



HOMER

Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence



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WELCOME

The HOMER project on European narratives is going to continue. The HOMER team is proud to announce the third joint seminar, taking place from November 2016 to January 2017 in Cologne and Brussels. HOMER will once again bring together students from Maastricht University, Cologne University and German Sport University for a unique experience that combines EU studies and cultural exchange.

At the end of 2016 it is the high time not just to reflect on the future of the European Union but also on the way it is perceived and narrated. The United Kingdom's decision to quit the EU is a decisive moment for European integration because it reveals a political situation in which European unity and solidarity are heavily contested while national politics are challenging Europe's supranational ambitions.

The Brexit is part of a series of votes in the next 12 months, which may intensify the centrifugal political forces that have now been unleashed.

The 2016/17 HOMER seminar will take these debates and developments into consideration but it will also have a detailed look at the Lisbon treaty of 2009 and address the question in how far this treaty has paved the way to a new perception of European integration.

This Newsletter introduces the new HOMER seminar. In addition, it contains an interdisciplinary bibliography of recent publications on the European Council and it provides an overview on seminars and public lectures that take place at the participating universities.

Unfortunately, the newsletter contains also an obituary. The member of HOMER's advisory board Baron Philippe de Schoutheete passed away on 29th

Septembre 2016. As a political director of the Belgian Foreign Ministry and Belgium's permanent representative to the European Union from 1987 to 1997 he was deeply involved in EU policy making. As an academic Philippe de Schoutheete has shared his knowledge with generations of EU scholars and students. The HOMER participants will not forget his valuable contributions to the first two HOMER seminars.

As HOMER is progressing you are invited to subscribe to the newsletter (iesf@dshs-koeln.de) in order to receive the next issues. We appreciate forwarding this newsletter also to other colleagues that might be interested.

On behalf of the HOMER team
Jürgen Mittag

HOMER IN WINTER-TERM 2016/2017: THE LISBON SUMMIT AND EUROPEAN NARRATIVES

WITH UNIVERSITY OF MAASTRICHT AND UNIVERSITÄT ZU KÖLN

Hartmut Marhold / Jürgen Mittag / Sophie Vanhoonacker with Kiran Patel and Wolfgang Wessels

The European Council forms the key body in the current institutional architecture of the EU. Based on the debates of the Convention on the Future of Europe (2001-2003) and the aim of a European Constitutional Treaty the Berlin summit in 2007 took up again major targets after the negative referendums on the Constitutional Treaty. The Lisbon summit in 2009 then paved the way to the structures of today's European Union. The seminar will address the question whether and to which extent the Lisbon summit (and its forerunners) can be considered as a critical juncture in the history of European integration. This research question is as relevant as challenging since the political incidents just took place in the last decade. Beyond a focus on actors, motives, negotiations and outco-

mes of the summit, the seminar will assess how the Lisbon summit was perceived at the time, and how it is remembered today. What were and are the views of politicians? How do academic scholars write about it? How did the media report about it at the time, and do journalists sometimes refer to it today? On all these issues, are there differences between member states, political camps, and generations? Or do interpretations tend to converge? And, more generally, what is the place of the Lisbon summit in the wider history of EU summitry, and what is the role of summits in narratives of European integration?

The HOMER-Seminar is an interdisciplinary, research-oriented seminar open to students from the German Sport University Cologne, Maastricht University, and the

University of Cologne. Students will work with a broad variety of sources (newspaper articles, archival material, memoirs, academic interpretations, interviews, etc.) and will contrast perceptions and narratives of the summit of the time with today's discussion. The introductory and final sessions will take place in Cologne and German Sport University; the seminar will include a one-day workshop in Brussels.

The maximum number of students is 30. Up to nine students will come from the University of Cologne; 15 will be recruited from Maastricht and another six from the German Sport University in Cologne.



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HOMER IN WINTER 2016/17

Seminar Outline

Session 1: Introduction: The Framework of the Lisbon Summit and Discourse Analysis and (European) Master Narratives

November 4th, 11am-5pm, Meeting room of the Library, Am Sportpark Müngersdorf 6, Cologne (Köln)

- Organizational issues
- short introduction to the European Council/role of summits
- distribution of presentations
- students form teams of 2 or 3 to work on one of the following sub-dimensions:
- How do politicians refer to the Lisbon summit in follow-up statements as well as in memoirs?

