

HOMER

Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence



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WELCOME

Dear reader,

we are pleased to launch the first edition of the newsletter of HOMER - From History to Memory Culture: Narratives of the European Council Summits between The Hague, Maastricht, and Lisbon. The HOMER-project is a transnational teaching and research project supported by the European Commission as a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence. In the next three years the HOMER-team will provide a newsletter every three months in order to inform interested people on the progress of the project and on related activities.

HOMER is a joint teaching and research project carried out by the German Sport University Cologne, the University of Cologne, and the University of Maastricht. The project's

major target is to identify and analyse master narratives of the European Union. This will happen in particular in three research-based teaching seminars on key summits of the EU: 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 will assess these three summits and analyse their roles in developing a 'master narrative' of European integration.

The three joint seminars are designed to have a transnational and interdisciplinary dimension: they bring together students from Maastricht and Cologne and they combine history and political science in their analysis

of memories of the European Union. The first newsletter provides a brief overview of the project's framework including some detailed information and further links. You will also find background information on the institutes and the four chairholders that are carrying out the project. In addition to this, academic events and lectures that are linked with the project will be announced. Finally, the idea and concept of the first joint seminar is already introduced.

You are invited to subscribe to the newsletter (iesf@dshs-koeln.de) in order to receive the next issues of the newsletter automatically. We appreciate forwarding this newsletter also to other colleagues that might be interested. Feel free to check our Website eu-homer.eu!

On behalf of the HOMER team
Jürgen Mittag

About the Project: From History to Memory Culture: Narratives of the European Council Summits between The Hague (1969), Maastricht (1991), and Lisbon (2009)

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

HOMER provides historical and cultural orientation on European memory by identifying master narratives of European integration. It will have a strong academic impact since it will generate new insights into the perceptions of the role of the European Council and its summits that have received limited scholarly attention thus far.

HOMER has a strong transnational impact since it brings together the German Sport University Cologne (GSU), the University of Cologne, and the University of Maastricht. It is fully interdisciplinary by bringing together four leading EU experts representing history and political science.

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. We 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 will assess these summits and analyse their roles in developing



a 'master narrative' of European integration.

HOMER links teaching, research, dissemination and communication activities. The project entails six consecutive steps which are to be carried out annually and each have their respective output: Three workshops in Brussels on identifying and negotiating master narratives of the EU stimulate research and link this to the world of practitioners. Three joint transnational research-based seminars at the participating universities elucidate Europe's master narratives. Three online modules on three key summits of the EU will be published with the "Centre Virtuel de la Connaissance sur l'Europe" and will ascertain impact at the international level. Civil society and the broader public benefit from the annual series of two public lectures in each city, 12 issues of this newsletter, and a regularly updated homepage. A final concluding journal article will analytically sum up the results of the workshops. In addition, HOMER helps to

mainstream EU studies at the leading University since it introduces the primarily sports-centered German Sport University to a European research and teaching network.

HOMER promotes excellence and innovation in teaching in a transnational dimension, bringing together students from Maastricht and Cologne. Transnational activities will be strengthened by enhancing already existing teaching-related linkages between the Universities of Cologne and Maastricht. The German Sport University will contribute and widen these forms of cooperation by contributing to the three teaching seminars as well as the three workshops in Brussels, simultaneously inspiring deeper future cooperation in teaching and research.

Seminars will be organized by university scholars from both universities; they employ an interdisciplinary approach, combining history and political science in their analysis of memories of the European Union.

History is a critical discourse on the past: a reconstitution of elapsed facts and events seeking their contextualization and interpretation. Memory can be considered an ensemble of individual and collective recollections of the past. Narratives are hegemonic ways of recounting the past, remembering it and specific events.

The seminars aim at developing an innovative approach to analysing and discussing EU master narratives. The cooperation of four professors in “co-teaching” creatively supports the exchange between different disciplines and stimulates mutual benefit and ground-breaking research.

