Facing EU Policy Failures in the Middle East: The New Arab Awakening

Brussels, 30 June 2011

Francesco Cavatorta, Dublin City University
and Michelle Pace, University of Birmingham

The most recent UACES Arena seminar discussed four main assumptions that EU foreign-policy makers hold when it comes to politics in the Arab world and, more specifically, when it comes to dealing with the challenges to authoritarian rule. Despite the Arab Spring, these assumptions remain widely shared and prevent us from engaging more positively with developments in the region.

Dr. Michelle Pace discussed two of these assumptions. First, she problematised the notion that neo-liberal economic development will contribute to consolidate democratic change. It is precisely rigged neo-liberal reforms over the last two decades that ordinary Arab citizens rose up against. It follows from this that it is unlikely that more neo-liberal structural reforms will be accepted and acceptable, particularly if dictated by morally and financially bankrupt entities such as the European Union, which, up until the Arab Spring, consistently lauded authoritarian regimes in the region for their economic reformism. Second, Dr Pace took issue with the assumption that the Arab world has somehow missed its rendezvous with modernity. The Arab Spring has demonstrated that quite the opposite is true, both in forms and substance. The use of social media and technology coupled with wide popular participation indicate a level of knowledge that many outsiders suspected did not exist in the Arab world. It should be recognized that dignity and freedom, whatever their institutional and legislative framework, are values that ordinary citizens hold dear.

continued on page 2
Dr Francesco Cavatorta discussed the two remaining assumptions. First it is clear that Islamism will play an important role in the region just as it was an important element in the past. There is no point in marginalizing it or refusing to engage with it. The assumption that Islamist parties are not compatible with democracy should be abandoned for two reasons: a) Islamist parties have changed over time and they rhetorically support democracy and human rights; b) even if doubts persisted about their real intentions, they cannot be marginalized a priori and their actions have to be understood in the wider political context and the relations with other political movements. The second assumption that needs to be dismantled is about the political and cultural subjugation of women. While the rights of women are certainly not on a par with Europe, the Arab Spring has again demonstrated that women can be prominent political and social actors in their own right.

The seminar generated an excellent exchange of ideas from the audience, promoting both knowledge and awareness of the challenges that the European Union faces in the region. The main points emerging from the discussion were:

- The specific demands that Islamist parties in Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt have and what kind of response the secular parties can give. This is particularly interesting in the Tunisian and Egyptian cases where elections are scheduled before the end of the year. The two speakers pointed out that Islamist parties are rational political actors and their policy positions do not depend necessarily on fixed ideological tenets, but are very much concrete responses to the surrounding environment.

- The Arab Spring did not affect all countries and therefore it is important to still examine the way in which authoritarianism has been able to survive in places such as Algeria or the Gulf States.

- The impact of the Arab Spring on the Arab-Israeli conflict is also going to be significant in so far as strategic shifts on the part of very important regional actors such as Egypt and might potentially Syria occur.

The annual conference is the largest gathering that UACES convenes each year and is our annual opportunity to strategically take stock of the study of Europe. Despite the economic climate of recent years, the number of attendees at our annual conference has never been greater. The study of Europe still has a strong attraction and it is particularly heartening to see that graduate student participation in the conference remains significant. The future generation of academic leaders of European Studies appears secure. Whether participating for the first time at the annual conference, or a seasoned campaigner, it offers an excellent standpoint to assess the current state-of-the-art of scholarship in European Studies through the writing, presentation and discussion of conference papers.

The on-going political and economic difficulties of the EU and its member states has become a dominant feature of media and public commentary in Europe in the course of this year. The ability that we have as scholars to ‘get behind the headlines’ and probe more deeply and more systematically into Europe’s integration/disintegration gives us a distinctive perspective on contemporary events. UACES is committed to sharing the knowledge and insight of its members with the widest possible audience. During this last year we have further developed our UACES Arena set of events in Brussels to give a platform for members to address public policy-makers. In the autumn we will have an open call for proposals for a new series of events entitled Re-EUNions. The Re-EUNions are designed to bring together academics and policy-makers to offer insight on the origin of policy initiatives and events in the EU’s history. These events are intended to afford an opportunity for academics and practitioners alike to reflect critically upon their understanding of events and decisions and their consequences for the contemporary EU.

Next year will also represent an historic milestone for the Association with our Journal of Common Market Studies reaching its 50th anniversary. Since its foundation the JCMS has been a world-leading forum for presentation and debate of scholarship on integration. The successive editors of the JCMS have established and maintained the journal as a superb flagship for the Association and are to be thanked collectively for all of their very hard work in making the publication internationally renowned and respected.