- How did international newspapers report about the events at the time?

- How and why did media write about the Lisbon summit?

- Why do the media write differently about Lisbon summit?

- What are the consequences of having different narratives in the member states?

- analysis of the history of the Lisbon summit

11:00am: Welcome and Introduction (Mittag and Vanhoonacker)

11:30am: First reflection with students on the Laeken declaration, the debate on the future of the European Union, the referenda, the Berlin and Lisbon summit and the Lisbon Treaty

12:30pm: Lunch break

1:15pm: Analysing the Lisbon Treaty: A historical perspective (Mittag)

1:45pm: Analysing the Lisbon Treaty: A political science perspective (Vanhoonacker)

2:15pm: Discussion

2:45pm: Coffee Break

3:00pm: Discourse analysis and the concept of narrative (Marhold)

3:45pm: Identifying research sources (Marhold, Mittag, Vanhoonacker)

4:15pm: Students come together in teams

5:00pm: Conclusion

The HOMER Project in brief:

HOMER is a research-based teaching program that seeks to identify narratives, focusing on history making summits of national leaders in the history of European integration.

HOMER's background:

The future of the European Union will increasingly be shaped by the perception of its history and an evolving European memory culture.

Against this backdrop, it is necessary to pay more attention to the European Council which has been the key institution in terms of history making decisions.

The project will address three critical junctures in order to analyse their impact on the development of European narratives: The almost forgotten 1969 summit of The Hague was central to the emergence of the EU and the European Council as an entity. The Maastricht summit of

1991 was a history-making act for the deepening of European integration. The 2009 summit of Lisbon opened a new age for the construction of the EU. The project assesses these summits and analyses their roles in developing a 'master narrative' of European integration. The main rationale of the project is to contribute to the evolving European memory culture by scrutinizing past and existing interpretations while simultaneously building on these.

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Invitation: French Ambassador about „Germany and France - A Common Responsibility for Europe“

The Institut Francais Cologne and the University of Cologne are pleased to invite for a public lecture of the French ambassador in Germany, Mr. Philippe Etienne. He will talk about „Germany and France - a common responsibility for Europe“ on tuesday, 15th november 2016 at 9.30am at the Neuen Senatssaal at the main building of the University of Cologne. The lecture will be in German.

Welcome address: Prof. Dr. Peter Blumenthal, Romanisches Seminar of the University of Cologne/CIFRA.
Moderation : Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Wesels, Jean-Monnet-Chairholder and Director of CETEUS (Centre for Turkey and European Union Studies) at the

University of Cologne.
Admission is free. Reservations are welcome under: darius.ribbe@uni-koeln.de

This lecture is part of the cooperation between the University of Cologne and the Centrum für interdisziplinäre Frankreich- und Frankophonieforschung (CIFRA).



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Tuesday, 15th November 2016
9.30am

Hauptgebäude der Universität zu
Köln
Neuer Senatssaal
Albertus-Magnus-Platz
50923 Köln

EVENTS

9th November 2016:

Lecture: Dr. Martin Westlake, Professor at the College of Europe and Visiting Professor at the European Institute at London School of Economics and Political Science will give a lecture entitled

„The Brexit Referendum: taking the longer-term view“

6.30-8.00pm at the Aula, Minderbroedersberg 4-6, Maastricht University

20th December 2016:

Lecture: Axel Schäfer (MdB) will give a lecture entitled

„Aktuelle Herausforderungen europäischer und nationaler Sportpolitik“

12.30-2.00pm at the German Sport University, Am Sportpark Müngersdorf 6, Köln

16th-17th January 2017:

SUMMIT Conference

“The European Council. Spreading knowledge and fostering research about a key institution“,

Europäische Akademie Berlin, further information at www.summit.uni-koeln.de.

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In Memoriam: Baron Philippe de Schoutheete de Tervarent

Philippe de Schoutheete's life and work document a historical period – significant for the integration process of Europe overall. More than just by his skills as diplomat he was also a model for the intensive and productive cooperation between those with practical responsibilities for EU policies and politics, and us in the ivory tower, responsible for proper academic research and teaching. As a bridge between practitioners and scientists, he was active in many joint ventures, such as Theseus – Establishing a European Society, or the Jean Monnet Project SUMMIT. He was always open for discussions with several generations of EU scholars.

