition to democracy

As Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries continue to grapple with constitutional, institutional, and administrative reforms, they also tend to be characterized by high politicization and centralization practices vis-a-vis their ministerial administrations and relatively more 'independent' agencies or public bodies. This doctoral dissertation investigates the overarching question of how the politicization of public organizations – namely, through delegation of political appointees – affect organizational behavior, performance, and eventual governance outcomes in a post-Communist context. Using an interpretive approach, the project concentrates on different government institutions in Hungary, including the State Secretariat for Social Inclusion (i.e., ministerial bureaucracy), the Hungarian Central Bank, and the Hungarian Accreditation Committee.