Looking beyond the 50th anniversary of the JCMS, the Association is already planning to explore the legacy of the European Community/Union. The Association looks forward to welcoming you to the events that mark these important anniversaries and I would encourage you to continue to participate in the opportunities that UACES provides to exchange ideas on Europe.
Comparative Perspectives on the Substance of EU Democracy Promotion

Ghent, 24 June 2011

Valentina Kostadinova, Ghent University

The workshop was co-organized by two project groups, EU-iPodS, a cross-university project led by scholars from Ghent University and the University of Zurich, and the ESRC project ‘Paradoxes and Contradictions in EU Democracy Promotion Efforts in the Middle East’ hosted by the POLSIS Department at the University of Birmingham. The workshop was sponsored by BISA, the Centre for EU Studies, Ghent University; POLSIS, University of Birmingham and UACES.

The aim of the workshop was to investigate how the substance of EU democracy promotion compares to the democratic substance that other democracy promoters, such as non-EU states or international organizations, advance in third countries. Furthermore, the workshop addressed the question of how far the substance of EU democracy promotion is shaped by the EU’s interaction with other international actors and processes of diffusion. The contributions were divided into four panels. While the first panel set out conceptual and theoretical perspectives, the other three engaged with more empirical analysis, comparing the substance of the democracy promotion policies of key international actors in various countries and regions of the world, such as the post-Soviet space and Africa.

Each contribution was subjected to a thorough commentary by a discussant followed by a question and answer session. Two common themes that pointed to conceptual gaps in the literature emerged out of these discussions. Firstly, the issue of the relationship between norm-takers and norm-makers in democracy promotion endeavours, and secondly, the tension and complementarity between democracy promotion and development. The discussions highlighted the importance of being sensitive to the perceptions of the recipients of these policies and thus, of public opinion, especially in cases that are difficult to gauge. The latter demonstrated a discrepancy between the coherent frameworks in theoretical literature and their relevance for empirical work.

The workshop organizers aim to publish some of the contributions in a special issue in a leading academic journal.

Further information:
www.eumena.bham.ac.uk & www.eu-ipods.ugent.be

Propects and Opportunities for Conflict Settlement in the post-Soviet Space

London, 4 July 2011

Óscar Pardo Sierra, University of Birmingham

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) hosted a UACES co-funded conference on 4 July 2011 entitled ‘20 years on from the end of the Soviet Union: prospects and opportunities for conflict resolution in the post-Soviet space’. The conference was organised by the Department of Political Science and International Studies and the Centre for Russian and East European Studies at the University of Birmingham, with the financial support of the School of Government and Society. It was also generously supported by the FCO, the John Smith Memorial Trust (JSMT), the Centre for East European Language-Based Area Studies and the School of Slavonic and East European Studies at University College London. The event was also part of the activities of the UACES EU-Russia Collaborative Research Network (www.eu-russia.eu).

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The event was opened by the Rt. Hon. Lord David Howell, Minister of State, FCO, and included a welcome letter by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the Rt. Hon. William Hague. The conference brought together academics, experts and practitioners and involved 45 JSMT visiting fellows, who are emerging leaders in the countries of the former USSR. Eighteen speakers from the UK and Europe presented their analysis of the current state of post-Soviet conflicts in the USSR successor states and examined the opportunities and prospects for conflict resolution, including in the framework of EU-Russia engagement. A conference report has already been produced and there are plans for a publication in the form of a journal special issue.

Further information: www.postsovietconflicts.blogspot.com
The Governance of Sustainability
Angers, 21-22 July 2011

Jenny Fairbrass, University of Bradford &
Thomas Hörber, ESSCA

The third meeting in a series of workshops was at ESSCA – School of Management in Angers, France. Following the UACES Annual Conference at ESSCA in September 2009, it was good to return to Angers for another joint UACES-ESSCA event.

Day 1 of the workshop included papers that covered a range of sustainability related issues:

- Climate change refugees (Dr Violaine Hacker, Sorbonne, Paris);
- Consumer power and sustainability (Peter Kirby-Harris, Queen Mary College, London);
- The Europeanisation of Sustainable Development in Post-Communist Central and Eastern Europe (Dr Simona Davidescu, University of Southampton);
- Ecological retail supply chains (Brigitte de Faultrier, ESSCA);
- Renewable energy versus nuclear power debate (Israel Solorio, Autonomous University of Barcelona);
- Ocean power (Dr Brendan Flynn, National University of Ireland, Galway);
- Carbon storage fostered by the EU (Kristina Kurze, University of Passau, Germany);
- Renewable energy and diffusion of technology within and among firms (Dr Liz Hooper, University of Bradford).