Philippe de Schoutheete contributed with seminal articles to the reality focused research on the early European Community. Only recently, he still published 'La création de l'Euro' (2016). One of his foci was however the Political Cooperation, e.g. with 'La coopération politique européenne' (1980). As co-editor of the volume 'Foreign Policy of the European Union: From EPC to CFSP and Beyond' Philippe de Schoutheete was a highly esteemed and generous colleague. A second focus of Philippe de Schou-

theete was the European Council, on which he published 'The European Council' (2002, with H Wallace) and 'The European Council' (in J Peterson and M. Schackleton: 'The institutions of the European Union', lastly 2012). As for his knowledge on this key institution, it was logical that he became Member of our SUMMIT Advisory Board and supported our work with his excellent analyses, his thoughtful and to the point comments at conferences and helpful input whenever needed. We thank him sincerely for his kind, continuous encouragement and will remember his gentlemanlike friendliness.

Baron Philippe de Schoutheete (1932-2016) was ambassador in Madrid, political director at the Belgian Foreign Ministry and Belgium's permanent representative to the European Union from 1987 to 1997. He was special adviser to Commissioner Michel Barnier and Guest Professor at the University of Louvain and at the College of Europe Natolin (Poland) as well as Senior Fellow of the European Department of Egmont Institute (Royal Institute for International Relations).



Major Publications:

La coopération politique européenne, Labor, 1980, 237 p.

Une Europe pour tous, Odile Jacob, 1997 (en) The Case for Europe: Unity, Diversity, and Democracy in the European Union, Lynne Rienner Pub, 2000, 118 p.

La création de l'euro, Académie royale de Belgique, 2016

This Newsletter is published and produced by the Institute of European Sport Development and Leisure Studies. If you have ideas for ways to improve it, suggestions for articles or if you want to subscribe, please contact: Till Müller-Schoell: t.mueller-schoell@dshs-koeln.de

Realisation: Lisa Röseler

Responsibility: Prof. Dr. Jürgen Mittag

THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL: A PRIMER

The European Council was established in 1974 as an informal forum. The body received formal recognition with the Maastricht treaty on the European Union in 1993. Since 2009 with the coming-into-force of the Lisbon treaty on European Union the European Council is one of EU's 7 official institutions and the highest level of political cooperation between the current 28 EU member states. It brings EU leaders – such as the heads of state and government of the EU countries as well as President of the European Commission, the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the President of the European Parliament - together in order to shape EU's political agenda. The European Council is chaired by its permanent president, who is elected by the European Council for a two-and-a-half year term. The current president is the former Polish prime minister Donald Tusk. The European Council usually meets quarterly, but the president may, however, call extraordinary meetings to discuss urgent issues. The European Council usually takes decisions by consensus. However, in specific cases outlined in the EU treaties it also decides by unanimity or by qualified majority. Just the heads of state or government are entitled to vote.

The European Council is not part of the formal decision making procedure of the EU but it decides on the overall direction of EU policies. It is dealing with complex or sensitive issues that cannot be settled on a lower level of intergovernmental cooperation: In addition, it defines the EU's common foreign and security policy taking into account the EU's strategic inte-

rests and issues of defense policy. The European Council also appoints and determines candidates for certain important positions at EU level.

Lisbon Summit

At an extraordinary summit in Lisbon in March 2000 the Heads of states and governments adopted a so-called Lisbon strategy to make Europe the most competitive economy in the world by 2010. The competitors were Japan and the USA. The Lisbon strategy was an European respond to global challenges and changes in the



past few years. Various political measures sought to increase the productivity and the speed of innovation in the EU. This was essential for competitiveness, growth and jobs. The aim of the Lisbon strategy, also called Lisbon agenda or Lisbon process, was to promote sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and a greater social cohesion in the EU. This approach included quantitative targets, such as full employment and an average economic growth rate of 3 %. One year later this economic goal was supplemented by environmental issues. At the Lisbon summit, the heads of state and government also agreed to benchmark progress on the yearly regular meeting of the Council in spring. In spring 2005, EU leaders

determined new targets and decided to limit the Lisbon strategy to a few core objectives. The general growth target was maintained.

