Guest lecture: Does the Eurozone need a EU dividend?
Philippe Van Parijs, Professor at UCL and Oxford University, will be visiting CEP the 1st of November where he will give a lecture on the Eurozone crisis and the form and function of a EU dividend. Van Parijs’ main argument is that if the Eurozone is to survive in the future it is necessary to create transnational transaction mechanisms within the EU. According to Van Parijs the idea of an entire new bureaucratic machinery with a regular taxation is not realistic. Instead he suggests it is more realistic to imagine the creation of a EU dividend which will be paid to all EU citizens unconditionally.

The lecture will be followed by a panel discussion with Professor Ben Rosamond, Professor emeritus Niels I. Meyer, and freelance-journalist Kenneth Haar. The lecture is organised by CEP and Basic Income European Network (BIEN). All interested are welcome. For more information please visit www.cep.polsci.ku.dk

EURECO Final Honorary Lecture on Austerity by Mark Blyth
This fall’s EURECO Distinguished Lecture Series will be concluded by Professor of Political Science at Brown University Mark Blyth who will deliver the lecture “Austerity: the History of a Dangerous Idea”. The idea of austerity is based in the economic field as a way to reduce budget deficit – as seen in the EU and IMF during the economic crisis. Blyth is critical of the idea of austerity and criticises Europe for pursuing this idea as a way to solve the euro crisis. The Honorary Lecture will be held on 19 November at 15:15-17:00 in the Ceremonial Hall, Frue Plads 4, 1167 Copenhagen. The lecture is open to all but registration is necessary. Please visit www.eureco.ku.dk for more information.

The EU in need of a demo-cracy
The CEP Work in Progress Seminar in September with Professor in International Relations at Oxford University Kalypso Nicolaïdis brought up some interesting debates and perspectives on democracy in the EU. Nicolaïdis had the opportunity to present and discuss her argument that EU democracy is better viewed as a democracy – a Union of peoples who govern together but not as one. Moreover CEP researchers, whom themselves have different takes on the democratic challenges of the EU, had the privilege of receiving comments from professor Nicolaïdis and discuss their work with her.

Denmark and the European Union
Once again several of the CEP-researchers have joined forces and contributed with several chapters in a new book on the challenges and possibilities facing Denmark in the European integration process. The book by Lee Miles and CEP researcher Anders Wivel gives a thorough insight into the puzzling relationship between EU and a country that has been a member of the EU for forty years, but continues to be seemingly uneasy with some of the most fundamental aspects of the European integration process. This is illustrated by the Danish opt-outs that are reviewed by Martin Marcussen and Rebecca Adler-Nissen. Moreover different policy areas are analysed by the CEP-researchers: Marlene Wind on the citizenship directive; Rebecca Adler-Nissen on the justice and home affairs; Dorte Sindbjerg Martinsen on the public administration and Caroline Grøn on the relationship with the European Commission. For more on this book and the researcher’s contribution please visit www.cep.polsci.ku.dk

PREVIOUS EVENTS
Ian Manners, who was recently appointed Professor at Department of Political Science, held a fascinating Inaugural Lecture on “The Inception of Political Ideas” about the importance of ideas in the study of the EU – exemplified with the euro crisis. The rather complicated argument was simplified with several video-clips including the film “Inception” which demonstrates the importance of the subconscious mind.

Theresa Scavenius hosted in August a well-visited conference with various presentations and lively debates on how to incorporate facts and norms in political theory, and how to differentiate between the two. Scavenius’ paper asked whether we should take the institutions as they are – the factual concept, or as the ideally ought to be – the normative concept.

LATEST RESEARCH


Mads Dagnis Jensen & Peter Marcus Kristensen have published “The elephant in the room: mapping the latent communication pattern in European Union studies”, Journal of European Public Policy, 20(3).
THE RESEARCHER COLUMN

Hrant Dink Murder Trial after almost Seven Years: Is there No Justice for Turkey's Armenians?

