The Politics of Fracking in Europe

Brussels, 4 December 2012

Francis McGowan, University of Sussex

Over 80 participants drawn from industry associations, NGOs, academia and the European institutions attended this talk focused on the political implications of the development of shale gas within the EU. The topic was particularly timely given that the European Parliament had recently voted in favour of such development, subject to a robust regulatory framework.

The debate surrounding shale gas development has a number of interrelated facets which reflect its potential impact on energy security, economic competitiveness, climate change, local environment, health and safety conditions and public acceptability. The last of these is to a large extent mediated by perceptions of the other effects and by the efforts of protagonists both for and against shale gas to depict the experience and prospect of development according to their respective preferences.

Indeed, there is in effect a framing contest underway between those who accentuate the security and economic benefits and play down the health, safety and environment impact and those who stress the risks associated with the latter while questioning whether there would be economic and security advantages to development (the impact on climate is arguably the most contested with supporters arguing shale gas would displace more carbon intensive fuels such as coal while opponents dispute this, argue that methane emissions would exacerbate global warming and worry that development would undermine the development of zero carbon energy options).

continued on page 3
Chair’s Column
Helen Drake, Loughborough University

In 2013, UACES will make some changes to the way that it communicates its activities to its members and beyond. First, the new website is already live at the familiar www.uaces.org URL. We hope that the clear graphics and intuitive design – courtesy of Richard Lewis - will please visitors to the site, and that they will find it even easier to locate information about UACES’ many activities. We hope that it also helps us all rediscover the many ways in which UACES acts as a hub for expertise, ideas and events in our field of European Studies, and supports the discipline in the UK and elsewhere. Second, the Committee has decided to move from four to three newsletters a year, starting from the next issue in June. The intention is to maintain a substantial newsletter in high-quality hard-copy, on a schedule that coincides more closely with the academic calendar. Members are reminded that the UACES office welcomes suggested copy for future issues: please get in touch.

One of the many ways in which UACES supports and encourages scholars and practitioners in the field of European studies is by recognising significant achievements with rewards and thanks. The annual Lifetime Achievement Award, in particular, is the opportunity for the Association to show its gratitude to those individuals whose long-term service to the academic profession has positively influenced the lives and careers of many. The 2013 Award, we hope, will be presented at the Leeds Annual Conference, and we invite members to nominate their candidate (by email to admin@uaces.org) by 28 March 2013. Nominations should please specify the reasons why the nominee is considered eligible, and provide factual details about the nominee. Similarly, the Committee still welcomes nominations (until 1 March 2013) for the Reporting Europe prize (www.reportingeurope.eu). At a time when the European Union is rarely out of the headlines, this award seeks to identify those journalists (professional, citizen or otherwise) providing high quality, informed and critical perspectives on the EU. Finally, nominations for the 2013 Best Book and Best PhD Thesis are now closed, and the winners will be announced at the 2013 Leeds Annual Conference dinner, on 3 September 2013. Plus… the call for the 2014 book and thesis awards is already open.

Finally, UACES relies on its elected Committee to keep the Association supplied with energy, expertise and fresh ideas. Members are asked to vote in the election for two new members to replace Simona Guerra and Albrecht Sonntag when they finish their three-year term in September 2013. The voting deadline is 15 April 2013. Paul James Cardwell, already serving on the Committee, stood unopposed for the post of Treasurer, and, also in September this year, will take over this position from David Galbreath. Nominations for the 2014 Committee vacancies are open.

‘Quo Vadis Social Europe?’ The Internal Market and Socio-economic Issues in Times of Crisis

Brussels, 6-7 December 2012

Georg Menz, Goldsmith’s College, University of London

This workshop - co-organised by Amandine Crespy of the Institut d’Etudes Européennes at the Université Libre de Bruxelles and Georg Menz of Goldsmith’s College, University of London – brought together a range of academic experts on European Union social policy. The goal was to explore why the Delorsian vision of European social policy seems to have been abandoned, what current patterns there are in social policy development and what likely repercussions will emerge from the current economic crisis and the ongoing weakness of the single currency.