Particular thanks go to the panel chairs: Pamela Barnes (ESSCA), Dr Albrecht Sonntag (ESSCA), Dr Jenny Fairbrass (Bradford Business School) and Dr Thomas Hörber (ESSCA) for their contributions.

Day 2 of the workshop was dedicated to pushing forward the group’s publication agenda. Two major outputs are planned for 2012 based on the work undertaken over the past two-three years: a Special Issue and an Edited Book.

This CRN has now been active for over three years under the leadership of Dr Simon Lightfoot (University of Leeds), Dr Jenny Fairbrass and Dr Thomas Hörber. During that period, the CRN has grown in terms of its membership and international outlook. Among the group of 16 participants at this meeting, were 7 different nationalities which made for a lively multicultural atmosphere. The enthusiasm for sustainability research was very tangible, not least because of the different national/cultural/European perspectives each member contributed. For this event, we want to give particular thanks to ESSCA for its support. As ever, we are very grateful to UACES for its continuing financial support and encouragement.

Euro scepticism
Guildford, 7 July 2011

Simon Usherwood, University of Surrey

The first meeting of the recently-formed CRN on Euroscepticism brought together some thirty colleagues from across Europe at the University of Surrey, Guildford. The workshop was an opportunity to make connections between researchers who have previously not had such a forum and to discuss and outline a programme of work for the CRN’s activities over the coming three years.

Nick Startin (UWE) and Simon Usherwood (Surrey) – the CRN coordinators – opened proceedings with a presentation on the persistence and embeddedness of euroscepticism in the EU today, arguing that it is no longer possible to treat it as a marginal phenomenon, but rather as an integral part of the political process and one with the potential for ever greater impact. This was built on by Sofia Vasilopoulou’s presentation on the state of the art, which neatly highlighted some of the key challenges for future research. Supported further by contributions on the view from the EU’s institutions, methodological questions and on possible funding sources, the group was able to have a very productive discussion on the areas where the CRN could best focus its efforts. These focused around two main areas: firstly, the more general questions of theorising and mainstreaming euroscepticism, from its currently rather marginal position, and; secondly, more specifically-targeted work the impact of the eurozone crisis, the relationship to nationalism, immigration and culture. The debate also considered how best to build engagement with European, national and sub-national institutions, given the tendency to ignore strongly sceptic voices to date.

Following the workshop, a number of working groups have been set up to develop more specific plans during the summer, to which all contributions are welcome.

Further information: www.uaces.org/euroscepticism
European Foreign Policies in Transition
Brussels, 23-24 May 2011

Amelia Hadfield, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Building on successful 2009 workshops, and the 2010 Bruges panels on the ‘Europeanisation and EU Foreign Policy’, the European Foreign Policies in Transition CRN conducted an intensive two-day Brussels-based Workshop, hosted by the Institute for European Studies, titled New Frontiers in the Study of Member States Foreign Policies. Now in its third year, the network is led by Richard Whitman (University of Kent) and Amelia Hadfield (Institute of European Studies, Vrije Universiteit Brussel).

The four central themes that contributors were asked to address included ‘Conceptualising EU Member States Foreign Policy: Geography vs. Thematics’, ‘National Interest, Europeanization and Pragmatism’, ‘Defining the four corners of the EU: Central, Western, Southern and Northern Europe’, and ‘EU Foreign Policy Dimensions’. Using short concept pieces (defined as abbreviated pieces of work to promote brain-storming rather than fully-fledged conference papers), the workshop encouraged participants to consider the balance between geography and geopolitics; specifically how best to theorize and operationalize a workable method by which the foreign policies of 27 Member States can be identified, grouped and explained in terms of national and regional value sets, as well as tensions between Europeanization and foreign policy pragmatism.

The objective for the European Foreign Policies in Transition CRN (due to complete in 2012) is the publication of a multi-author book edited by Richard and Amelia and Ian Manners (University of Roskilde) that effectively and originally examines the national and European foreign policy orientations of the Member States on a variety of different levels. The CRN has thus produced a viable network of scholars tackling both the conceptual and empirical aspects of EU foreign policy as a national, regional and Union phenomenon.

The remaining two 2011 activities of the CRN include two dedicated panels at the 41st Annual UACES Conference in Cambridge, and a one-day workshop at the University of Kent in December, to finalize chapter content.

Applications are now invited for the next round of CRN funding. The deadline for applications is 9 February 2012.

Further information: www.uaces.org/networks
New Frontiers in European Studies

Guildford, 30 June -1 July 2011

Cristian Nitoiu, Loughborough University

This year, the UACES Student Forum organised its annual conference at the Department of Politics at the University of Surrey. More than sixty PhD students from all over Europe came together in the town of Guildford to present their research and reflect on the future directions of European Studies. The EU’s engagement in North Africa, or its response to the present financial crisis were only a few of the pressing global issues discussed at the conference. The fifteen panels at the conference fostered an open and lively debate on myriad topics in EU studies research by postgraduate students throughout Europe. It provided participants with the opportunity to receive feedback from their peers and discuss future collaboration possibilities.