By combining and contrasting approaches and research content from different disciplines on the EU multilevel system in the context of the multidisciplinary research seminars, students are taught to assess and analyse an issue thoroughly and thereby acquire transferable skills relevant both for their university studies and professional life. The three Brussels workshops foster a dialogue between the academic world and policy-makers by establishing fora for transnational and intercultural dialogue among politicians, journalists, and academics in order to identify and propose European master narratives: the three workshops provide a platform for politicians and journa-

lists to share their experiences of the summits as narratives of transnational encounters and cooperation. Such ‘participative narratives’ will be complemented and contrasted by academic views, thus creatively combining theory and practice and leading to a productive understanding of the past. Through their direct participation, students are encouraged to directly apply theoretical knowledge gained during the lectures and seminars to “real world” politics and policies and to practice empirical research. As this project involves different age groups, it contributes to the bridging of gaps between generations by discussing and developing common narratives

The project improves the quality of professional trainings on EU subjects by addressing the largely disregarded European Council and applying innovative tools to its study: a systematic, historically-informed analysis of the perception of the European Council is still a desideratum in academic research on the process of European integration. Generally, the European Council is just perceived as a “sui generis” institution in text books. It is also mentioned by involved politicians or high-level officials in their memoirs. The research seminars provide students with regularly updated knowledge on the perceived roles and functions of the European

Council in view of the on-going crisis as well as other relevant debates.

HOMER fosters the engagement of young academics in teaching and research on European subjects by involving them in the three workshops in Brussels and working with them on online tools collaboratively: the concrete output of the three joint seminars consist of three innovative online tools composed of historical sources, statements of eye-witnesses, and audio-visual material on the summits. With the support of the professors and research assistants this tool will incorporate the principal results of the seminars, background information, links to relevant websites and academic articles as well as podcasts of the workshops that help consolidate new knowledge.

Moreover, the HOMER project further gains in relevance as students from Maastricht and Cologne will become familiar with theory-based teaching since they will learn how narratives in different time periods of European integration evolve; by doing so they also obtain insights into the development and the construction of the EU as a dynamic political system. Policy makers, journalists, and civil servants will benefit from the workshops in Brussels since they offer dialogue and exchange with the academic world. Academics will benefit from the workshops since they will generate new knowledge on narratives of the EU. Academic circles in the field of EU studies from all over Europe will be provided with cultural orientation in view of the three online tools that offer new and innovative information on EU memory politics. Civil society in Cologne and Maastricht will benefit from the public lecture series on European narratives and topical issues of European integration.





THE TEAM (from left to right)

Kiran Klaus Patel has been Professor of European and Global History and head of the Department of History at the University of Maastricht since September 2011. Presently, he is a member of the following editorial boards: Contemporary European History, the Journal of European Integration History, New Global Studies, Ventunesimo secolo and of Docupedia Zeitgeschichte.

His ongoing research projects focus on the history of European integration as well as on the history of the United States in the world. He publishes widely on various aspects of EU politics, past and present (in English, German, and Dutch). He is associated with several networks in the field and he has successfully directed several large-scale research projects.

Sophie Vanhoonacker is Jean Monnet Professor and head of the Politics Department at Maastricht University. She teaches various graduate and undergraduate courses on EU institutions/decision making and on EU foreign policy. She has a chair in Administrative Governance that examines the role and influence of bureaucratic actors in multi-layered, polycentric systems of decision-making. Her own

research focuses primarily on the role of the administrations in the European Union. She is a co-director of the Maastricht Centre for European Governance (MCEG). She also co-organizes the yearly cycle of Jean Monnet lectures at Maastricht University with Profs. Thomas Christiansen and Michael Shackleton.

Jürgen Mittag has been Jean Monnet Professor and head of the Institute of European Sport Development and Leisure Studies at German Sport University Cologne since January 2011. His main research fields are institutional, historical and theoretical issues of European integration, EU societal actors and the role of sport in the EU. He has close links to a number of European and international research institutions and bodies that work on EU matters.

His recent publications (in German, English and French) deal with the history of the EU, parties and social movements in the EU, and the development of sport from a comparative point of view in Europe. Most recent teachings: The Political System of the European Union; Theories of European and International integration and cooperation; Sport in the EU, Sport systems in Western and Eastern Europe.

Wolfgang Wessels holds a Jean Monnet Chair for political science since 1994, "ad personam" since 2011. His priorities in teaching and research include the analysis and assessment of the developments of the EU polity, especially major features of the political system of the EU, treaty reforms, conventional and newer theoretical approaches, Economic and Monetary Union, modes of governance, the role of key players in the institutional architecture, the enlargement process and the EU's

role in the international system. He is a leading expert on the European Council. He is engaged in the Trans European Policy Studies Association and Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence. He has long-standing teaching and training experience, e.g. at the College of Europe (Bruges/Natolin) and the Diplomatic Academy (Vienna). His international and cross-disciplinary networks and his experience in European and transnational teaching will be highly beneficial for the Erasmus+ Programme.



