

PhD Theses – Thèses de doctorat – Doktorarbeiten

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Lorenzo FERRARI, *Speaking with a Single Voice. The Assertion of the EC as a Distinctive International Actor, 1969-79* – IMT Institute of Advanced Studies, Lucca
Supervisors: Mark Gilbert, Johns Hopkins University; Giovanni Orsina, LUISS Rome

Jury: Maria Elena Guasconi, University of Genova; Arlo Poletti, LUISS Rome; Monica Claes, Maastricht University

Field: Contemporary history

Date of the exam: 09.12.2014

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During the 1970s, the EC's activity on the international stage considerably increased both in terms of intensity and scope: the European Political Cooperation and the European Council were established, recognition of the EC by almost all the world's countries was secured, its engagement with global issues was deepened, and so on. Overall, the EC asserted itself as a distinct international actor, endowed with a distinctive political character. This process of assertion constitutes the central object of the thesis.

In the thesis, an extensive historical account of the EC's international activity during the 1970s is provided. It is considered how and why the EC sought to assert itself as an international actor, who influenced its traits as such, and how this process was connected to other contemporary developments. In particular, the thesis focuses on the different conceptions held by main actors involved in this process, such as for instance the EC commissioners for external relations and the most influential national governments. To this end, the thesis mostly relies on primary sources drawn from the EU institutional archives and from the archives of the French and British foreign ministries.

The thesis moves past the traditional divide between the Community's external policies and the EPC, considering both dimensions as well as the European Council's international activity. Attention is paid to institutional developments (e.g. establishment of EPC, admission to the UN) as well as to policy ones (e.g. development cooperation, promotion of human rights abroad). By adopting this broad perspective, the 1973-74 crises do not appear as an endpoint to the EC's international assertion, as it is often depicted. However, the success of such an assertion was hindered by the persistence of a serious mismatch between the discourse of the EC and its actual policies: deeds often fell well short of words.

Claudia LESKIEN, *Operation Welcome. The Municipal Politics of Consolidating Strasbourg's Position as European Institution Host from 1949 to 1979* – Aarhus University

Supervisor: Ann-Christina Lauring Knudsen, Aarhus University

Jury: Christina Fiig, Aarhus University; Niilo Kauppi, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), University of Strasbourg/University of Jyväskylä; Emmanuel Mourlon-Druol, University of Glasgow

Field: Contemporary history

Date of the exam: 27.11.2014

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The doctoral thesis is an original study investigating which local agents were active in Strasbourg to consolidate its position as European institution host and with which strategies they attempted to achieve this aim. It is based on archival research analysing municipal and institutional administration documents in five archives in three countries with the mainstay of sources from the local archives of Strasbourg. Informed by the original combination of these sources and using selected concepts of Bourdieu's theories, field and capital, as a heuristic toolbox, the thesis offers new information on the institutional history of European integration. By analysing the involvement of agents within a city with regard to the placement of European institutions, the thesis sheds light on this understudied aspect by concentrating on the local level's consolidation efforts in the intergovernmental matter of siting institutions. It also includes the Council of Europe (CoE) in the analysis and therefore offers insight in European integration outside the European Communities. Therefore, it makes an important contribution to European integration history by focusing on these aspects.

The CoE has been located in Strasbourg since 1949 and the assembly of the European Communities provisionally since 1952. A select group of city administration agents, supported by various private associations, utilised various measures of hosting parliamentarians and providing them with desirable transport and building infrastructure to prove that Strasbourg was the best host possible in view of the ongoing competition with other prospective and provisional European Community host cities, such as Brussels. An overarching element to all three themes was to demonstrate that Strasbourg had a European mission that would make it eminently suitable to house a European institution. Thus, local agency in this matter and related issues of accele-

rated infrastructural development were important aspects of institution and city history in the light of European integration.

Eric O'Connor, *Democracy in the Dark: The Origins of Popular Participation in European Unity, 1949-1975* – University of Wisconsin-Madison

Supervisor/Jury: Laird Boswell, Mary Louise Roberts, Suzanne Desan, Nils Ringe, and Daniel Ussishkin, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Field: Contemporary history

Date of the Exam: 18.08.2014

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This dissertation constructs an original history of democracy in European unity. Applying historical methods to a field dominated by social scientists, it provides an intellectual and empirical foundation to one of the most critical topics in today's European Union (EU). Centring on European federalists and their foils, this transnational study analyses European officials and voters as they considered if, or how, to incorporate voting or other aspects of democracy into the process of European unity before the inaugural 1979 European Parliament elections. It is an exploration of the fluctuating idea of democracy in European unity, a discursive study of supranational democracy's changing meaning, and an archival-based history of rarely-studied democratic experiences during the EU's earliest years. As such, it interprets how officials and voters in key EU member states envisioned democracy outside the bounds of the nation state, as well as investigates numerous unofficial local referendums and elections on European unity from Breisach, West Germany in 1950 to Beckenham, Great Britain in 1971.