By Ayca Uygur, PhD fellow, Department of Political Science, University of Copenhagen

As Stefan Fule addressed the European Parliament in its plenary session during the debate regarding the situation in Turkey in June this year, I listened very intently wondering about his views on the Gezi park protests. Following MEP's conflicting views about whether or not Turkey deserved an extension on chapter negotiations, the Commissioner seemed convinced that it was not just Turkey that was to be blamed for not doing her 'homework'. In fact, on the part of the EU, he seemed to signal an embarrassment about the fact that the minister of justice of Turkey had asked him repeatedly about screening reports and benchmarks for further judiciary reform and that the EU kept on denying the opening of relevant chapters, thus blocking an essential platform for dialogue.

However, from what I can observe, Turkey's judicial system does not only suffer from fallacies that new institutions, socialized judges and capacity building programs can resolve. It rather suffers from an 'undemocratic reflex' initiated by elected or unelected officials, upheld by prosecutors and judges, enforced by the police and awarded by politicians. Because the judicial system is so deeply embedded in power relations that have traditionally come to characterize today's Turkey which are themselves replicated through undemocratic means -such as civil/military, Kemalist/anti-Kemalist-, Turkish society needs to reach democratic reconciliation among its components before the EU treatment can fully take effect. But is the AKP government, who demonstrated its ability of fighting the Kemalist hegemony through the Ergenekon trials, up for such a task? A different case leads us to be cautious about such optimism.

Hrant Dink’s murder trial, which has been going on for six and a half years without coming close to even trying the real assassins and the ones who protect them, is probably one of the most tragic examples of this undemocratic reflex coming to the fore in relation to Turkey's Armenian minority. The Armenian journalist Hrant Dink was shot dead on 19 January 2007 in front of the building of Agos, a weekly newspaper of which himself was the editor. He was known for his reconciliatory position which made him very vulnerable towards both the Turkish and Armenian views on the conflict.

The murder was not random and it was almost announcing its arrival through campaigns, threats and countless unlawful lawsuits that targeted Dink for 'insulting Turkishness'. The systematic campaign began right after the Turkish General Staff made a statement about an article published in Agos that Sabiha Gokcen, Attaturk's adoptive daughter and the first woman war pilot of Turkey, was in fact an Armenian orphan. The army had found it inappropriate that such a symbolic figure was being presented as ‘questionable’. Soon, Dink found himself to be a target in the media and various 'civil society' platforms. He was called in for a 'chat' at the governorate of Istanbul together with the intelligence services where he was 'warned' about his actions. After his death, we now know that Turkish security services were in fact aware of the plot and the connections that was to lead to Dink's murder.

A recent book by Dink's lawyer, Fethiye Cetin1, outlines fully how the justice system in its totality worked hard and fast to convict Dink before the murder and how it has been actively refraining from laying a finger on the organized force behind the ones who pulled the trigger in its aftermath. Furthermore, members of the judicial and bureaucratic machinery that fought hard to convict Dink are now being awarded with titles such as Supreme Court President and Ombudsman, ironically enough, the latter position having been recently introduced as part of EU reforms.

As he was waiting for the EU Summit's decision on Turkey on 17 December 2004, Dink wrote about Heranush, an Armenian orphan who was adopted and raised by a Turkish family under the name Seher. He wrote: 'In a little while, this silence will be broken and everything will be about the decision of the EU. And inescapably, our solitude will end. But until that happens, let's enjoy this solitude. Let's reconcile the solitude of Heranush or Seher with our own. I can assure you, this reconciliation is much more important than the reconciliation of Turkey with Europe.' In the light of where the murder of this peace-seeking man has put us, I could not agree more.

The researcher column is written in turn by the researchers at the Centre for European Politics. The column does not represent a common CEP-position.


EuroChallenge

The project “EuroChallenge” that received funds from the University of Copenhagen's Excellence Programme for Interdisciplinary Research is now up and running. It is a major research project led by Professors Ben Rosamond, Hans-Jørg Trenz, Mikael Rask Madsen and Marlene Wind that addresses the place of Europe in the context of a rapidly and radically changing global order. The interdisciplinary project between the Faculty of Humanities, the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Social Sciences is organized into three work packages. For more information please visit the website: www.eurochallenge.ku.dk

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The newsletter is published four times a year and includes the latest updates on activities and research at the Centre for European Politics.

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