Power shift? The EU’s pivot to Asia

Reuben Wong, National University of Singapore

Over the last two decades, the world has witnessed the economic resurgence of Asia and the region is now a top-priority in all global players’ agenda. In 2011, the US made official their strategic pivot to the Asia-Pacific, and decided to strengthen their trade relationships and their diplomatic presence with a heightened security presence. The announcement of a US ‘pivot’ to Asia by Obama, took place in the context of the US rebalancing its interests away from the Middle East since this region took centre-stage in US foreign policy in 2001. The 2011 ‘pivot’ announcement reassured many Asian allies that the United States would make Asia an economic, political and strategic priority of US foreign policy, but it alarmed European allies that this policy would take place at Europe’s expense1.

Meanwhile, some EU observers in Asia have recently suggested that the EU has embarked on its own ‘pivot’ to Asia2.

I argue that the EU’s actions since 2012 do not constitute a major strategic shift to Asia. The EU is a major economic player in Asia and its appreciation of Asia’s economic rise, and trade and investment strategies since the Commission’s ‘New Asia Strategy’ in 1994 demonstrate that the EU’s recognition of a shift in economic power to Asia goes back at least two decades. Since then, political and even security instruments have been used to advance EU interests in this part of the world. However, the major limiting factor to a

continued on page 3
Chair’s Column

Helen Drake, Loughborough University

The running of events has been at the core of UACES’s activities since the Association began its life in 1967. Article 2 of our Constitution states that ‘[t]he object of the Association is to advance education for the public benefit through the promotion of teaching and research in contemporary European studies’, and our events are the principal means by which we seek to fulfil this goal. We fund events proposed by our members; we initiate events in response to key developments, increasingly in collaboration with other bodies; we support and sponsor events coordinated by other organisations and we plan years ahead for the highlight of the annual events calendar: the Annual Conference (this year’s version – to be held in Cork from 1-3 September 2014 – has attracted a record number of participants and delegates).

2014 is no exception to our events-driven agenda. Most recently, on 9 June, we worked for the first time alongside King’s College London’s Policy Institute to deliver a dual event. The early part of the evening was given over to a roundtable discussion on the implications of the 2014 European Parliament elections. This was well-attended and generated a lively question and answer session. Following that was the awards ceremony for the UACES Reporting Europe 2014 prize. The prize was set up by UACES in 2008 to honour excellence in reporting on the European Union in the English language in all media during the previous year. It is awarded to work that excels in stimulating critical debate on European integration, and this year’s prize winner, Maria Spirova, was no exception. Her collection of three articles reported on the Bulgarian anti-government protests which took place in 2013. The prize jury deemed that she had managed to convey not only the socio-political context behind the scenes, but also the passions of a new generation of young Bulgarians seeking to shape democratic politics in their country using non-violent means. Maria’s prize-winning articles can be found on the prize’s website: www.reportingeurope.eu.

To underpin our commitment to such events, the UACES website has recently been updated to offer interactive tools for communicating these activities. The site now offers an easily-searchable events calendar which allows visitors to browse events by month, location and to search for events by keyword/s: www.uaces.org/diary. We also encourage you to tell us about events that you are organising so that they can be included in the calendar. This can easily be done by completing and submitting the short online form available on the website.

The JCMS Annual Review Lecture: Divided and Declining? Europe in a Changing World

New Delhi, 31 March 2014

Tim Haughton, University of Birmingham

‘Europe’, argued Anand Menon in this year’s JCMS Annual Review lecture, faces a choice between ‘collective empowerment and autonomous decline’. To a packed audience in a lecture theatre at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi, Menon provided a perceptive analysis of Europe’s place in the world. The continued impact of the economic crisis, he argued, has ‘rendered Europeans both more inward-looking and less able to address the myriad external challenges confronting them’. Yet, as the rise of emerging powers and unrest in the neighbourhood demonstrate, international politics is changing and the implications for Europe are potentially highly significant.

Menon’s wide-ranging lecture, which was hosted and chaired by JNU’s Prof Gulshan Sachdeva, offered not just a diagnosis of Europe’s foreign policy woes, but some prescriptions. Menon shone a spotlight on the core weakness of EU foreign policy: individual Member States’ desire to retain their foreign policy prerogatives in a changing world.

The lecture provoked a lively discussion firstly between Menon and the six discussants (Rajendra Jain, Nat Copsey, Varun Sahni, Umma Salma Bava, Chitamani Mahapatra and myself) and then amongst the JNU students keen to know more about the EU and what drives its foreign policy.

The theme of the motors and drivers of EU foreign policy, in what some have dubbed the Asian century, was also at the heart of discussions at a special seminar to promote the JCMS Annual Review to the Delhi-based policy-making community at the Indian Council of World Affairs hosted by Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia. Not only did the seminar highlight the interest in European foreign policy in India, it also underlined how marginal Britain would be to Indian thinking, if its former colonial master were to leave the EU.


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Helen Drake, Loughborough University
real strategic ‘pivot’ to Asia has been the EU’s unwillingness and inability to deploy ‘hard’ security instruments in the region.