The search for ‘New Frontiers in EU Studies’ was complemented by the expertise of four established academics. Professor Ben Rosamond from the University of Copenhagen opened the conference with an insightful keynote speech. He provided an overview of the development of International Political Approaches in European Studies, highlighting the need for scholars to adopt more critical approaches that take into account the role of ideas or discourse.

The conference was concluded with a roundtable, where three established scholars exchanged views on the role of interdisciplinarity in European Studies and the possible avenues for research in the future. Dr Paolo Dardanelli (University of Kent) presented an outline of the way researchers have employed comparative politics approaches in European Studies throughout the years, while Professor Michael Smith (Loughborough University) highlighted the need to foster dialogue between different disciplines and the current hurdles that hinder such an effective scholarly cooperation; and Professor Kenneth Dyson (Cardiff University) focussed on the pervasiveness of the present financial crisis and the fact that interdisciplinarity must be based on strong disciplines.

Dr Sarah Léonard (University of Salford) presented the JCER / Journal of Contemporary European Research Prize for the best paper presented at last year’s conference in Bath to Ariadna Ripoll Servent. Sarah also gave valuable advice and encouragement regarding the importance of getting experience of the publishing process as early as possible. In connection to this, Andreas Müllerleile (Loughboorugh University) presented the Student Forum’s initiative to give participants the opportunity to publish several opinion pieces on (www.ideasoneurope.eu) - one of the major platforms for ‘intelligent EU debate’ and receive guidance and feedback.

Finally the UACES Student Forum would like to thank all those who helped the conference to run smoothly, especially the Department of Politics at the University of Surrey who did a great job in hosting the event and all the staff and students who volunteered to assist and offer advice. We hope to see everyone back for the 13th annual conference in 2012!

Roundtable participants: Paolo Dardanelli, Michael Smith, Kenneth Dyson and Maxine David

View papers and abstracts online at:
www.uaces.org/newfrontiers
Leonhard den Hertog discusses Frontex and the rise in immigration after the Arab Spring:

Of course when you hear 40,000 people arrived in Europe, that sounds like a large number. And it is a large number for an island of 5000, like Lampedusa. But you have to put it into perspective, first of all into an Italian perspective. If you consider that of those 40,000 people, only around 20% want asylum or want to access an asylum procedure, this is not dramatically above what Italy had expected in past years. I think it’s a bit overstated to speak about an ‘invasion’ or a ‘human tsunami’ like some Italian officials have done. That’s really blowing things out of proportion.

Sara Benedi talks to Elise Rietveld about her PhD research and its aims:

E: Could you introduce your PhD work?

S: I’m looking mainly at how effective non-discrimination directives are, and trying to build a framework to analyse the effectiveness. I’m going to use this framework to compare Spanish non-discrimination law, with UK non-discrimination law.

E: Do you think your work will be useful to the ‘real world’? Will it include recommendations, for example?

S: Absolutely, that’s why I’m analysing the effectiveness of the directives because they have been in place for ten years. They were adopted in 2000 and I have the impression that they are not being applied so often and that they are not so effective.

Shelly Gottfried talks to Miguel Otero-Iglesias about the EU’s future:

It’s an extremely challenging period and we haven’t seen anything similar before. I think post-Lisbon together with the internal conflict, together with the Arab Spring, together with the emergence of the BRIC states, provides the EU with a huge arena of both risks and opportunities to exercise itself as a normative global power. I tend to be very optimistic, I think the EU is going to face problems in the future, problems, even that it might not be prepared for, but I am pretty convinced that the EU is here to stay.

Mark Field introduces his research on expert groups:

Expert groups are very under-researched, hardly anybody’s looking at them. Because they advise policy makers, they’re very much interested in and influential in EU policy. So they’re very important aspects of EU governance. When that question about who governs Europe comes up, the fact that we’re not really looking at the role of the expert groups is, I think, a lacuna; something we’ve been neglecting.

Listen to more interviews recorded at New Frontiers...

Ben Rosamond (Copenhagen University) and Miguel Otero-Iglesias (Oxford Brookes University) discuss the current and future importance of non-mainstream IPE approaches in understanding the European Union and its role in the new world order after the Global Financial Crisis.

What is the most important lesson that the European External Action Service should take from the ‘Arab Spring’? In an interview by Cristian Nitoiu from Loughborough University, Professor Michael Smith evaluates the development of the External Actions and the goal of creating a coherent strategic diplomacy within the European Union’s foreign policy.