The neoliberal thrust of the Barroso Commission was a recurring theme in the debate, which contrasted quite sharply with the balanced political stance of earlier Commissions, especially prior to Maastricht. The two days saw intense, yet civilised debate regarding the future contours of European social policy.

The audience consisted of interested members of the public, undergraduate and postgraduate students and members of Brussels-based think tanks, private sector organisations and EU institutions.

It is hoped that the workshop will spawn a special issue of a learned journal or an edited volume which will contain the presentations given in Brussels.

Small Event grants: proposals invited

The Small Event funding stream is for organisers of one-off events, typically conferences or workshops.

Proposals are welcome on any aspect of contemporary European Studies, particularly interdisciplinary proposals which encourage the participation of younger academics.

Successful applications will receive up to 1,000 GBP for their event.

Next deadline: Friday 17 May 2013

www.uaces.org/small
The salience of shale gas is due in large part to its remarkable impact on North American energy markets and the possibility of replicating this impact in Europe. However whereas the framing contest has been fought after the event in the US (though opponents are campaigning to limit the further expansion of shale gas development in some states) in Europe, the contest is being pursued before development takes place.

My talk touched on the multifaceted politics of shale gas but concentrated on the aspect where my research has been to some extent finalised – the regulatory politics of shale gas development and the contrasting responses in the US and Europe. Highlighting the multilevel regulatory environment, ranging from broader systems of economic governance, through risk regulation cultures to the specifics of health safety and environmental legislation, I sought to explain the factors which have facilitated shale gas development in the US and contrast those with conditions in the EU. In short I argued that the regulatory conditions were in various ways less conducive to shale gas development in two main respects: a less liberal system of economic governance and a more risk averse system of risk regulation. These would not necessarily prevent the development of shale gas but they would present a relatively more difficult regime than that which enabled the rapid expansion of the industry in parts of the US.

I then turned to an aspect of my research which, thanks to a recently awarded British Academy grant, is only just getting under way: the contested politics of shale gas development. As noted, concerns about the risks of shale gas have gained much greater prominence in Europe in advance of any development. This has led to the mobilisation of opposition in a number of member states. While some countries, notably Poland and the UK, have more or less committed to the development of shale gas, elsewhere opposition has prompted governments to move more slowly (Netherlands, Germany) and in some cases (France, Bulgaria, Czech Republic) to suspend development.

Taking these elements together I concluded by considering what was likely to be the response to shale gas at the EU level. From the standpoint of end 2012 the following state of play prevailed:

- The EP has been the venue where the issue is most contested (and where both sides of the argument have concentrated their lobbying) For much of the period it appeared that opponents of shale gas were in the majority but the recent votes (which concerned own initiative reports rather than legislation) seemed to back its development. The key issue however is on what terms – ie under what regulatory conditions – would pro-shale legislation be approved. It is worth bearing in mind that many supporters of shale gas development argue that the existing regulatory framework is largely sufficient for overseeing exploration and production.

- While the Commission appeared to be relatively reticent on shale gas initially (give or take some conflicting statements from Commissioners), the last year has seen a number of studies sponsored by the Commission identify the security, climate and HSE implications of development, each of which has taken a differing line. For its part the Commission is currently engaged in an interservice debate over whether specific legislation might be needed and what form it would take.

- Least visible in the debate so far has been the Council. This may reflect the absence of any concrete proposals from the Commission but it may also reflect the diverging domestic politics which national governments face. Those governments which are broadly in favour of shale are sceptical about the need for EU legislation that might constrain their development. By contrast governments in countries where opposition to shale gas is significant have not been too keen to upload their domestic circumstances to the European level.

In the coming months, the debate on the prospects for shale gas in Europe will primarily take place at the national level. How these debates unfold will doubtless influence the stance the Commission adopts towards the end of 2013.


The UACES Arena is organised by UACES and Edelman | The Centre in cooperation with the University of Kent, Brussels
‘Doing Law beyond the State’: Exploring Research Methodologies in EU and International Law

Sheffield, 18-19 January 2013
Tamara Hervey & Richard Collins, University of Sheffield

Sixty eight delegates, from the UK and other countries, such as the Netherlands, Poland and Slovenia, gathered in a snowy Sheffield to continue deliberations on research methodologies for law beyond the state, including EU law. Taking a research agenda begun in 2007 into its second phase, this scoping workshop’s focus was identifying underexplored disciplinary interfaces.