The members of the Five-Power Defense Arrangements (FPDA) – the UK, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and Singapore - have been holding regular joint military exercises since the FPDA was established in 1971. Essentially a series of bilateral defense relationships, the FPDA provides for defense cooperation and for an Integrated Air Defense System for peninsular Malaysia and Singapore. There is otherwise no permanent European military presence in the region except for small French bases in the South Pacific and in the Indian Ocean. This scanty European security presence makes many Asians skeptical of the utility of a greater role for the EU in regional security discussions beyond the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) where the EU is already present; the Shangri-la Dialogue (attended by ‘Big 3’ Member States rather than the EU since 2002); and the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP), where the EU made a return in June 2014 after a 10-year absence.

While the United States is a full-fledged player in Asian economics, politics and security, the EU is typically viewed as a declining, one-dimensional (i.e. economic) power in Asia, overly focused on China and, to a lesser extent, India as the emerging drivers of the world economy. ASEAN is a region with a population of over 650 million people in 10 economies, which are rapidly developing. To take the example of one member state, Indonesia – the largest ASEAN country – has a huge population of 238 million and a fast-growing economy that is expected to outstrip that of Germany, the largest EU member state, by 2030.

The European Union has held and pursued economic interests distinct from those of the US with regards to the major actors in Asia. But pursuing an economics-first policy makes for an unbalanced presence in Asia. The EU’s ‘market power’ and its share of world trade is still impressive, but this proportion will slide as a percentage of world trade with the rise of other trading powers (like the BRICs). Most analysts expect the EU’s share to fall from the current 25% to 15% of total world trade. The EU has already fallen behind the US in concluding free-trade agreements in Asia, the most economically dynamic region in the world. Should there be delays or problems ratifying the EU-Singapore FTA (concluded in 2012), the EU’s reputation in the Asia-Pacific would be severely damaged.

In terms of CSDP, the EU has only deployed one military operation in East Asia: monitoring the resolution of hostilities between the Indonesian government and the Aceh independence forces in the Aceh Monitoring Mission (2005-6). Of course, it has played a very useful security role in conflict resolution and crisis management areas: co-mediating and hosting the Paris Peace Agreements that ended the Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia (1991), helping with police training in the democratic transition in Myanmar (2013-14) to name other examples. But if the EU hopes to count or be consulted in shaping security outcomes in Asia, then it has to step up to a more visible and active role in traditional security issues, in partnership with Asian states and the US. It should also ensure that the High Representative participates annually in the ARF, and that appropriate high-level defence representatives take part in ‘Track I’ security fora like the Shangri-la Dialogues and ‘Track II’ fora like CSCAP.

Conclusion

The EU’s preference for multilateralism, its use of non-threatening soft power resources and its economic engagement in Asia can be used to better effect to shape regional structures in the Asia Pacific region. But it also needs to better deploy hard security instruments like the CSDP in order to have any impact on the future architecture of Asian institutions.

It increasingly does not suffice for the EU to dismiss security in Asia as a “US concern” (implying a division of labour between the EU for the Middle East, North Africa and Eastern Europe; and the US for the rest of the world). With rising Asian states competing with the EU for resources and trade in Africa, and increasingly, bringing their interests right to the EU’s ‘home’ turf in the Atlantic region, the EU is, by default, already implicated in Asian security concerns and competition- whether these concern security in food, energy resources, minerals, raw materials, commodities, or climate change.


This article arose from Ruben’s presentation at a UACES Arena seminar in Brussels on 21 May 2014. There were ~30 attendees at the event, including representatives from EU institutions, think tanks and business organisations.

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Further information: www.uaces.org/arena

This article reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.
Old Rules & New Traditions: Generational Divides in Central & Eastern Europe

London, 19-21 February 2014

Philipp Köker, University College London

At this 13th International Postgraduate Conference on Central and Eastern Europe, over 120 doctoral and early career researchers from close to 100 international and UK universities presented their work on the conference theme. The question of generational differences is a defining characteristic of contemporary Central and Eastern Europe as young people born after the end of Socialism now clash with the norms and attitudes of their parents’ generation. At the same time, old and young still struggle with the manifold legacies of Communism and many are drawn to Western Europe to realise their ambitions. Participants explored these generational divides in the region and their origin from a variety of scholarly disciplines, led to such diverse topics as health economics, anthropology, political science and film studies.

Each day of the conference also included a keynote speech and a professional development session. The professional development round tables offered participants the opportunity to hear from academics with particular expertise in three key areas: 1) Publishing academic research, 2) academic blogging, and 3) finding an academic job. The keynote speakers included Dr Erin Saltman (Quilliam Foundation) who gave a talk titled ‘Youth in Revolt – Generational Differences in Political Socialisation in Contemporary Hungary’ and Professor Stephen Lovell (King’s College London) whose talk considered the question ‘Does Eastern Europe Have its Own History of Generations?’.

The conference also provided participants with a number of opportunities to extend their network and build links with other delegates and established academics. The networking receptions featured speeches from and discussions with Professor David Price, UCL Vice-Provost (Research), and Professor Martyn Rady, Head of Postgraduate Research at the UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies. To document the many fruitful discussions from the conference, a peer-reviewed selection of papers will be published over the course of the next year.