RELATED LECTURES

German Sport University, Cologne, Jean Monnet Lectures 2015

27.01.2015

Nodar Akhalkatsi (Heidelberg/Georgia): Changing Sportsystems in Georgia, the Caucasian Region and the former Soviet States

20.01.2015

Maren Kröger (UN-HCR): The United Nations' Perspective on Sport for Development and Peace

13.01.2015

David Lanzerath (Bonn): Die Massen, die uns heute noch fern stehen, für unsere Bewegung begeistern – Cultural Practices of the Labour Gymnastics Movement as a Resource for Mobilisation

05.02.2015,,

International Conference "Playing to build Europe" The Formation of a European Football Spere (5th & 6th February) Université de Lausanne

...

University of Cologne, Jean Monnet Lectures 2014

Lecture by Wolfgang Wessels: The Political System of the EU: Strategic and Conceptual Approaches - „The European Council“

15.10.2014

Günter Verheugen: 10 years Eastern Enlargement from the perspective of the „Enlargement Commissioner“

27.10.2014

THESEUS Visiting Professor Céline Belot

The emergence of the EU as a political issue: cause for despair or source of hope for European integration?

...

University of Maastricht, Jean Monnet Lectures

Sophie Vanhoonacker Jean Monnet Professor of Administrative Governance
Kiran Klaus Patel, Professor of European and Global History

23.09.2014

Dr Julie Smith (University Cambridge): Britain's European Future After the Scottish Referendum

20.11.2014

Pierpaolo Settembri: Policy Officer and G20 Sherpa Assistant in the European Commission

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For further information see:

dshs-koeln.de/iesf

jeanmonnetchair.uni-koeln.de

mceg-maastricht.eu

First intense seminar on the Hague Summit and European Narratives

The key activities of the HOMER project are the three intense seminars focusing on the European Council as the key body in the institutional architecture of the EU.

Given its importance, it might come as a surprise that the original Treaties of Rome did not foresee such an institution, and that it only acquired its role incrementally, in the course of several decades. The almost forgotten summit of The Hague in 1969 was of high significance for paving the way for the emergence of the European Council and of the institutional structure that characterizes today's European Union.

The first intense seminar will address the Hague summit as a critical juncture in the history of European integration. Beyond a focus on actors, motives, negotiations and outcomes of the summit, it will assess the way the Hague summit was perceived at the time, and how it is remembered today. What were and are the views

of politicians? How do 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 Hague summit in the wider history of EU summitry, and what is the role of summits in narratives of European integration?

This 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 at April 8th and May 21st including a one-day workshop in Brussels at April, 27th, 2015. The number of students will be limited to a maximum of 30.

Interested in participating?

There are a few places left. Please send your application with CV and a meaningful expression of interest to:

k.patel@maastrichtuniversity.nl
or
s.vanhoonacker@maastrichtuniversity.nl
or
wessels@uni-koeln.de
or
mittag@dshs-koeln.de

eu-homer.eu



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If you have ideas for ways to improve it, suggestions for articles or if you want to subscribe, please contact:

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HOMER Advisory Board:



Hartmut Marhold is Director for Research and Development and professor at the Centre International de Formation Européenne (CIFE) since 2002, and also teaches at the Universities of Cologne and the Turkish-German University, Istanbul. He specialised in the history of European Integration and German European politics. He also works on the institutional and constitutional evolution of the European Union and on the issue of federalism. He is an alumnus of the Institut européen des Hautes études internationales (IEHEI) Master's programme 1980/81 and was DAAD Visiting Lecturer in Nice from 1986 to 1991.



Baron Philippe de Schoutheete, a former Belgian diplomat, 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 has been Guest Professor at the University of Louvain and at the College of Europe Natolin (Poland) and is now Senior Fellow of the European Department of Egmont Institute (Royal Institute for International Relations).



Brigid Laffan is Director and Professor at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, and Director of the Global Governance Programme, European University Institute (EUI), Florence. In August 2013, Professor Laffan left the School of Politics and International Relations (SPIRe) University College Dublin where she was Professor of European Politics. She was Vice-President of UCD and Principal of the College of Human Sciences from 2004 to 2011.



Wilfried Loth is a former Professor at the University of Duisburg-Essen. Since 1986 he is Professor for Modern History in Duisburg. He was Professor of Political Science at the University of Münster (1985-86) and at the University of Berlin (1984.85). From 1993-1997 he was Director of the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities Essen (KWI), since 2007 he is member of their Board of Directors.