Some of the questions for further exploration generated by the papers and discussion include a call to greater attention to ‘space’, ‘place’, ‘technicalities’ and ‘tactics’ in the study of EU law. For this, EU legal scholars will need to carry on a dialogue with those from other disciplines. Explorations of the ways in which EU law interfaces with what is known in England as ‘conflict of laws’, but elsewhere as ‘private international law’, require greater attention to theorising the EU’s legal order. And to what extent is EU law truly comparative law – might we have not one EU legal system, but more than 27?

While scholars interested in the ‘public’ side of law have explicitly or implicitly reached for constitutionalism as a methodological frame within which to tackle such questions, this may be inadequate to the task in ‘private’ contexts.

The generation of ever more legal texts, as a result of transnational legal systems, raises questions of information management and how this relates to research methods. In turn, this poses challenges for legal scholarship, which is traditionally based on the idea of a single scholar reading and understanding all the relevant texts. The workshop included 24 PhD students. Bringing together an emergent community of those interested in considering questions of methodology in the context of international/EU legal scholarship represents an opportunity for further theoretical innovation. What does it mean to ‘do’ law beyond the state? What are the ontological or epistemological bases of our various enquiries? Through a cross-generational dialogue between older, more established scholars and those earlier in their careers, we will be exploring, as the project goes forward, these and other opportunities opened up by the workshop.
Mind the Gap

This article was first published by European Voice in their ‘EU Studies Guide 2013’ and has been reproduced here with their permission. Ian Mundell looks at attempts by academics to match the needs of students and businesses.

European companies are worried about the skills that graduates have acquired by the time they emerge from university. They want to see potential employees who can communicate, both on paper and in person, who can work in teams and solve problems. These concerns have been picked up by policymakers and passed on to universities, who are now under pressure to make sure that their programmes teach these ‘employability’ skills as well as particular disciplines.

Departments teaching European studies are not exempt from these demands, and two academics — Jocelyn Mawdsley from Newcastle, and Heidi Maurer from Maastricht — have been comparing notes about how their programmes measure up to the skills agenda. Both conclude that the challenge is not to change what they do but to emphasise what is already there. “As much as anything else, it’s trying to make the graduates understand what skills they have and how they can present them effectively to employers,” says Mawdsley.

Newcastle University runs a four-year bachelor’s degree in government and EU studies, with one year spent abroad. “Although some students are happy to do specific career development modules, others are really resistant to this sort of thing because they see it as decreasing the rigour of a degree education,” Mawdsley says.

The solution is to show them that knowledge and skills are not mutually exclusive. Modules on European studies turn out to be a good place to accomplish that. “Students can see the real-life relevance more easily than in something more abstract and theoretical,” says Mawdsley.

For example, first-year students do small-scale simulations of EU negotiations, while in the second year they prepare a group briefing paper for the EU presidency on an issue of current importance. This is presented by the group and later handed in as written work.

“They learn professional writing and presentation skills, but it also gets through a lot of material on information literacy,” says Mawdsley. Rather than relying on textbooks, as they would with a traditional essay, students tend to use more primary documentation from the EU institutions, think-tanks and other prime sources. Then, in their third year, the students do a full European Council simulation. “It builds up. Each year they are expected to do more, and more of the communications skills come through,” says Mawdsley.

Maastricht University works with problem-based learning, which involves collaborative, student-centred construction of knowledge in small groups, typically of 12-15 people, supported by academic staff. This approach predates the rise of employability as a priority. “Sometimes we don’t refer to skills or employability, but the things that we do fit very well in this new thinking,” says Maurer, who teaches politics in Maastricht University’s three-year bachelor’s programme on European studies. “The whole idea, at least in the first year, is that we help students to become independent learners, focusing on different skills, training different competences,” she says. For example, an early assignment using this approach sees students given contradictory comments from politicians involved in negotiating the Maastricht treaty. “I give them the quotes and they have to figure out how we still manage to get the treaty.”