Implications of the European Parliament elections

London, 9 June 2014

Elizabeth Monaghan, University of Hull

Over 120 people gathered at the Strand campus at King’s College London to discuss the implications of the European Parliament elections. Anand Menon (Kings College London) chaired a panel discussion between Sara Hobolt (LSE), Mats Persson (Open Europe) and Philip Stevens (Financial Times) before a lively and spirited debate with questions from the floor.

Professor Hobolt began by reflecting upon the extent to which the elections were different to those of the past. Were they, for example, different to the second order national contests of previous EP elections? Were they different in rectifying the lack of a clear link between voter preferences and political or policy outcomes? And were they able to bring about more democratic legitimacy for the entire EU? In many respects the picture seemed to be of continuity rather than change.

Mats Persson continued, arguing that the election of many ‘malcontents’ across European member states would make decision-making in the Parliament messier, and it would be more difficult to reach agreement. This extended to decision-making between the anti-EU parties themselves who did not always have a great deal in common, not even the reason they opposed the EU. In relation to the Commission, Persson argued that one outcome of the elections was that the race for the Commission President had been blown open. He claimed that there were now multiple possible candidates and suggested a radical choice in the form of Dalia Grybauskaitė.

Philip Stevens, chief political commentator and associate editor of the Financial Times argued that the elections were not really about the Parliament – polling suggested that the issues looming largest were immigration and the desire to punish governments – and that the implications would be felt outside the Parliament – with power and attention further shifting to the Council of Ministers.

The Q&A session that followed addressed multiple issues including the prospects for growth in Europe, the implications for national parliaments and executives and, topically given the subsequent Reporting Europe prize ceremony, the role of the media.
The Reporting Europe Prize, now in its 7th year, is awarded annually by UACES. It honours excellence in English-language reporting on the EU.

The winner of the 2014 prize was Maria Spirova for her series of pieces on the anti-government protests in Bulgaria in 2013. The pieces were published on Euronews (www.euronews.com).

Her prizewinning pieces feature eyewitness accounts and protesters’ opinions from the front line of the demonstrations. The series also attempts to explain the socio-political trends, long term causes and events behind the mass demonstrations.

At the prize ceremony at King’s College London, Maria gave an arresting speech on the paucity of both the quality and quantity of journalism on Eastern Europe in the West. She highlighted some surprising factual errors made by Western media when reporting on parts of Europe that are ‘beyond Berlin’ and reminded the audience that the method for checking these facts is simple: ‘Just Google us!’ she suggested. Prof Helen Drake, UACES Chair, presented the prize to Maria and noted in her speech that Maria had been the unanimous choice of this year’s prize jury.

Maria’s winning entry can be found on the prize’s website: www.reportingeurope.eu

UACES would like to thank the following individuals for sitting on the prize jury:

- Prof Helen Drake, UACES Chair & Chair of the Jury
- Dr Martyn Bond, Deputy Chair of London Press Club
- Maria Kanellopoulou, Head of Communications, Networks & Partnerships, European Commission Representation in the UK
- James Clive Matthews, Managing Editor, International Editorial Solutions at Microsoft
- Dr Christoph Meyer, King’s College London
- John Palmer, Advisory Council of the Federal Trust
- Prof Dame Helen Wallace, British Academy

“What stood out was the passion - the desire to help unheard voices make themselves understood in ways they were unable to do themselves by providing context while capturing the atmosphere and anger of their protests. In a few short articles, it became possible to understand the anger of a generation and the fundamental challenges facing one of the EU’s most under-reported countries.”

James Clive Matthews

“Even among the exceptionally high standard of this year’s entries for the Reporting Europe Prize, Maria Spirova’s journalism stands out for the clarity and depth of her reportage on important aspects of political life in Bulgaria. It contributes to a growing awareness of the richness and diversity of civil life in the European Union.”

John Palmer
Day One

Benjamin Leruth, University of Edinburgh

Last year, when I asked participants what they enjoyed the most about the UACES Student Forum conference, three main answers were given: the friendly and stimulating environment, the diversity of papers presented and the opportunity to meet postgraduate students at a similar stage of their career. This year, once again, the feedback given was overwhelmingly positive.

On the first day of the conference, all participants were welcomed by Lena Sucker, UACES Student Forum Chair, followed by a keynote address on ‘Rethinking the European Union’ by Dr Nat Copsey (Aston University) in front of a broad audience. This keynote paved the way for the first breakout session, with most papers focusing on the future of the EU and offering insights on future research in a wide range of fields such as enlargement, governance and security studies.

The first session consisted of three panels. The first one was entitled “European integration: Drivers and Hindrances”, the second one dealt with “Migration across Europe” and the third one explored “Nuances in Decision-Making”. Even though the choice was tough, I decided to attend the latter. Helena Seibicke (ARENA Centre for European Studies, University of Oslo) gave a very interesting presentation on theoretical approaches to interest group advocacy at the EU level, followed by Bart Van Ballaert (Université Catholique de Louvain) who discussed “the politics behind the consultation of expert groups”. These were two highly topical papers, and the audience seemed captivated by these presentations. In fact and even though the panel consisted of ‘only’ two contributors, discussions between panellists and the audience continued beyond the session, during lunchtime.

