



International Symposium:

The Re-/Constructions of Europe/EU:

*On Social, Political
and Cultural Dimensions
of Reforming and Enlarging
the European Union*

Lancaster University

(Lancaster, UK)

May 12th and 13th, 2005

Throughout the post-war period, the self-definition of Europe required only minimal efforts, as the ‘other’ of Western Europe was very clearly defined and mostly comprised of the countries of the Eastern, Communist Block. However, since the end of the 1980s, the ‘border paradigm’ in Europe has been shifting, thus triggering a set of highly-complex processes of re-definition and transformation which can be observed at the social, political, and cultural levels.

In this context, the EU-constitutional debate gained momentum. As far, this debate has not only aimed at reforming the legal and institutional status quo of the EU, but it also went to the very foundations of the political bond and included a search for new meanings and identities of Europe. Who are we? What are Europe’s/EU’s borders? Who belongs (and is invited to join ‘us’) and who does not? What are the goals, aspirations and projections of the ‘finality’ of the European integration? How shall the relationship between states, nationalities and citizens be regulated within the EU? Who decides on what issues, and on what grounds can decisions be considered legitimate? These are just a few issues in Europe’s/EU’s recent ‘*debat de fond*’ which are constantly re-/negotiated at various levels and in various public spaces. Europe is in a state of flux, both socially and mentally, and the cultural, legal, political and social dimensions of transformation processes are closely linked and interrelated. The debates within (and on) the recent “Convention on the Future of Europe” are a prominent example of such processes of transition as well as of the complex interconnections between them.

The forthcoming symposium ‘*The Re-/Construction(s) of Europe/EU*’, organised by the Institute for Advanced Studies in Management and Social Sciences (Lancaster University, UK) and the Research Centre ‘Discourse, Politics, Identity’ (University of Vienna, Austria), will discuss the European process from various perspectives with the aim of stimulating a dialogue between traditional disciplines. During the symposium we will try to discuss, *inter alia*, the following issues fundamental for the current research on Europe/EU :

- What role(s) do practices of debating and meaning-making play for the re-/construction of Europe?
- How can the links between discursive or cultural phenomena on the one hand, and social processes on the other, be conceptualised in the context of EU?
- What is the significance of the recent ‘constitutional’ re-definition of the EU, and how can its peculiar political and legal form be understood?
- What are conflicts and tensions underlying or triggered by European integration, and what political forces, imaginations and desires are involved?

The main aim of the symposium is to provide a platform for the exchange of ideas and methods for the study of ‘Europe’ and EU-Institutions within a variety of disciplines (sociology, anthropology, history, political science, legal studies and discourse analysis) as well as to bridge current research agendas on Europe, European Integration and European identities pursued within the German-speaking, Anglo-Saxon and Central-/Eastern-European academic traditions.

Invited Speakers/Discussants (in alphabetical order)

Brigitta Busch (Vienna/Klagenfurt)
Gerard Delanty (Liverpool)
Thomas Diez (Birmingham)
Petr Drulák (Prague)
Jan Ifversen (Åarhus)
Bob Jessop (Lancaster)
Paul R. Jones (Liverpool)
András Kovács (Budapest)
Michał Krzyżanowski (Lancaster/Vienna)
Ulrike Liebert (Bremen)
Christopher Longman (Exeter)
Florian Oberhuber (Vienna)
Nieves Pérez-Solórzano Borragán (Norwich)
Johannes Pollak (Vienna)
Maurice Roche (Sheffield)
Rolf-Hagen Schulz-Forberg (Florence)
Alexander Somek (Iowa City)
Bo Stråth (Florence)
Heidemarie Uhl (Vienna)
Gilbert Weiss (Salzburg)
Antje Wiener (Belfast)
Ruth Wodak (Lancaster)

Programme

The Symposium starts with an Opening Panel on Day One (Thursday, May 12th, 2005, 18:00), in which a group of scholars representing various disciplines will discuss theoretical and methodological issues of integrative inter-/trans-/multi-disciplinary research on Europe and the EU. Members of the Panel will discuss important challenges the EU is facing, research agendas and areas of research, innovative theoretical and conceptual developments, questions of methodology, research organisation and design. Statements of the panel-members will be followed by a discussion including invitees and participants.

In three paper-sessions of Day Two (Friday, May 13th, 2005, all day), Speakers will present research material as well as reflect on theoretical and methodological problems of integrative inter-/trans-/multi-/post-disciplinary approaches to studying Europe/EU. Each of the papers in the sessions will be followed by a statement of a discussant and a discussion. General/closing discussion (incl. both invitees and participants) will take place at the end of the last session.

Participation/Registration

All interested scholars and students are invited to attend the Symposium. Please register your participation **by e-mail** with Michal Krzyzanowski, Lancaster University (m.krzyzanowski@lancaster.ac.uk) by **April 20th, 2005 at the latest**.

Fees

a) The following fees apply to ‘external participants’ (i.e. to all participants excl. staff and students of Lancaster University):

Day 1 (12/05/2005)	
Fee (incl. symposium materials and Symposium-Dinner)	GBP 50
Day 2 (13/05/2005)	
Fee (incl. symposium materials, coffee breaks, lunch and dinner)	GBP 50
Day 1 + Day 2 (incl. all of the above)	GBP 100

b) Admission for ‘internal participants’ (i.e. staff and students of Lancaster University) is free. The following fees apply to ‘internal participants’ willing to take part in several events of the Symposium:

Day 1 (12/05/2005)	
Symposium Dinner	GBP 25
Day 2 (13/05/2005)	
Fee (incl. conference materials, coffee breaks, lunch)	GBP 15
Dinner	GBP 20
Day 1 + Day 2 (incl. all of the above)	GBP 60

Payment of Fees

- **UK Participants (internal/external)** can pay by cheque in sterling made payable to 'Lancaster University'. Please send the check to Michal Krzyżanowski, Lancaster University, at the address provided in the 'Symposium Enquiries Contact' (below)
- **Non-UK Participants** (participants from outside the UK) should pay their fees by banking transfer to the following Bank Account (please quote a reference '**LIA – IAS/DPI SYMPOSIUM**'):

Bank Name: **National Westminster Bank plc
Lancaster University, Alexandra Square
Bailrigg, Lancaster, LA1 4XZ, UK**

Account Name: **Lancaster University**

Branch Sort Code: **01-04-92**

Account Number: **09295364**

SWIFT Code: **NWBKGB2133P**

IBAN No: **GB10NWBK01049209295364**

BIC No: **NWBK GB 2L**

NOTE: All payments must be received by April 25th, 2005!

Accommodation

Participants are requested to book their accommodation directly with a Hotel in the area or with Lancaster University's Accommodation Services

Useful Links:

Lancaster University Accommodation Services:
www.lancs.ac.uk/users/cro/visitors.htm

Several suggestions for hotels in Lancaster:
www.lancashiretourism.com

- a) Click on '*Where to stay*' in the right Column
- b) Select '*Lancaster, Morecambe & The Lune Valley*' as 'the Area'.

Location/Travel

Lancaster University lies approximately 3.5 miles south of the City of Lancaster, in the North-West of England. The campus is easily accessible by road and rail and is within 70 miles of Manchester's International Airport and 60 miles of Liverpool's John Lennon Airport. Further information concerning traveling to/from Lancaster University can be obtained from www.lancs.ac.uk//travel/travel.htm

Symposium Enquiries Contact:

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