It is up to the students, working together, to decide what questions they need to ask and the resources required to provide answers. “Then they go home and study, and afterwards come back and compare their results.”

Later in the degree course, the tasks become more demanding, for example to write an academic paper about a policy process from scratch. “They have to go through the research process themselves, using trial and error,” Maurer says. “They always panic a bit in the first weeks because suddenly no one is telling them what to do, but it is one of the most valuable experiences that they have.”

It is important that time is set aside for students to reflect on the skills they have acquired. “You can’t cover as much content if you also take into account the skills dimension, but it’s a valuable thing to do because, in the end, the quality is higher,” says Maurer.

UACES Members are entitled to a 40% discount if they subscribe to European Voice. This and other discounts can be found at: www.uaces.org/discounts

2013 European Voice EU Studies Fair
8-9 February 2013, Brussels
At this event UACES presented a seminar titled ‘What is European Studies’? An audio recording of the seminar can be found at: www.uaces.org/wices
Recent Network Activities

CSDP Strategy

CSDP Strategy: A Reality or Wishful Thinking?
Guildford, 1 February 2013

The workshop was hosted by the School of Politics at the University of Surrey and attracted 27 participants from all over Europe. The three panels considered respectively the state of the strategic debate (Galbreath, Dijkstra and Schmidt), whether there were synergies between the EU’s various strategies (Longo, Merket, Barrinha/Carrapiço and Mawdsley) and the member states and their impact (Sweeney, Chelotti, Chappell/Petrov and Muniz/Faleg). The papers were from a variety of theoretical and methodological perspectives and led to good discussions. Finally, Richard Whitman, Sven Biscop and Geoffrey Edwards contributed to a lively round table discussion.

Further information: www.uaces.org/csdp

Euroscepticism

Members of the network have produced a Special Issue of the Journal of Common Market Studies on ‘Confronting Euroscepticism’, Volume 51, Issue 1.

Further information: www.uaces.org/euroscepticism

Upcoming Network Activities

EU-China Relations

Strategic Partnership? EU-China Relations under a New Leadership
Beijing, 4-5 March 2013

Research papers will be presented on the themes of:
• The Role of (New) Leadership in EU-China Relations
• Strategic Resources and Trade Relations
• Urbanization and Global Cities
• Diplomacy from Below? EU-China People-to-People Exchanges

The Workshop will be hosted by the School of International Studies at Renmin University of China, with the support of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Beijing.

Further information: www.uaces.org/china

EU-Russia

Russia and the EU: The Future of Europe and Eurasia
Moscow, 15-16 April 2013

The conference will examine key issues within the EU-Russia policy framework, in particular Russian policy with regard to relations with the EU and emerging integration processes in Eurasia. The conference will be hosted by the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Europe (IERAS).

Further information: www.uaces.org/747

Probing the Limits of Integration: Romani and Traveller Minorities in Europe

Theoretical Approaches to Roma Empowerment
Budapest, 1 June 2013

This workshop invites young social scientists to discuss normative questions of Roma empowerment. The interest in Roma as a policy issue accelerated dramatically after Romania and Bulgaria joined the EU. During the run-up to 2004/2007 enlargement, the European Commission put the spotlight on the unsatisfactory practices of EU candidate countries regarding their minority communities and pressed for stringent non-discrimination policies regarding Romani communities specifically.

Further information: www.romanis.eu

New Networks

Finally, look out for our new networks:

European Research Area: Constructing a European Single Market of Knowledge

Network coordinators:
• Dr Meng-Hsuan Chou
• Dr Julie Smith
• Dr Diana Beech

Further information: www.uaces.org/era

Centrifugal Europe: State, Sovereignty and the future of European integration

Network coordinators:
• Dr Ada-Charlotte Regelmann
• Dr Tanja Mayrgündter
• Dr Eve Hepburn
• Prof Pawel Karolewski

Further information: www.uaces.org/era
Excellence of Cardiff Centre for European Law and Governance rewarded with recognition as a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence

Many of our members have probably spent the first half of February trying to complete their funding application to the Jean Monnet Programme, perhaps despairing after discovering that the deadline was 12 noon, not midnight as they first thought. Included in that programme is funding for Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence, defined as multi-disciplinary institutes that pool resources and expertise on European integration studies across one or more Universities.