In the afternoon, two breakout sessions were organised, on various topics including EU law, environmental politics, foreign and security policies, and European societal issues. Again, a very tough choice to make! I was particularly impressed by the quality of the panel on “Europe’s Future as Foreign and Security Political Actor”: the four panellists presented fascinating and varied pieces, which deserved particular attention. Here again, an enthusiastic audience did not hesitate to ask critical questions to all contributors, demonstrating a wide interest for their work.

At 6pm, all participants met at the Old Joint Stock Pub, to end this productive day in a friendly atmosphere. This was the occasion for everyone to get to know each other, and sometimes to reflect on their work. It was also the occasion to ask participants their views on this conference, and as last year, they were very enthusiastic and particularly enjoyed the opportunity of presenting some work in progress at an early stage of their career. When I asked a participant if he would recommend his peers to submit an abstract for next year’s conference, the answer I got was, ‘Yes, absolutely!’ This first day was thus a success.

Day Two

Francesca Batzella, University of Edinburgh

The second day of the SF Research Conference was well attended. The sessions focused on a wide range of topics from Influence in Economic Negotiations to EU External Governance, from Education to competition and citizenship. Panel 5B, for instance, focused on EU Governance in Environmental Policy Studies. Chaired by Benjamin Leruth (University of Edinburgh), the section was absolutely engaging.

Firstly, Jeremy Moulton (University of Hull) explored the claim that given the failure of the 2010 coalition government to fulfil its pledge to be the ‘greenest government ever’, climate policy within the UK has ‘hollowed out’. Stressing how the EU took on the mantle of policy pioneer in place of national governments, Jeremy investigated issues of European governance and EU legitimacy.

Secondly, Viviane Gravey (University of East Anglia) presented a paper looking at dismantling of EU environmental policies. Analyzing two key historical periods in which dismantling calls were aired - subsidiarity crisis in the early 1990s and the Better Regulation programmes of the mid-2000s - Viviane’s preliminary results suggest that dismantling remains an exception and that EU environmental policies have held fast.

Finally, Jonas Schoenefeld (University of East Anglia) investigated to what extent and how environmental groups contribute to
climate policy debates at EU level. Relying on data from key informant interviews and from articles in European Voice, Jonas’ results seem to suggest that environmental groups increase the quality and rigor of EU climate policy debates even if limited by some factors.

10 Years after the ‘Big Bang’, what is the Future of EU Enlargement?

After a lunch break during which participants had the opportunity to share comments and feedback on the papers, a Roundtable was successfully chaired by Tim Haughton (University of Birmingham). Three knowledgeable and successful academics, shared their views on the topic ‘10 Years after the “Big Bang”, what is the Future of EU Enlargement?’

Firstly, James Ker-Lindsay (London School of Economics & Political Science) provided an informative insight into the debate around the Western Balkans and accession to the EU. Nowadays there is reluctance on enlargement as its understanding is shaped by the debate around on immigration. Dr Lindsay provided a survey on the Western Balkans, depicting a varied scenario going from a confident position about Montenegro and Serbia, a less optimistic situation in Kosovo, Albania and Macedonia and concluding with the most depressing situation of Bosnia.

The floor was then passed to Firat Cengiz (University of Liverpool) who investigated Turkey-EU relations. Arguing that Turkey and the EU have both lost incentives on enlargement, Dr Cengiz investigated four specific issues. The first one is Cyprus which is not even seen as an issue for Turkey. Secondly, Turkey and the EU cannot show a consistent position at regional level. Thirdly, Turkish people are today the most eurosceptic because of the visa liberalization issue. Finally, reforms in Turkey are still a problem.

Concluding on a hopeful note, Dr Cengiz stressed the importance of civil society.

Finally, Elena Korosteleva (University of Kent) focused on the evolution of the concept of governance. While during the 1990s and 2000s some space of dialogue was open with third countries, the process was still driven by the EU. A new concept – ‘governmentality’ – was then introduced, allowing a little bit more ownership to those states. Prof Korosteleva highlighted that once a third country starts to work with the EU, it is somehow ‘locked in’ as cooperation is voluntary and binding and it is very difficult to walk out. At that point, enlargement is absolutely redundant.

The three presentations were followed by many questions from the audience which made the roundtable the icing on the cake of a great event.

Listen to audio recordings of the two plenary sessions:

Nat Copsey's keynote Rethinking the European Union
www.uaces.org/7906

The roundtable 10 Years after the ‘Big Bang’, what is the Future of EU Enlargement?
www.uaces.org/7907

Read blog posts by participants at New Horizons

For a Global European Studies? by Ben Martill
www.uaces.org/7908

Why the UK needs the EU (and vice versa) by Jonas Schoenefeld
www.uaces.org/7909

Browse papers presented at the event:
www.uaces.org/7910

Correction: Issue 78 of UACES News featured a report on the Student Forum Seminars 2013. UACES is very grateful to all the speakers at the event and would also like to officially thank Federica Bicchi and Nat Copsey, whose names were inadvertently omitted from the original event report.
August...