All the interviews are available to listen to online at: www.uaces.org/footnote
September...

10th Conference of the European Sociological Association
Geneva, 7-10 September 2011
info: www.uaces.org/251

Graduate Conference on Society, Security and the State
Oxford, 8-9 September 2011
info: www.uaces.org/384

Italian Political Science Society Annual Conference
Palermo, 8-10 September 2011
info: www.uaces.org/389

The 2011 IAITL Legal Conference
Nicosia, 18-23 September 2011
info: www.uaces.org/379

EADI/DSA General Conference 2011
York, 19-22 September 2011
info: www.uaces.org/270

The European Union, Canada, and the Arctic
Ottawa, 22-23 September 2011
info: www.uaces.org/326

Which Institutional Architecture for the EU?
Four Institutional Models Compared
Innsbruck, 22-23 September 2011
info: www.uaces.org/359

Improving Member States Asylum Systems and Defining Good Practices
Maastricht, 22-23 September 2011
info: www.uaces.org/394

The European Union: Finding its Role in a Changing World
London, 30 September 2011
info: www.uaces.org/345

October...

The Legal Dimension of Global Governance: What Role for the EU?
Copenhagen, 13-14 October 2011
info: www.uaces.org/309

Comparing Modes of Governance in Canada and the European Union
Victoria, 14-15 October 2011
info: www.uaces.org/373

Exchanging Ideas on Europe 2012
Passau, Germany
3-5 September 2012
European Integration Process in the New Regional and Global Settings  
Warsaw, 19-20 October 2011  
info: www.uaces.org/390

Challenges Facing the 21st Century Diplomat  
Bruges, 25-26 October 2011  
info: www.uaces.org/395

European Regulatory Governance  
Copenhagen, Denmark 27-28 October 2011  
info: www.uaces.org/332

Central European Political Science Association Annual Conference 2011  
Vienna, 27-29 October 2011  
info: www.uaces.org/374

Culture in/and Crisis: 5th UNeECC Annual Conference  
Antwerp, 27-28 October 2011  
info: www.uaces.org/385

Regional Organisations as Global Players  
Berlin, 28-29 October 2011  
info: www.uaces.org/370

Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorist Financing Efforts in the EU  
Maastricht, 3-4 November 2011  
info: www.uaces.org/392

UACES European Studies Research Students’ Conference 2011  
London, 7 November 2011  
info: www.uaces.org/teaching2011

EUROPOL & EUROJUST  
The Hague, 7-8 November 2011  
info: www.uaces.org/397

Portugal and International Organizations  
Lisbon, 17-18 November 2011  
info: www.uaces.org/343

Global Trends in Law and Religion in the 21st Century  
Lucerne, 18-19 November 2011  
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November...  

Debating Toleration: Attitudes, Practices and Institutions  
Pavia, 3-5 November 2011  
info: www.uaces.org/338

December...  

The Politics of Double-Standard? Revisiting the EU’s Engagement with Authoritarian Regimes  
Brussels, 1-2 December 2011  
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More books are listed at: www.uaces.org/bookshop
UACES is pleased to announce that Prof Dr Wolfgang Wessels has been awarded the ‘UACES Lifetime Achievement Award’ for his contribution to contemporary European Studies.

The award will be presented to Wolfgang at the Annual Conference Dinner in Cambridge on 6 September 2011.

Biography: www.uaces.org/6903

We’ve asked some former colleagues to write a few words about Wolfgang...

“Wolfgang Wessels has been at the heart of European Studies for nearly 40 years as both an academic and as a policy researcher. In the latter guise he was head of IEP, constantly organising meetings, most notably for me those on European Political Cooperation, the first efforts to examine the beginnings of coordinated foreign policy on a systematic basis. He was also a longtime head of the Trans-European Policy Studies Association building up a close network of institutes etc throughout the Member States and honing his skills for winning funding from the European Commission. This skill he has carried over to his academic role, initially at Bruges and, since 1994 at the University of Cologne. Not only is it unlikely that there is a European project full of academic integrity that doesn’t include Wolfgang and Cologne, but they are superbly well run. It may be that Wolfgang has managed to delegate much of that administration - his Chair is a hive of activity, a veritable conveyer belt of projects and PhDs - but his has been the inspiration. And that has carried over into his own research - on fusion theory, of course, and on the European Council. There really could be no better recipient of the UACES Lifetime Achievement Award.”

Prof Helen Wallace FBA, London School of Economics & Political Science

“It has been my pleasure and privilege to have known Wolfgang Wessels since the 1970s and to have had many opportunities to collaborate with him in both teaching and research. He has made countless and repeated contributions to the study of European integration – always with great dedication and deep commitment. He has set a fine example of just how much an academic career can achieve and his numerous students and colleagues have benefited enormously from his dedication to and continuing enthusiasm for European studies.”