In 2012, one of our Group members, the Centre for European Law and Governance (CELAG) at Cardiff University was recognised in this way. CELAG has developed into an interdisciplinary research centre that brings together the extensive expertise on EU studies present in six schools, namely the Law School, the Business School, the School of Social Sciences, the School of European Languages, Translation and Politics, the School of Planning and Geography, and the School of Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies.

The Centre’s research covers many areas of European policy: from competition policy, free movement rules, and financial and economic regulation, to environmental policy, structural funds, social policy, the CAP, fisheries policies, food safety, nano-technology regulation, patent law etc. While studying different policy areas, much of the research is focused on issues of governance, at the interplay between European law, regulation, policy analysis and constitutionalism.

European multi-level governance is at the heart of the Centre’s expertise, including:

- The vertical dimension of multi-level governance, namely the interaction between the European, national, regional and local levels of governance and multi-level constitutionalism.
- The horizontal governance dimension and issues of better regulation and accountability, such as public-private relationships, the place of science in European policy-making, participatory governance, and implementation of EU law.
- European socio-economic governance, from European macro-economic governance and financial regulation to employment and social policy and industrial relations.
- European risk regulation, including environmental policy, food safety, occupational health and safety, and nano-technology regulation.
- New Member States, the EU’s external dimension and neighbourhood policy.
- Broader reflection on theory and methodology in the field of research at the interplay between law, governance, regulation and public policy.

Upcoming Jean Monnet events include:

- 6 March 2013: Modelling Change in the Institutional Architecture of European Integration: The endogenous growth of networked governance, a seminar by Nina Boeger
- 20 March 2013: Enforcing European Competition Policy: From national procedural autonomy to ‘soft’ codification, a seminar by Sara Drake
- 17 April 2013: Europe: The Social Challenge. Defining the Union’s social objective is a necessity rather than a luxury, a lecture by Frank Vandenbroucke
- 25 April 2013: Lobbying the European Union, a seminar by David Coen
- 14 June 2013: A workshop on Self-Constitution of Europe: Symbols, Politics and Law

Further information: www.cardiff.ac.uk/celag

Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence (2012-2015)

Also awarded the status of being a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence in 2012 were:

- Czech Republic: Mendel University in Brno
- France: Université Toulouse 1 Capitole; Université de Nice-Sophia Antipolis
- Germany: University of Osnabrück
- Greece: University of Piraeus
- Hungary: University of Pécs
- Poland: Poznan University of Economics
- Spain: Universidad de Lleida; Universidade de Vigo
- United Kingdom: University of Greenwich
- USA: University of Florida

The astute amongst you will have spotted that four of these institutions have previously been recognised in this way, and have perhaps realised that there is an opportunity for your own institution to re-apply.

Further information: www.uaces.org/7504
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Europeanising Devolution: Using Europe in identity and Capacity Building
Cardiff, 24 May 2013
www.uaces.org/796

June

New Approaches to Understanding Contemporary Global Energy Relations
Tartu, 5-8 June 2013
www.uaces.org/717

EU Emergency Policies
Catania, 6-7 June 2013
www.uaces.org/764

2nd Annual Conference of the Czech Association for European Studies
Prague, 10-11 June 2013
www.uaces.org/804

Self-Constitution of Europe: Symbols, Politics and Law
Cardiff, 14 June 2013
www.uaces.org/797

The Law and Politics of Multi-Level Governance
New Brunswick, 14-15 June 2013
www.uaces.org/809

11th Annual International Conference on Politics & International Affairs
Athens, 17-20 June 2013
www.uaces.org/740

European Union: Solidarity in Question
London, 21 June 2013
www.uaces.org/727

20th International Conference of Europeanists
Amsterdam, 25-27 June 2013
www.uaces.org/539

Sport&EU 8th Annual Conference
Istanbul, 27-28 June 2013
www.uaces.org/735

July

European and Transnational Rulemaking
Amsterdam, 1-5 July 2013
www.uaces.org/737

Beyond Austerity vs Growth: The Future of the European Political Economy
Sheffield, 1-3 July 2013
www.uaces.org/754