**Europe in Crisis**  
*Berlin, 4-5 August 2014*  
www.uaces.org/1113

**Annual International Conference on Social Sciences**  
*Athens, 4-7 August 2014*  
www.uaces.org/876

**4th World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies**  
*Ankara, 18-22 August 2014*  
www.uaces.org/1003

**Prospects of EU-Central Asia Relations**  
*Almaty, 28-29 August 2014*  
www.uaces.org/1176

**APSA Annual Meeting**  
*Washington DC, 28-31 August 2014*  
www.uaces.org/410

September...

**UACES 44th Annual Conference**  
*Cork, 1-3 September 2014*  
www.uaces.org/cork

**ECPR General Conference**  
*Glasgow, 3-6 September 2014*  
www.uaces.org/808

**Britain in Europe Conference**  
*Luton, 3-5 September 2014*  
www.uaces.org/1172

**Beyond the Crisis in Europe: New Opportunities for Reconciling Sustainability**  
*Oslo, 4-6 September 2014*  
www.uaces.org/1085

**After the Economic Crisis: The Small State as a Problem or Solution?**  
*Dublin, 5-6 September 2014*  
www.uaces.org/1163

**Fringe Politics in Southeastern Europe: Drivers of Change?**  
*Zagreb, 12-13 September 2014*  
www.uaces.org/1070

**The European Union and Asia**  
*Warsaw, 16 September 2014*  
www.uaces.org/1162

**The Shifting Borders of European Internal Security**  
*Frankfurt (Oder), 18-19 September 2014*  
www.uaces.org/1073

**Europe’s Crisis: The Conflict-Theoretic Perspective**  
*Freiburg, 25-26 September 2014*  
www.uaces.org/1037

**The EU and Africa: The Interregional Dynamics**  
*Athens, 26-28 September 2014*  
www.uaces.org/1142
Update to UACES website
The online events calendar has been updated: search for events by keyword, browse events by month and add details of an event straight to your personal calendar (www.uaces.org/diary).

October...

The 2014 AHRI Human Rights Conference
Copenhagen, 29-30 September 2014
www.uaces.org/1075

Europeanisation of the Payment System
Siena, 23-25 October 2014
www.uaces.org/1154

Transnational Standards in the Domestic Legal Order - Authority and Legitimacy
Amsterdam, 24 October 2014
www.uaces.org/1078

Whose Game is it? Supporters and Football Governance
Loughborough, 24-25 October 2014
www.uaces.org/1082

Labour Standards and Sustainable Development: Unpicking the EU’s approach
London, 17 October 2014
www.uaces.org/1185

From Interwar to Postwar Forms of Cooperation and Integration in Europe
Berlin, 23-25 October 2014
www.uaces.org/1064

November...

Northern Ireland, the United Kingdom and the European Union: Facing the Prospect of Change
Belfast, 9 October 2014
www.uaces.org/1186

Towards Inclusive Employment and Welfare Systems: Challenges for a Social Europe
Berlin, 9-10 October 2014
www.uaces.org/1007

Banking Union and the Great Leap Forward in European Integration
Brussels, 13-14 November 2014
www.uaces.org/1184

Building Sustainable Agriculture for Food Security in the Euro-Mediterranean Area
Rabat, 20-21 November 2014
www.uaces.org/1175

Borders, Regions, Neighbourhoods: Interactions and experiences at EU external frontiers
Tartu, 27-28 November 2014
www.uaces.org/1143
Recent Books

Building the Knowledge Economy in Europe

*Meng-Hsuan Chou & Åse Gornitzka (eds)*
Edward Elgar
ISBN: 978-1782545286
USD: 120.00

The European Union’s Shaping of the International Legal Order

*Dimitry Kochenov & Fabian Amtenbrink (ed)*
Cambridge University Press
ISBN: 978-1107033337
USD: 110.00

Informal Governance in the European Union

*Mareike Kleine*
Cornell University Press
ISBN: 978-0801452116
USD: 49.95

Alexandre Lamfalussy. The Wise Man of the Euro

*Christophe Lamfalussy, Ivo Maes and Sabine Péters*
LannooCampus Publishers
ISBN: 978-9401417181
EUR: 29.99

The EU and the Global Financial Crisis: New Varieties of Capitalism

*Christian Schweiger*
Edward Elgar
ISBN: 978-1781003886
GBP: 70.00

European Union Human Rights Law: The Dynamics of Interpretation and Context

*Marton Varju*
Edward Elgar
ISBN: 978-1781951736
USD: 130.00

The Law of the European Union in Hungary

*Marton Varju & Erno Várnay (eds)*
HVG-ORAC Publishing
ISBN: 978-9632582252
EUR: 20.00

More books are listed at: [www.uaces.org/bookshop](http://www.uaces.org/bookshop)
UACES Lifetime Achievement Award in European Studies

UACES is pleased to announce that Brigid Laffan has been awarded the ‘UACES Lifetime Achievement Award’ for her contribution to contemporary European Studies.

