

Michael Bauer and I invite paper abstracts for a panel related to 'Theory Development and the European Commission', at the next UACES conference in Lisbon. If you are interested in joining, please contact mark.rhinard@ekohist.su.se (by 18 January please).

Panel Name: Theory Development and the European Commission

Convenors: Michael Bauer, Mark Rhinard

The European Commission has long been an empirical touchstone for theorising in the field of EU studies, and recent theoretical work is no exception. Whether we speak of revived neo-functionalism or the 'new intergovernmentalism', or 'representative bureaucracy' or organisational change, the Commission, its inter-institutional position, its organizational features, and its political aspirations feature prominently. This panel brings together scholars engaged in theoretically-informed as well as empirically-disciplined work on the Commission to ask two questions. First, what space exists for cross-theory dialogue in the interest of fully understanding the Commission and drawing broader theoretical patterns? Second, for those pursuing specific theoretical agendas related to the Commission, how can theorising be improved for more robust results? Our 'widening' and 'deepening' questions about theory development bring much needed attention to how we use theory in studying the Commission, how we use the Commission when evaluating theory, and what we can say to broader scholarly communities about what the Commission is and what it means.

Kind regards,

Mark Rhinard

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