Researching European Integration: Beyond Methodological Nationalism and Disciplinary Silos
Guildford, 2-3 July 2013
www.uaces.org/690

UACES Student Forum Research Conference
Loughborough, 8-9 July 2013
www.uaces.org/future

To see more events or add your own event, visit: www.uaces.org/diary
Recent Books

Dismantling Public Policy: Preferences, Strategies and Effects
Michael Bauer, Andrew Jordan, Christoffer Green-Pedersen & Adrienne Héritier (eds)
Oxford University Press
ISBN: 978-0199656646
GBP: 55.00

The Left and the European Constitution: From Laeken to Lisbon
Michael Holmes & Knut Roder (eds)
Manchester University Press
ISBN: 978-0719080838
GBP: 65.00

Development Policies of Central and Eastern European States
Ondrej Horký-Hluchán & Simon Lightfoot (eds)
Routledge
ISBN: 978-0415639125
GBP: 85.00

An Introduction to the Philosophy of Methodology
Kerry Howell
Sage
ISBN: 978-1446202999
GBP: 26.99

The European Union and Military Force: Governance and Strategy
Per M Norheim-Martinsen
Cambridge University Press
ISBN: 978-1107028906
GBP: 55.00

EU-ASEAN Relations in the 21st Century: Strategic Partnership in the Making
Daniel Novotny & Clara Portela (eds)
Palgrave Macmillan
ISBN: 978-1137007490
GBP: 55.00

Representing Europeans: A Pragmatic Approach
Richard Rose
Oxford University Press
ISBN: 978-0199654765
GBP: 25.00

More books are listed at: www.uaces.org/bookshop
UACES Scholars 2013

UACES would like to congratulate the successful students who will be receiving UACES Scholarships this year.

Aijan SHARSHENOVA
School of Politics and International Studies, University of Leeds
PhD Research Topic
EU democracy promotion in Central Asia: Implementation in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan

Giacomo ORSINI
Department of Sociology, University of Essex
PhD Research Topic
Sociological study of ground-level impact of Europeanization for small fishing communities living along the European external border.

Christiana CLERIDOU
Law School, University of Bristol
PhD Research Topic
The impact of the EU accession on gender pay gap in Cyprus

Merran HULSE
Department of Political Science, Radboud University
PhD Research Topic
EU influence on regional organizations in Africa

New Members Elected

UACES is pleased to welcome three new members to the Student Forum committee.

Benjamin LERUTH is a PhD student in politics at the University of Edinburgh, and current guest researcher at the ARENA Centre for European Studies (University of Oslo). As a UACES representative, Ben would like to keep the student community alive and encourage interaction via the mailing list and the use of social media.

Kathryn SIMPSON is currently a PhD student at the University of Kent, Canterbury. Her research analyses political behaviour and attitudes as they relate to political change and inequality in the Republic of Ireland and the EU. Aside from academia, she has worked as both a journalist and broadcaster at one of France’s leading European affairs radio stations in Nantes (Euradionantes).

Grant STIRLING is in the first year of a PhD at the University of Edinburgh in the area of EU Law. Prior to this, he worked as a solicitor, mainly in commercial property. Whilst serving on the committee, he hopes to increase the profile of the Student Forum outside the UK and attract more members from universities outside the UK.

Europe: Voices of the Future
Loughborough University, 8 - 9 July 2013

A two-day conference for postgraduate students who would like to gain experience of presenting research and develop contacts with other researchers in their field.

CfP deadline: 29 March 2013

Further info: www.uaces.org/future
Appointments

Dimitris BOURIS has been appointed Research Fellow in European neighbourhood Policy at the College of Europe, Natolin.

Newton International Fellowships

An initiative to fund research collaborations and improve links between researchers in the UK and overseas, the Fellowships are awarded to the most promising early-career post-doctoral researchers from outside the UK, who do not hold UK citizenship. The Fellowships enable researchers to work for two years at a UK research institution with the aim of fostering long-term international collaborations.