The award will be presented to Brigid at the Annual Conference Dinner in Cork on 2 September 2014.

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

Prof Dr Jane O’Mahony
University of Kent

“I am honoured and delighted to provide this testimonial for Brigid Laffan. As a highly prolific scholar Brigid has produced key contributions to the study of the dynamics of European integration and EU governance. She has also been a pioneer and lynchpin in the study of the Europeanisation of the Irish political system, inspiring myself and others to follow her path. Through her work Brigid also exemplifies how a member of the academy can have an impact, making central contributions to national debates about Ireland as an EU member state at crucial moments, including through active engagement in the Nice and Lisbon referendum campaigns. For me personally, as my PhD supervisor, collaborating with her on a number of research projects and as mentor Brigid has had a decisive influence over my academic and professional development. I will always be deeply grateful to her for her unstinting encouragement, advice, support and friendship. My warmest congratulations Brigid!”

Prof Dr Dame Helen Wallace FBA
British Academy

“Brigid Laffan has an outstanding record of academic achievement, professional service and public engagement. She has researched across the range of issues at the heart of European integration, always full of curiosity about contemporary challenges, always keen to discover new angles, and often collaborating with colleagues with other specialisms. Across her career she has sought to put Irish scholarship on the international map and in her leadership role as a Vice-President at University College Dublin she has promoted high standards for both students and faculty colleagues. She was a founder member of the Irish Institute of International and European Affairs, a think tank that has gone from strength to strength. Faced with ‘no’ results in the first Irish referendums on the Treaties of Nice and Lisbon, she founded and led the campaigning organisations that engaged in informed public debate and helped to secure the ‘yes’ results that have kept Ireland at the heart of the European Union.”

Prof Ben Tonra
University College Dublin

“I first met Brigid as an undergraduate student when she was a Lecturer at the (then) National Institute of Higher Education (NIHE) now University of Limerick. She was a very popular lecturer – never lost for words or ideas. The passion, engagement and intellectual rigour which was evident even to a callow undergraduate at a provincial university has been the leitmotif of her scholarly and civic career since. Never one to shirk a challenge, always ready to roll up her metaphorical sleeves, I have had the privilege and pleasure of knowing her as a colleague, mentor and friend: always loyal, ever positive and a source of steadfast and wise counsel.”

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Appointments & Awards

Robert ACKRILL, Nottingham Trent University, has been awarded a National Teaching Fellowship by the Higher Education Academy. The awards are for excellence in higher education teaching and support for learning.

Joaichim KOOPS has been appointed Dean of Vesalius College.

Sarah WOLFF, Queen Mary University of London, has won two awards for her research from the Leverhulme Trust and Fulbright-Schuman Program.

Election Results

For the first time, the UACES committee elections were conducted electronically and we are pleased to report that there was a significant increase in the number of votes that were cast.

Newly elected and joining the UACES committee from September will be Maria Garcia and Simon Lightfoot.

Maria is a Senior Lecturer in the Dept of Politics, Languages and International Studies, University of Bath.

Simon is a Senior Lecturer in European Politics in the School of Politics and International Studies, University of Leeds.

We are grateful to all those who stood in the election and to everyone who voted.

100 Books

The owls at the European Parliamentary Research Service have recently compiled an excellent list of ‘100 Books on Europe to be Remembered’. The list includes a summary of each book, a biography of the author and in some cases, access to the full text. You’ll see many familiar names there, including a number of current and former UACES members.

If you want to scan the full list, the EP website is a bit unwieldy, so we have created our own version of the list, where you can view all 109 books on a single page at www.uaces.org/7902.

Did I say 109 books? It seems that sticking to the budget was difficult and I suspect our own members, being well-read scholars of the relevant literature, will be able to think of further titles that warrant inclusion. So, which books are missing? Can you make a case for their inclusion?

We invite you to email us (admin@uaces.org) with your suggestions and well-constructed arguments. We will forward the suggestions to the EP Research Service, and depending upon what we receive, we would like to post the strongest submissions on our blog. Only one rule – no self-nominations!

Further information: www.uaces.org/7901

New European Studies centre

The University of Amserdam and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam have recently launched the Amsterdam Centre for Contemporary European Studies (ACCESS EUROPE) as a platform for research, education and public debate about Europe, the European Union and its member states.

Further information: www.accesseurope.org

20 Years of JEPP

The Journal of European Public Policy is marking its 20th Anniversary. Jeremy Richardson, the founding Editor, has selected twenty articles which the publishers have kindly made available as free downloads. So please, go and take a look, you'll recognise the names of most of the authors that have made the short-list.

Further information: www.uaces.org/7904

Eva Evans turns 90

William Paterson, Aston University

Eva Evans MBE, the original and long-time Secretary of UACES, celebrated her 90th birthday together with family and friends on 9 March 2014. Eva and her immediate family arrived in Britain as refugees just before the outbreak of World War 2. Her father had been a distinguished Berlin doctor and the difficulties of adaptation for him and the family must have been very great. As with other members of that emigration, Eva was to prosper here and make a significant contribution to public life in the UK.