Dr Christoph Meyer, King’s College London

“I have never met anybody who knows more about European integration than Wolfgang Wessels – its history, technical details of what is going on in quite different policy areas and inter-institutional battles. He has an almost intuitive feel for how things work, what is new and what is just the same tune played in a different key. He has written many path-breaking theoretical works on the European Council, administrative fusion, and European foreign policy, but seemed strangely immune from many of his colleagues’ obsession with a particular theoretical idea, policy agenda or indeed others perception of themselves. He never sought to create his own ‘school’, his own academic cult, but his influence is still visible in his writings over decades and the thousands of students he taught about the joys and frustrations of European integration, most of whom were not deterred and continue to shape European politics from the inside or outside.”

Dr Geoffrey Edwards, University of Cambridge

“Wolfgang Wessels is a truly European German, who has dedicated the greater part of his academic and ‘political’ life to the development of the European integration process. An excellent researcher, he invented the ‘fusion’ theory, meaning the progressive, irrefrainable merging of different national interests and practices into common policies and institutions to the advantage of all. For us, he represents a determined leader, a clear point of reference and an essential initiator of new research activities and teaching experiences. Finally and above all, he is an amiable person and one of my greatest friends in the ongoing common effort to contribute to an ‘ever closer Union’ – the ‘fusion’ of the intellectual, political and practical interests of all European citizens. I believe that he is highly deserving of the award for ‘Lifetime Achievement in Contemporary European Studies’, and I am personally extremely happy for him.”

Prof Gianni Bonvicini, Istituto Affari Internazionali
UKCASA AGM

David Galbreath (for UACES) and Susan Milner (for SCHES) attended the annual general meeting of the UK Council of Area Studies Associations at the British Academy on 14 June 2011.

The meeting was opened by Dame Professor Helen Wallace who presented an overview of British Academy programmes and plans on international engagement, assisted by the BA’s Natasha Bevan and Jane Lyddon (International Programmes and International Engagement respectively). The BA is keen to support language-based area studies, and area studies associations were urged to encourage their members to submit high-quality applications for funding for projects with a language dimension. The meeting discussed the need for European studies, like North American studies, to consider collaborations with partners in other regions of the world which are likely to be of interest to research funders. In particular, the new international partnership and mobility scheme will promote this kind of cross-regional collaboration.

The next meeting, in the autumn, will be addressed by Professor Peter Gatrell, to help UKCASA and its member associations coordinate their response to HEFCE on the area studies sub-panel’s criteria for research assessment.

New European Daily Newspaper

The ‘European Daily’ has gone to print for the first time.

“We share the same political institutions, often carry the same money in our pockets and, increasingly, rely on English as a common language,” says co-founder Christofer Berg, “but, strangely, daily news is still largely covered from national perspectives”.

Further information: www.europeandaily.com

Transnational Environmental Law (TEL)

TEL is a new peer-reviewed journal dedicated to the development of new ideas on law’s contribution to environmental governance in a global context.

The Editors-in-chief are Thijs Etty and Veerle Heyvaert.

Further information: www.uaces.org/6901

Appointments

Chris BICKERTON has been appointed Associate Professor of International Relations at Sciences Po, Paris.

Laura CHAPPELL has been appointed Lecturer in European Politics at the University of Surrey.

Maxine DAVID has been appointed Lecturer in European Politics at the University of Surrey.

Theofanis EXADACTYLOS has been appointed Lecturer in European Politics at the University of Surrey.

Isabelle HERTNER will be taking up a lectureship in German and European Politics and Society at the University of Birmingham. She will also be the deputy director of the Institute for German Studies.

Alison JOHNSTON has been appointed Assistant Professor in Political Science and Public Policy at Oregon State University.

Christian KAUNERT, University of Salford, was promoted to Senior Lecturer in EU Politics & International Relations.

Tamir LIBEL is joining the School of Politics and International Relations at University College Dublin as a Marie Curie Post Doctoral Fellow.

Luca MAVELLI has been appointed Lecturer in International Politics at the University of Surrey.

Ronan McCREA will be commencing a lectureship in the Faculty of Laws, University College London.

Lee MILES has been appointed Professor of International Relations at Loughborough University.

Michelle PACE has been promoted to Reader in the Department of Political Science and International Studies at the University of Birmingham.

Emmanuel SIGALAS has been appointed Assistant Professor of European Politics in the Department of Political Science at the Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna.