Newton Fellows will receive an allowance of £24,000 to cover subsistence and up to £8,000 to cover research expenses in each year of the Fellowship. A one-off relocation allowance of up to £2,000 is also available. In addition, Newton Fellows may be eligible for follow-up funding of up to £6,000 per annum for up to 10 years following completion of the Fellowship to support activities which will help build long-term links with the UK.

The closing date for applications is 10 April 2013.

Further information: www.newtonfellowships.org

CYELP Call for Papers

The Croatian Yearbook of European Law and Policy is currently accepting papers for volume 9. The Yearbook is published by the Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb.

Further information: www.cyelp.com

British Czech and Slovak Association Writing Competition

A prize will be awarded to the best 1,500 to 2,000-word pieces of original writing, in English, on the links between Britain and the Czech and Slovak Republics (or their predecessor states), or describing society in transition in the Republics since 1989.

The closing date for entries is 30 June 2013.

Further information: www.bcsa.co.uk

Info-Europa

A weekly round-up EU legislation and news. It provides links to new publications from the European Union and covers major news items, draft legislation, new legislation, official documents, programmes, courses, statistical publications and websites.

Further information: www.uaces.org/7502

British Academy-Leverhulme Small Research Grants

Grants of up to £10,000 are available to support primary research. Applications can be for collaborative or individual research projects. Submissions from international groups of scholars are welcome, provided there is a UK-based scholar as lead applicant. Funds are available to facilitate initial project planning and development; to support the direct costs of research; and to enable the advancement of research through workshops or conferences, or visits by or to partner scholars.

The closing date for applications is 10 April 2013.

Further information: www.uaces.org/7503

New JCER articles

The Journal of Contemporary European Research is an open-access, online journal published by UACES in association with the Student Forum.

Articles published in the JCER are diverse, ranging across such issues as the effect of EU regulation on the biofuels industry in Brazil, scientific collaboration in Europe, an interdisciplinary look at European border control and the role of the EU as a global player in environmental governance.

A selection of recent articles:

Student mobility and European identity: Erasmus study as a civic experience? by Kristine Mitchell www.uaces.org/473jcer

The UK: 40 Years of EU Membership by Helen Wallace www.uaces.org/539jcer

Continuity and Change in the Politics of European Scientific Collaboration by Olof Hallonsten www.uaces.org/366jcer

The rotating Presidency and the EU’s external representation in environmental affairs: the case of climate change and biodiversity negotiations by Tom Delreux www.uaces.org/465jcer

Insufficient climate policy integration in EU energy policy: the importance of the long-term perspective by Claire Dupont and Sebastian Oberthür www.uaces.org/474jcer

A common vision of energy risk? Energy securitisation and company perceptions of risk in the EU by Edward Stoddard www.uaces.org/492jcer

The short URLs will take you directly to the article.
Election Time

Dr David Galbreath (University of Bath) completes his term of office as Treasurer in September 2013. We received one nomination to replace him: Dr Paul James Cardwell (University of Sheffield). We are very pleased to announce that he is duly elected.

We received ten nominations for the two places on the UACES Committee – the candidate profiles have been enclosed with the ballot papers.

Voting is now open and all Individual and Students members of UACES with up-to-date membership have been sent a ballot paper with this Newsletter. The deadline for voting is Monday 15 April 2013. The election is carried out independently on our behalf by Electoral Reform Services.

Change to UACES Newsletter Publication Cycle

The UACES Newsletter will now be published three times a year, to coincide with the academic calendar. There are no plans to switch to an electronic newsletter or to reduce the number of issues any further.
Call for New Writers
Ideas on Europe is a multi-blog platform which provides an independent forum for informed analysis, comment and debate. New bloggers have the opportunity to create an Individual Blog, or if there are a number of you, a Group Blog.

Group Blogs are especially suited to departments, research networks, or groups of individuals with an active interest in a particular topic. They are highly customisable and allow you to have multiple authors on a single blog, each with their own profile.

An example of a blog already making use of the Group Blog functionality is: www.europeangeostrategy.ideasoneurope.eu

Benefits of blogging on Ideas on Europe include the ability to have your articles featured in our regular e-newsletter, which is sent to 2500 subscribers; in addition to this, articles will also appear in our Twitter feed which has over 3500 subscribers.