In a rare piece of serendipity Eva became the first secretary of UACES and someone on whom UACES officers and members could rely totally. For my part, Eva was one of the cleverest and best people I ever worked with. While I was Chair of UACES we used to talk daily. We would then agree a course of action and Eva would send off the resulting letters in one of three languages. She is the only person I ever met who could add up a column of figures while taking a telephone call. She was simply sans pareil.

Alongside her work with UACES Eva administered the College of Europe Scholarships.

My invitation to Eva’s birthday solved one mystery. We never knew her age and on occasion, as with her Honours Nomination, we had to invent it.
Arenberg European Prize

Are you a Doctoral Researcher or Masters student with an original idea for approaching European problems?

The College of Europe - Arenberg European Prize is awarded to an excellent contribution in social sciences or humanities, which explores federal solutions for European integration.

The winner will receive 5,000 EUR and will be invited to come and present their winning work at a public award ceremony, which will take place in spring 2015.

Two types of works are eligible for the Prize:
- Masters theses submitted at a European university between 1 September 2012 and 30 September 2014 inclusive, or
- Articles by doctoral students, who were in the same period enrolled in a doctoral programme at a European university

In both cases, the submitted work cannot exceed 30,000 words in length. The deadline to submit your work for consideration is 30 September 2014.

Further information: www.uaces.org/7905

Call to Host the UACES Annual Conference in 2017

UACES is looking for a host for our 47th Annual Conference. The conference is growing every year and potential hosts will need a venue that can accommodate over 400 delegates during the three-day event. In early June, we already had 400 people signed up for the upcoming conference in Cork and the 2015 conference in Bilbao is also generating a lot of interest.

If you are interested, there is more information available on our website. The UACES Secretary, Committee members and the staff from the UACES Office are all available for consultation – please talk to us before the deadline! The Cork event is an excellent opportunity to talk to us in person.

The deadline to submit an initial expression of interest form is 30 September 2014.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Further info: www.uaces.org/host

EU STUDIES FAIR 2015

6-7 February 2015
Hotel Crowne Plaza Brussels – Le Palace

The EU Studies Fair is an education and networking event bringing together international students, top-level universities from across the world and representatives of the EU institutions.

Do you want to promote your graduate and postgraduate programmes in EU studies, international relations, business and law? Contact us today to book your stand and reach out to thousands of international students looking to further their academic career in the best educational institutions.

Sign up to exhibit at the 16th EU Studies Fair:
+32 2 540 90 77 or eustudiesfair@europeanvoice.com

www.eustudiesfair.com EUs studiesfair @EUs studiesfair
UACES supports a number of Collaborative Research Networks. Presented here are reports about some of their recent activities.

Governance of the Europe of Knowledge

Cambridge, 10-11 April 2014

The year 2014 is significant for European knowledge policy cooperation, being the deadline set for completing the European Research Area, as well as the official start of Horizon 2020. Against this backdrop, the UACES network on the European Research Area hosted its first workshop at Robinson College, where 29 participants gathered to critically reflect on the evolution of European knowledge cooperation and governance. Thematically, the papers presented all explored the diverse roles of the ‘four I’s’ – ideas, interests, instruments, and institutions – in the ‘knowledge area building’ exercise.

Opening the session on ‘Excellence, elites, and the world of knowledge’, Mitchell Young showed how the idea of ‘excellence’ has evolved in EU policy discourse from a ‘fuzzy concept’, embedded in research and endorsed by academic peers, to a more clearly defined knowledge that generates breakthroughs. This shift, he argues, has implications for how funding and resources are allocated at the European-level. Focussing on the impact of European funding instruments at four European flagship universities, Tatiana Fumasoli revealed how these policy instruments contributed to the emergence of elite professors who are able to exercise substantial autonomy vis-à-vis departmental institutional control.

Turning to the session on ‘Moving students and researchers’, Amelia Hadfield and Robert Summerby-Murray reflected on the recent and profound changes in the interpretation of mobility in the Erasmus programme. Drawing on several surveys conducted in the UK, Belgium, and Canada between 2012-2014, they showed how ‘mobilisation’, with its emphasis on the functional requirements of vocational skills, has steadily replaced the thicker socio-cultural motivations behind Erasmus. This transformation, they argue, may potentially lead to what they termed as the ‘terrain of disaffection’ among European youths.

In short, what all the papers emphasised are the dramatic changes currently transforming the European knowledge policy sectors. We invite UACES members to read about the other research findings presented at this workshop, as well as those from the network members, on the networks website and on our official blog ‘Europe of Knowledge’, hosted on the ‘Ideas on Europe’ platform.

The European Research Area CRN would like to thank UACES and Robinson College for their generous support in the hosting of this workshop.

Further information: www.EUKnowledge.com
Blog: www.era.ideasoneurope.eu

EU-China Relations in Global Politics

Guangzhou, 13-15 March 2014

The third workshop was hosted by the School of Foreign Languages at Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou, China. The overall theme was ‘Regional Integration in Asia and Europe’ and featured panels on leadership of regional integration in Asia and Europe; the role of the USA; economic and business prospects in the course of regional integration in Asia and Europe; as well as peripheral countries, and sub-state actors.