Alex WARLEIGH-LACK joins the University of Surrey to head the EU politics research group. He will also be the Executive Director of the Centre for Research on Nationalism, Ethnicity and Multiculturalism.

Richard WHITMAN has been appointed Professor of Politics and International Relations at the University of Kent.

Sofia VASILIOPOULOU has been appointed Lecturer in Politics in the Department of Politics, University of York.

Rebecca ZAHN has commenced a lectureship in the School of Law, University of Stirling.

Kamil ZWOLSKI has been appointed Lecturer in Politics at Manchester Metropolitan University.
Global Constitutionalism - Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law (GlobCon)

GlobCon seeks to promote a deeper understanding on the foundations, limitations and principles of political order and their dynamics over time on a global scale.

The Editors are Mattias Kumm, Anthony Lang, Miguel Maduro, Antje Wiener and James Tully.

Further information: www.uaces.org/6902

Leeds 2013 and Cork 2014

UACES is very pleased to announce the venues for our upcoming annual conferences.

In 2013, we will be hosted by the Department of Politics and International Studies at the University of Leeds. Too early to say much yet, but we have pencilled in a conference dinner at Leeds City Museum.

In 2014, we will be hosted by the Department of Government at University College Cork.

JCMS editors, One year in

Michelle Cini and Amy Verdun

It has now been a year since we took over as editors of ‘JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies’. We have much enjoyed our time in this role over the past twelve months. As editors we would like to take this opportunity to highlight a few achievements and to share with readers, prospective authors and reviewers, our plans for JCMS for our second year.

We seek to have a reasonable time from acceptance to publication. Today, if a paper is accepted for publication it is likely to come out in print within about a year. We aim to bring our turn-around time down even further in our second year. Furthermore, we have made first steps towards a process whereby all papers that are accepted will go up on ‘Early View’ (on the JCMS website), complete with DOI number, well before they are published in print. That will reduce the time from acceptance to publication even further. By 2012 we aim to be able to publish articles online within around three months from acceptance.

Another goal we have been working towards is the time from submission to first decision. Over the past twelve months our data show that the average time from submission to first decision has fallen to 61 days. We are grateful and indebted to our reviewers who have so generously given us their time and dedication to the journal, and who have helped us to deal with articles promptly.

As we are looking forward to our next twelve months as JCMS Editors, we are pleased to announce that 2012 will be the fiftieth anniversary of ‘JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies’. We will be celebrating with various activities. There will be a commemorative special issue, edited by Walter Mattli and Alec Stone Sweet. We will have a best article prize (one per decade of the JCMS), we will be holding an editors’ panel, and are hosting an event with Jacques Delors in Paris in April 2012. We hope our readers, authors and reviewers will join us in our celebrations.

JCMS Special Issue Competition

Applications are invited for the JCMS Special Issue Open Competition 2013. The Special Issue will appear as the January 2013 issue of the Journal (vol. 51, no. 1) under the general supervision of the JCMS Editors, Michelle Cini and Amy Verdun.

Proposals should be for 8-10 articles of up to 8,500 words in length, inclusive of an editorial overview. Proposals should be concise, and certainly no longer than 750 words.

The successful guest Editor(s) will be expected to take on the full editorial task up to the handover to copy editors, which includes managing the double-blind peer review process and overseeing any consequent revisions. The successful teams of applicants will be expected to organise a workshop in late 2011 or early 2012 to discuss drafts of the papers to which the JCMS Editors should be invited. There is a budget of up to £2,000 provided by the Journal for the workshop. The final papers should be submitted to the JCMS Editors by 1 July 2012. Proposers and authors should be aware that this is a tight timetable to manage. We would expect applications from teams who have already made considerable progress.

The decision of the JCMS Editors is final. There is no appeal. Communication on the substance of any proposal with members of the panel will result in exclusion from the competition. However, general questions about the process may be sent to the JCMS Editorial Office (jcms@bristol.ac.uk).
Symposium Celebrates SEI Professor’s Achievements

30 current and former Sussex faculty and doctoral researchers came together for a one-day symposium to celebrate the academic career and professional achievements of Prof Jim Rollo, to mark his retirement after 12 years as Co-Director of the Sussex European Institute (SEI). Prof Rollo has been an SEI Co-Director and Professor of European Economic Integration at Sussex since 1999, having previously been Chief Economist at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. In 2009, he became an Academician of the Academy of Social Sciences.

The symposium was opened by Alasdair Smith, former Sussex Vice-Chancellor and currently a Research Professor in the Department of Economics, who played a key role in the formation and development of SEI in the 1990s. In his opening lecture, Prof Smith, who has been both a professional collaborator and personal friend of Prof Rollo’s since their undergraduate days at Glasgow University in the 1960, reflected on his colleague’s lifetime contribution to contemporary European studies at Sussex and beyond.

