

## Information – Informations – Informationen

### “Disintegration and Integration in East-Central Europe” – 4th Edition:

**The future of the European Union from a historical perspective. Shaping tomorrow’s Europe – ideas, prospects and strategies in the dialogue between generations**

*Faculty of European Studies, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca*

26-27 October 2017

website: <http://euro.ubbcluj.ro/diece-2017/>

After three successful events, the International Conference “Disintegration and Integration in East-Central Europe”, organized since 2013 by the Faculty of European Studies of Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania, in cooperation with prestigious academic institutions, such as the Universities of Strasbourg, Padua or Magdeburg, and high-level academic bodies actively involved in EU studies, such as The European Union Liaison Committee of Historians, is now at its fourth edition.

This year’s edition will be organized in partnership with Università degli Studi di Roma Tre and will focus on how contemporaries have embarked at several momentous European events on a thorough dialogue about the future of the European Union, by bringing in ideas, perspectives and strategies. The conference endeavours to explore and shed light on the manners in which European integration and its outcome were understood in the past by the leaders and trendsetters of European unification, starting with the 1940s and the 1950s. It will emphasise the concept of Europe, its role, the *modus operandi* through which integration could be achieved and its original instruments, whilst analysing the transformation of the integration approach, and the changing of its goals: from deepening (Europe of the Six), to widening (Europe of the 10-12) and enlarging (Europe of the 27/28).

The questions arising from the European experience in the last ten years are crucial in determining the next steps of EU integration, and they require complex and well-discerned answers. In addition, given the exceptional circumstances of the Brexit, it is imperative to take into account the precedent created and the foreseeable mechanisms of disengagement from the EU. It is the aim of this edition to address in a constructive manner a number of pressing questions related to the future of Europe and to offer a platform for the dissemination of research results that can contribute to a better understanding of the ongoing process of metamorphosis within the European Union.

**Call for Papers:**  
***International Conference of the Centre for East Asian Studies, Groningen in  
 cooperation with the European Liaison Committee of Historians***

**Europe and East Asia since 1945: an historical survey**

University of Groningen – Centre for East Asian Studies Groningen  
 - 14-15 June 2018 -

Oude Kijk in 't Jatstraat 26 – 9712 EK Groningen – The Netherlands  
 www.rug.nl/ceasg

Deadline proposals: 15 December 2017

Present-day East Asia is in the centre of political and economic interest. It is impossible nowadays to overlook the region, which has evolved into one of the growth engines of the world. Apart from Japan and South Korea, China in particular attracts the attention. Deng Xiao Ping's Open Door policy, starting in the late 1970s, has set in motion a development which has changed the country immensely and has not stopped producing its impact until this very moment. China keeps on moving ahead, thereby increasingly influencing the rest of the world, including its neighbouring regions East and South-East Asia and, further away, the European Union.

Understandably, as a result of this fast development, most of the academic studies on East Asia and China, in relation to Europe, focus on present-day issues, covering trade, finance, investments, security policies, etc. Increasing interdependence in the global sphere and the rapid disappearance of geographical barriers have made the relationship between the two regions so urgent and dynamic that issues of the day – like tensions regarding the South China Sea, China's recent Belt & Road initiative, and the North Korean nuclear threat – tend to dominate the academic debate.

In this turbulent atmosphere of breaking news, short-term solutions and unpredictable behaviour, it seems all the more expedient to look at the Europe-East Asia relationship with somewhat more distance and reflection. This is exactly what the Groningen conference aims to do. It attempts to produce a survey of how the contacts between the two regions have developed over time (1945-today), both on the bilateral and multilateral (EC/EU-ASEAN) level and how Europe has approached the gradual rise of East Asia as a global competitor. Is the post-war relationship based mainly on economic considerations, or are political issues just as important? What is the relevance of the historical dimension for present-day contacts and problems? The following issues may come up for discussion:

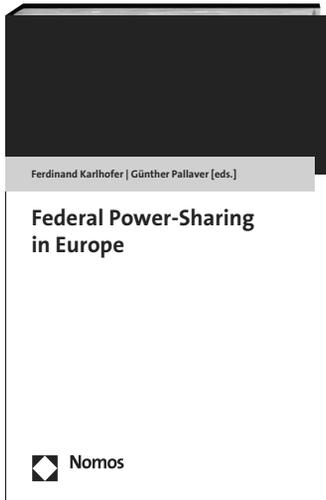
- The impact of the Cold War (1947-1990) on bilateral and multilateral relations. What has been the meaning of the end of the Cold War for mutual affairs between the EU and East Asia?
- The triangular relationship with the United States: To what extent have post-war US policies dominated European visions on the East Asian region? And – vice versa – to what extent have they dominated East Asian visions on Europe?

- European and East Asian evaluations of the Vietnam War (1955-1975) and its aftermath.
- The (previous) attraction of Maoism on intellectuals in Europe.
- The development of economic and trade relations between the EC and China before and since the first trade agreement in 1978; business involvement and growing investments.
- The evolution of monetary relations and the introduction of ECU and Euro.
- The problems concerning a Sino-European dialogue on human rights and democracy.
- European reactions to the economic rise and fall of Japan.
- Mongolia's post-Cold War pivot to the EU.
- European outlook on conflictual relations in East Asia: Japan-China, North Korea (DPRK) – South Korea (RoK), Japan-South Korea, etc.
- The evolution of multilateral cooperation: the EC/EU and ASEAN. Europe's post-modern world of shared sovereignty versus geopolitics in East Asia where protection of national sovereignty and pursuance of national interests prevail.
- East Asia's diplomatic relations with the EC/EU and its member-states; East Asian perceptions of Europe over time.
- The cultural dimension: mutual attraction versus 'lost in translation'.
- Other issues of historical relevance pertaining to Europe and East Asia.

Please hand in your paper proposal (maximum of 500 words) before 15 December 2017 and send it to: [ceasg@rug.nl](mailto:ceasg@rug.nl). We can provide hotel accommodation during the conference for those whose paper proposal has been accepted. The best papers presented at the conference will be considered for publication in a special issue of the peer-reviewed *Journal of European Integration History*.

For more information, please contact Prof. Jan van der Harst (University of Groningen): [j.van.der.harst@rug.nl](mailto:j.van.der.harst@rug.nl)

# European power-sharing systems Typologised



## Federal Power-Sharing in Europe

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This innovative volume marks the debut of an exhaustive political science typology of European power-sharing systems. It covers the EU as well as federal and quasi-federal regional states, such as Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Belgium, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom, but also asymmetric cases from other European states with “constitutional” regions. A detailed and systematic focus is laid on the models and structures related to how powers are allocated,

on the tensions between the centre and the periphery, on practical problems and power conflicts in selected policy areas as well as on reform proposals. An international team of authors analyses current developments at the European and national levels and draws lessons from comparative political science.

The editors are members of the Research Centre on Federalism at the University of Innsbruck.



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