Of particular note, were the excellent presentations by Zhang Yi-Ke for her paper ‘China’s Perspective on Eurasian Integration’ and Dhananjay Tripathi for his paper ‘Discussing a Way Forward for Asian Regionalism: An Analysis of Complimentary Role of India and China in South and South East Asian Integration’.

The event was generously supported by the Shanghai-representation of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung as well as the Association France Euro-Chine. More than 80 scholars, diplomats and other practitioners, students, and interested individuals from over 20 different countries in Asia, Europe and beyond participated in the event.

Finally, the network will be well represented at the UACES 44th Annual Conference in Cork with a rich variety of seven panels across the different aspects of EU-China/Asia relations.

Further information: www.euchinacrn.org

Participants of the 3rd Workshop on Europe-China Relations in Global Politics in front of the School of Foreign Languages at Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou

To find out more about other CRN networks visit: www.uaces.org/networks
Euroscepticism in the CEE 10 years after the ‘Big Bang’ enlargement

Krakow, 29 May 2014

Natasza Styczynska, Jagiellonian University

The aim of this workshop was to discuss whether, after ten years of integration of the new member states in the European Union, one can still recognise a specific character of Central Eastern European euroscepticism as something significantly different from that found in Western Europe, or whether the East-West boundary is no longer meaningful and has been replaced by other divisions that can be observed in the EU. What factors are responsible for the development of euroscepticism in CEE and how do they compare with similar factors which are to be found in the pre-enlargement EU-15?

The opening address was made by Zdzislaw Mach (Jagiellonian University) who tried to find possible ways to answer the question, ‘is euroscepticism in CEE different from the Western European one?’ He stressed the diverse roots of the phenomenon and some specific regional aspects.

Party-based euroscepticism in CEE was discussed, based on case studies from Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary. Changes in attitudes towards European integration in Czech party programmes were discussed by Petr Kaniok (Masaryk University). Peter J. Tunkis (Ohio State University) presented research findings that suggest that in some cases Polish parliamentarians are rather more nationalist than Eurosceptic. A comparative analysis of the Hungarian Jobbik and Polish Law and Justice parties was presented by Nóra Lázár (Corvinus University), followed by Sándor Gallai and József Dúró (both from Corvinus University) presenting in-depth research on Hungarian euroscepticism at the time of economic crisis. Przemysław Biskup (University of Warsaw) argued that we can treat British euroscepticism as the mother of all euroscepticisms, discussing British influence in conceptualising eurosceptical discourse in Western and Central-Eastern Europe as well as outcomes of the recent EP elections.

The second session was devoted to public opinion. Elitsa Kortenska (Leiden University) presented the outcomes of the research conducted with Dimiter Toshkov on immigration issues and how these undermine public support for integration in the European Union. Maciej Stepka (Jagiellonian University) presented fresh research findings, discussing how European integration is perceived from a local, Polish perspective.

Next Copy Deadline: 1 October

Submissions are particularly welcome for the Events Diary, Recent Books and News sections.

Please send to admin@uaces.org and include high resolution images where possible.

Advertisers

More information about advertising opportunities on our websites, at our events or in this quarterly Newsletter can be found on our website.

www.uaces.org/advertise

CRN Applications Invited

Applications are now invited for the next round of Collaborative Research Network funding.

CRNs provide seed funding, enabling researchers to develop inclusive networks across a range of institutions. Many of these networks are now able to apply for the much larger Jean Monnet networks funding in Erasmus+.

Up to 5,000 GBP of funding is available spread over a three year period.

Application Deadline: 1 November 2014

Further info: www.uaces.org/networks

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Research Articles

EU Think Tank Fora as Transaction Cost Reducers: A Study of Informal Interest Intermediation in the EU by Marybel Perez

www.uaces.org/519jcer

The Rationales behind the European External Action Service: The Principal-Agent Model and Power Delegation by Hrant Kostanyan

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The Role of EU Pre-accession Assistance in the Establishment of National Coordination Structures for EU Funding: The Case of Croatia by Eleftherios Antonopoulos and John Bachtler

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‘Runaway Train Never Going Back?’ The Implications of the New Economic Governance for Democracy in the EU by Mathias Dobbelss

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The European Union as a Normative Actor and its External Relations with Southeast Asia by Naila Maier-Knapp

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Book Reviews

Russian Energy in a Changing World: What is the Outlook for the Hydrocarbons Superpower?

www.uaces.org/616jcer

Call for Guest Editors

The JCER is pleased to announce an open call for guest editors for a special issue to be published in 2016 (Volume 12, Issue 1). Applications are invited for themed issues within the broad scope of the journal. The issue would be published under the general supervision of the JCER editors.

Proposals should be for 8-12 articles of 7,000-8,000 words, plus an introductory, contextualising editorial of 3,000-5,000 words.

The deadline for submission of proposals is 30 September 2014.

Further information: www.uaces.org/special2016

www.jcer.net