Lisbon Treaty

In 2007, Germany took over the EU Presidency. By March, the Berlin Declaration was adopted by all EU countries. It outlined the intention of all Member States to agree on a new treaty reforming the EU's structure and working modalities in time for the 2009 Parliamentary elections. In October 2007, the European Council ultimately agreed to the treaty, that replaced the draft Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe and introduced modifications to the Maastricht Treaty and the Rome treaty. The new treaty was ratified by all Member States in December 2007 in Lisbon. It became law in December 2009. The background of the Lisbon treaty, also called Reform treaty, was, that enlargements of the EU have increased the number of Member States from 15 to 27. It seemed therefore necessary to adapt the function and the decision-making-progress of the European institutions in an enlarged bloc. Its opponents saw it as part of a federalist agenda that threatened national sovereignty.

Current issues of the European Council The European integration is largely viewed as a success story. Currently, however, it faces a range of political and economic challenges such as a slow economic growth and a high unemployment in several member countries, the Greek debt crisis, a rise of populist political parties, the refugee and migration crisis and anti-immig-

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rant views. Especially the increasing sound of eurosceptics in the UK and in other EU countries and the threat and the consequences of the „Brexit“ kept the European Council in suspense for the past few months. At the beginning of 2016 the European Council's president Donald Tusk agreed to reforms that should avoid a „Brexit“. The most controversial proposal deprived European migrant workers of extra welfare benefits for four years. Another EU's concession concerned Britain's sovereignty. The EU also recognised that



the UK has no commitment towards a wider, European political integration as it has been stated in European treaties. Nevertheless, these reforms

could not prevent the UK's EU divorce. As a direct consequence of the Brexit the UK will relinquish its scheduled six-month presidency of the European Council in July 2017. Britain wants to focus instead on its preparation to leave the bloc. The European Council's president Donald Tusk welcomes this decision.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS ON THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

Alexandrova, Petya/Carammia, Marcello/Timmermans, Arco/Princen, Sebastian: Measuring the European Council Agenda: Introducing a new Approach and Dataset, in: *European Union Politics* 15 (2014), pp. 152-167.

Alexandrova, Petya: Explaining Political Attention Allocation with the Help of Issue Character: Evidence from the European Council, in: *European Political Science Review* 8 (2015), pp. 405-425.

Alexandrova, Petya: Upsetting the Agenda: The Clout of External Focusing Events in European Council, in: *Journal of Public Policy* 35 (2015), pp. 505-530.

Biscop, Sven: Pool it, Share it, Use it. The European Council on Defence, Brussels 2013.

Alnaes, Karsten: We need to talk about Europe: European Identity De-

bates at the Council of Europe 2013-14, Strasbourg 2014.

Carbone, Maurizio: Beyond the Telemachus Complex: Courses, Discourses and the 2014 Italian Presidency of the European Union, in: *Journal of Common Market Studies* 53 (2015), pp. 83-92.

Council of the European Union (ed.): The European Council and the Council of European Union through times: Decision- and Law-Making in European Integration, Luxembourg 2016.

Foret, Francois / Rittelmeyer, Yann-Sven (eds.): The European Council and European Government: The Commanding Heights of the EU, London 2014.

Kyris, George: The Fifth Greek Presidency of the Council of the European Union: The most unlikely Captain?, in: *Journal of Common Market Stu-*

dies 53 (2015), pp. 75-82.

Lipinski, Artur: Presidency as a Political Battleground: Media and the Polish Presidency of the European Union Council, in: Agnieszka Stepinska (ed.): *Media and Communication in Europe*, Berlin 2014, pp. 227-243.

Puetter, Uwe: The European Council and the Council. New Intergovernmentalism and Institutional Change, Oxford 2014.

Scherpereel, John A. / Perez, Lauren K.: Turnover in the Council of the European Union: What is It and Why It Matters, in: *Journal of Common Market Studies* 53 (2015), pp. 658-673.

Wessels, Wolfgang: The European Council, Houndsmill 2015.