This was followed by a keynote address from Prof Rollo himself titled ‘The European Union: will its economic decline be relative or absolute?’ which provoked a lively discussion among participants. The rest of the symposium contained papers and contributions exploring the themes that have been a major focus of Prof Rollo’s work over the years, particularly the impact of globalisation on European trade and migration policy. Contributors included colleagues who have worked closely with him during his time at Sussex including: Prof Jörg Monar (who was SEI Co-Director with Prof Rollo in 2001-5), Dr Peter Holmes from the Department of Economics, and SEI Visiting Professorial Fellow Alan Mayhew.

The symposium was rounded off by a closing address from Prof Dame Helen Wallace, founder and Director of SEI between 1992-2001, and currently a Sussex Visiting Professorial Fellow. Prof Wallace reflected on her experience of working with Prof Rollo at SEI, and previously at the Foreign Office and the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London. She also introduced a wide ranging debate on the current state of the EU and future prospects for European integration.

Summing up the day, Prof Aleks Szczerbiak, who has worked with Prof Rollo as SEI Co-Director for the last five years, said: ‘Given his distinguished career as both an academic and practitioner, Jim embodies the SEI’s mission of producing research that is both at the scholarly cutting edge and policy relevant. During the last 12 years, Jim has played a huge role in helping to develop SEI as one of the foremost centres of postgraduate training and inter-disciplinary research on contemporary Europe, which was recognised in our outstanding result in the most recent Research Assessment Exercise. He has been a huge intellectual presence at Sussex and I am one of very many current and former Sussex faculty and students who owe Jim a huge debt of gratitude for our academic and professional development.’
Noon or Doom?

I ventured to suggest, at the launch of David Marquand’s excellent book, ‘The End of the West: the Once and Future Europe’, that maybe the European Union had passed its high point, that it had been a brilliant success at achieving the peace and stability in Europe for which it was created and that if, at some point in this half-century it faded from the scene, well, that was the fate of many political institutions. They could not be expected to last forever. Several of my friends are still searching the floor for their jawbones – or for the nearest stick with which to beat me.

Part of David Marquand’s thesis is that the EU has been a project created by elites; that it was assumed that its economic success would sustain its popularity and that now, without true Europe-wide democratic institutions, its future looks bleak.

I suspect he is right but, equally, cannot see where the will to create the European demos is going to come from. Not from EU member governments who, without exception, are much less committed to the Europe of Monnet than any of their predecessors since 1957. In any case, with one or two exceptions, the commitment was always more rhetorical than real. Nor does it seem likely to come from popular pressure given the levels of disenchantment with, and indifference to, the European project in all member states.

The European Parliament? The European Parliament does enshrine the democratic principle and mobilises it in effective legislative action, but it can only go so far in accruing extended powers. Its impact on electorates will inevitably remain limited so long as the European Union cannot raise taxes, make war, send you to prison, educate you or determine how you will be treated if you are sick. And which of those powers are Member States about to hand over? The closest they have so far come is in the field of criminal justice but its scope is still very constrained.

The one hope of avoiding gradual decline, it seems to me, is that the countries of the Eurozone will take the political steps which will ineluctably lead to a political union. Maybe the recent summit, where Angela Merkel committed herself to the survival of the euro, will mark a turning point. I profoundly hope so. But we are still confronted by David Marquand’s dilemma. The euro remains a project designed by the elite and, with few exceptions, introduced, without popular vote. I believe in a transfer union, but that requires a dramatic shift which no Government or electorare is yet willing to make.

Sir Stephen Wall
Diversity in Europe
Edited by Gideon Calder and Emanuela Ceva

From bans on religious symbols in public spaces, to the provision of abortion by doctors, recent cases across Europe have highlighted acute dilemmas about how best to respond to the claims of individuals or groups feeling that their values or beliefs are not treated fairly by the law.

Diversity in Europe uses the resources of political theory alongside comparative analysis of contemporary practices in different countries (Germany, Italy, Turkey, Spain and the UK) to explore the challenges diversity poses for European democracies. Crucial throughout is whether the democratic commitment to equality entails uniformity in the law, or is compatible with saying ‘yes’ to some requests from citizens that they be treated differently, to accommodate their ethical, cultural and religious particularity. Such differential treatment may take several forms, e.g. group or individual rights, either to legal exemptions or to conscientious objection. Exploring these from various angles, the book gives a sense of the tools democracies need to address the challenges of diversity more generally.

Making an important contribution to our understanding of the political implications of ethical, cultural and religious diversity, this book will be of interest to students and scholars of political and social philosophy, European studies, political science, social policy, applied ethics, law, and socio-legal studies.

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