

Dissident Voices in Theorising Europe: Another Theory is Possible

**Venue: Darwin Conference Suite 3, University of Kent
9am – 4pm, Monday 26th January 2015**

Rationale and Aims of the Workshop

The past decade has witnessed a yawning chasm open between scholarly attempts to theorise European union and the political realities of the EU in crisis. The decade that has witnessed the ascendancy of political systems analysis, neo-liberal assumptions of efficiency and Europeanisation studies within Europe has also seen the failure of intergovernmental attempts to reform the EU, economic crisis across Europe, and a collapse in popular support for the European project.

Dissenting voices that attempt to theorise Europe differently and advocate another European trajectory have been largely excluded and left unheard in mainstream discussions over the past decade of scholarship and analysis. Mainstream EU scholarship broadly accepts the premise that the EU is a neo-liberal, state-like political system and that Europeanisation is a one-way process. Dissident voices theorising Europe challenge these mainstream assumptions and adopt a variety of ontological, epistemological and methodological standpoints. What they share is their starting point that the study of Europe has a dominant set of discursive, intellectual and academic practices which they seek to challenge.

This workshop presents a set of draft papers for a prospective special issue of the *Journal of Common Market Studies* due for publication in 2016. The special issue presents an array of dissident perspectives. What they do is to open up different possibilities and understandings of the EU. The special issue is polyphonic in seeking a broad range of dissenting voices from different disciplinary and cultural settings.

The purpose of the special issue not to definitively address one analytical problem in EU studies, neither is it to establish a new school or paradigm in EU studies. Instead the shared research question is to explain why the gap between theoretical scholarship and political realities has opened over the past decade, and how to address this mismatch. The special issue argues that another Europe is possible and one that challenges predominant ideas about both the EU and the field of EU studies.

Programme

08:30-09:00 Tea and Coffee

09:00-09:50 Session 1, 'Theory and Crises'

Dissident Voices in Theorising Europe: Another Theory is Possible - Ian Manners (Copenhagen) and Richard Whitman (Kent)

Theorising European Crises: Intellectual Dissidence or Normal science? - Ben Rosamond (Copenhagen)

10:00-10:50 Session 2, 'Historical Alternatives and Marginalised Voices'

Identifying and Tracing the Repression of Historical Alternatives: Regulation Theory and the Political Economy of European Union - Hans-Jürgen Bieling (Tübingen), Johannes Jäger (UAS, Vienna) & Magnus Ryner (King's College London)

Teaching EU Politics and Crisis EU: From 'How' and 'What' to 'Which' and 'Why' - Owen Parker (Sheffield)

10:50-11:00 Tea and Coffee

11:00-11:50 Session 3, 'Sociological and Anthropological Approaches'

Sociological approaches to the EU in times of turmoil - Sabine Saurugger (Grenoble)

Towards a Practice Turn in EU Studies: Anthropological Approaches to European Integration - Rebecca Adler-Nissen (Copenhagen)

12:00-1300 Lunch

13:00-13:50 Session 4, 'Gender and Ecological Perspectives'

The Power of Gender in European Integration - Annica Kronsell (Lund)

Rethinking Integration Theory: An Ecological Perspective - Alex Warleigh-Lack (Surrey)

14:00-14:50 Session 5, 'Post-Modern and Post-Colonial Reflections'

EU/PoMo: Critical Reflections on Discourse (and) Analysis in European Integration Studies - Stefan Borg (SIIA Stockholm) and Thomas Diez (Tübingen)

The Postcolonial has moved into Europe: Ordering, Security and Ethno-cultural Belonging - Catarina Kinnvall (Lund)

15:00-15:50 Session 6, 'History and Narrative'

Memory and Power of the EU: Critical Reflections from Theories of History - Ann-Christina Lauring Knudsen (Aarhus)

The End of the Nobel Narrative – Ian Manners (Copenhagen) and Philomena Murray (Melbourne)

End.