Further info: www.ideasoneurope.eu

Below are excerpts from two recent articles:

High level, low results: EU media pluralism and some random recommendations
Ronny Patz
“Damian Tambini had announced it for November. Neelie Kroes has blogged about it yesterday. Bruno Waterfield took the occasion today to get a quote from Nigel Farage that included a reference to “1984”. And I also thought it would be worth writing about the report of the “High Level Group on Media Freedom and Pluralism” titled “A free and pluralistic media to sustain European democracy”.”

www.uaces.org/7506

Is two speed Europe beneficial for everyone?
Mateusz Krupczyński
“The need to balance between unity and diversity is a dilemma faced by the European Union. With different currencies and different politics being pursued by the members, the multi-speed Europe is a reality. The debate about an integrated Europe is widened and deepened by the possible withdraw of the UK from the European Union.”

www.uaces.org/7507
The UK in an Evolving Europe: The Bumpy Road to the First Enlargement

Richard Whitman, University of Kent

The UK’s relationship with European integration has been complicated for publics, political parties and governments since the commencement of the formal process of integration in the 1950s.

Britain’s road to accession was marked by initial political and elite attitudes that saw European economic and political integration as a project for continental Europeans from which the British should stand apart. As UK accession became a more actively debated consideration from the early 1960s there remained a substantial body of UK elite and public opinion that rejected the proposition of membership. French President De Gaulle’s veto of UK accession in 1963 and 1967 reinforced views that the British retained a political and economic destiny that was separable from continental Europe.

The 1970-1972 negotiations covering the terms for the accession of the UK alongside Denmark, Norway, Ireland were made by the Conservative government led by Prime Minister Edward Heath. The passage of the European Communities Act through both Houses of Parliament was a stormy affair and passed the House of Commons on the basis of cross party support.

The 1 January 1973 accession of the UK to the European Communities was not the end of the UK’s political drama on membership - rather it was the curtain raiser for the debate that continues today. The 1975 referendum on whether to remain a member of the European communities, conducted by the then Labour Government under Harold Wilson, has also not been seen as sufficient validation of membership by the British public by those who remained opposed to UK membership.

As we have now reached the fortieth anniversary of the UK’s accession to the European Communities it is an appropriate moment to take stock of the impact of membership on Britain’s economy, legal system, politics, parliament and public administration and, of course, the impact on Britain’s place in international relations. The set of UACES events for 2013 will give members the opportunity to assess the impact of membership and continue the debate on the costs and benefits of UK accession.

Upcoming Evolving Europe Events:


- Evolving Europe: Voices of the Future, 8-9 July 2013, Loughborough – A two-day student-focused research conference showcasing innovative research from PhD students. See p. 11 for Call for Papers.

Anniversary lecture series – Cardiff, Edinburgh, London – A lecture series taking place across the UK providing a regional perspective on European integration.

www.uaces.org/europe
The Cultural Politics of Europe
Edited by Kiran Klaus Patel

Culture is one of the most complex and contested fields of European integration. This book analyzes EU cultural politics since their emergence in the 1980s with a particular focus on the European Capital of Culture program, the flagship of EU cultural policy. It discusses both the central as well as local levels and contextualizes EU policies with programmes of other European organisations, such as the Council of Europe.

By asking what “Europe” actually means for European cultural policy, the book goes beyond the confines of official organizations and the political sphere, to discuss the contribution, impact and appropriation among a more diverse group of actors and participants, such as transnational experts, local bureaucrats, cultural managers, urban dwellers and the visitors. Its principal aim is to debunk the myth of Brussels as the centre of cultural Europeanization. Instead, it argues that European cultural policy has to be seen as a relational, multi-directional movement, involving a wide variety of stakeholders and leading to conflicts and collaborations at various levels. This book combines the perspectives of political scientists, sociologists, anthropologists and historians, at the intersection between EU, urban, and cultural studies, and changes our understanding of ‘Europeanization’ by opening up new empirical and conceptual avenues.

ISBN: 978-0415521499

All UACES-Routledge titles are available to UACES Individual and Student members for the special discount price of £25.00. New proposals and discussions of future proposals, are welcome. Series Editors: Federica Bicchi, Tanja Börzel and Mark Pollack.