This study relied upon archival research in many state and political party archives in Germany, France, and Great Britain, including personal and organizational records from Europa-Union Deutschland, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, Altiero Spinelli, Jean Monnet, Fernand Dehousse, Michael Foot, Walter Hallstein, Guy Mollet, and others across Europe. The chapters examine competing interpretations of post-war liberal democracy at both the national and supranational levels, the movements for and against direct elections to a European parliament starting in 1949, and local, national, and transnational voting on the topic of European unity until the 1975 United Kingdom national referendum. Bridging for the first time the scholarship of post-WWII transnational political reconstruction and EU democracy studies, this work reveals that the strange, often criticized type of democracy that many associate with today's European Union is a legacy of the contested attempts to stabilize politics in the original EU member states after fascism. This dissertation therefore argues that the EU was a central component to the reimagining and reimplementation of liberal parliamentary democracy in Western Europe after WWII.

Oana Maria ALBESCU, *Ethics in contemporary international business* – Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca

Supervisor/jury: Vasile Puşcaş, Babeş – Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca (supervisor); Nicolae Păun, Babeş – Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca; Radu Danciu, Dimitrie Cantemir University of Cluj-Napoca; Ludovic I. Bathory, George Bariţ Institute of History, Romanian Academy of Cluj – Napoca; Mircea Maniu, Babeş – Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca.

Field: International Relations and European Studies

Date of Exam: 18.12.2014

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In the globalized, post-westphalian world, we are witnessing the acceleration of global interdependencies and the multiplication of transnational actors, as major players in the International System. The PhD research had the objective to analyze the level of implementation and development of corporate social responsibility in Romania. The present research aims to contribute, through the theoretical and methodological panoply of the proposed tools, to a better understanding of ethical business strategies and also to contribute to the encouragement of debates related to the importance of a sustainable business behavior – critical for the profit of the company and also for the communities' benefits. The research brings an innovative aspect in the study of International Relations, through the presentation and analysis of the new tendencies of corporate social responsibility and the business solutions for the sustainable development of the societies. One of the major conclusions is that the new business tendencies define the “social contract” between multinational corporations and the societies they operate, the long term strategies for the sustainable development of business and communities. We also found that corporate social responsibility is a long-term partnership between society and companies, which, in order to develop business operations, need social legitimacy in communities. The research is qualitative, using interviews, case studies and the documentations and analysis of a taxonomy of reports: European and international reports, multinational companies' reports related to corporate social responsibility, business ethics and corporate governance.

Ramona Alexandra ROŞU, *The asymmetric interdependence and the international mediation in the European Union* – Babeş – Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca

Supervisor/jury: Vasile Puşcaş, Babeş – Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca (supervisor); Nicolae Păun, Babeş – Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca; Mihaela Fodor, Dimitrie Cantemir University of Cluj-Napoca; Silviu Totelecan, George Bariţ Institute of History, Romanian Academy of Cluj – Napoca; Ovidiu Pecican, Babeş – Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca

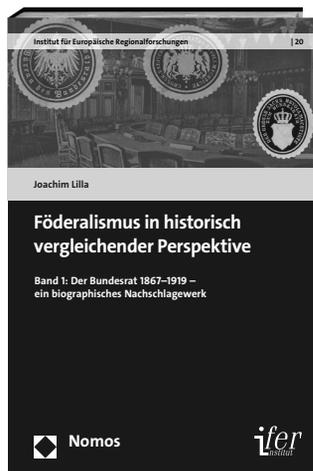
Field: International Relations and European Studies

Date of exam: 18.12.2014

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The increase of asymmetric interdependence within the EU – which manifests itself not only in the economic area – is intrinsically explosive and this situation may heighten the prospect of economic and political conflicts within integrated systems. The focus of the present study is the core of the politics on interdependence, namely, the management of asymmetric interdependence, in the context of the EU. As interdependence intensifies, the Member States of the Union are subjected to a severe test due to the asymmetric distribution of power. The thesis aimed to demonstrate that a synthetic theoretical approach, based on the conjunction between institutionalist and constructivist approaches, on different levels of the international structure would offer a more inclusive and more comprehensive perspective on political outcomes in the framework of systemic approaches to international relations. We argued that this synthetic vision is in fact compatible with two fundamental positions in the field of ICR (International Conflict Resolution) which were frequently considered to be in a relation of opposition: conflict settlement and conflict transformation. Thus, one of the arguments of this study is the fact that in the conflict resolution processes, two types of approaches are needed: the causal neoliberal approach and the constitutive socio-constructivist approach. Therefore, among the policy instruments that serve to resolve conflicts and preventive diplomacy, smart mediation is the most operative version because it incorporates both types of approaches. We also examined the management of the fundamental disagreements between Member States of the EU, which occurred in the seemingly benign environment of interdependence, in decision-making processes under conditions of the Community Method and the Intergovernmental Method. We found that the two procedures co-exist at different levels in the decision-making processes and that, in both contexts, the inefficiency of disputes management produced problems which remained unresolved, with ominous consequences for the European integration process.

Föderalismus in historisch vergleichender Perspektive



Föderalismus in historisch vergleichender Perspektive

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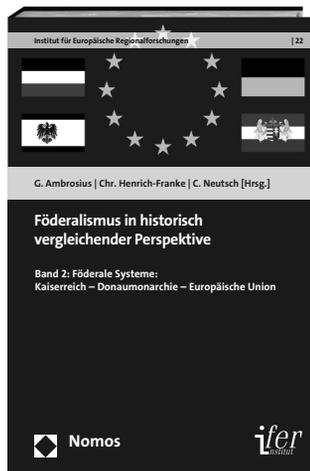
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