



MASTER OF EUROPEAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER No 4/2011

EUROPEAN STUDIES
 TRANSNATIONAL
 AND GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

European Studies in 2011/2012: More than 30 Nationalities from all around the World

As in previous years, the master of “European Studies” attracted of students from all over the world. In total, students from 31 nationalities enrolled in the programme, making the study in the master programme a truly international experience. As one Belgian student in the programme observed after the first weeks: “Studying in the MAES programme feels like being on an Erasmus-exchange programme in your own country.”

We wish all colleagues, alumni and students of the Master of European Studies a peaceful season’s time and a good start in 2012! We like to thank all colleagues and administrative staff in the Groep Humane Wetenschappen for their contributions to the Master programme “European Studies: Transnational and Global Perspectives” in 2011.

While most of the students do come from EU member states, an increasing number of students previously studied in the UK, the USA or Canada. In general, more international students than before tend to enroll in the “European Studies” -programme after having studied in a country, which was not their country of origin either. As in years before, students come from many academic backgrounds adding a strong notion of interdisciplinarity to the international master programme.



European Studies’ students during a lecture in November 2011.

Traineeship Information Session with Alumni in November 2011

Together with the MEPP programme, European Studies arranged an evening with alumni concentrating on international traineeship opportunities in and outside Brussels. Alumni from both programmes have been very successful in finding competitive traineeship positions in the European Commission, the European Parliament and at NGO’s and private consultancy firms. Accordingly, current students were extremely interested in learning from our alumni about the ‘little tricks’ leading to a successful application and the potential start of a professional career. More: www.ghum.kuleuven.be/ces/beyond_graduation



European Studies Alumnus Alfonso Medinilla explains the benefits of internships.

Europeanization from a historical and sociological Perspective: Lectures of Kiran Patel and Roland Verwiebe

Two acclaimed researchers on Europeanization held guest lectures in the compulsory course “Transnational and Global Perspectives on Europe” in November and December 2011. Professor Kiran Patel (Chair Department of History, Maastricht University) focused on the historical dimension of Europeanization in the 20th century. Patel used the representation of the family farm to discuss the way how a vision of Europe developed and interacted with politics. Professor Roland Verwiebe (Director of the Institute of Sociology, University of Vienna) looked into Europe-wide patterns of transnational mobility and migration. In combination, the lectures offered a unique interdisciplinary perspective on Europeanization and transnationalization.

Read more: Patel, Kiran (Ed): *Europeanization in the Twentieth Century: Historical Approaches*, New York: Palgrave, 2010 (with Martin Conway)
 Verwiebe, Roland: *European Societies – Mapping Structure and Change*, Bristol: Policy Press, 2010 (with Steffen Mau)

One day in the life of an MEP: Bart Staes

Member of the European Parliament, Bart Staes, visited the MAES and the PECS programme on 8 November 2011. The Flemish parliamentarian and member of the GROEN! Party presented a very personal view on the daily life of an MEP in Brussels. Arriving on his *Brompton* bike in the Justus-Lipsius Zaal, Staes pointed to the comfortable position of being an MEP from a Belgian constituency. For most of his colleagues, coming from Southern Greece or the North of Finland, weekly work in the EP and complementary work in their constituencies poses a serious coordination challenge. Next to these often underestimated problems of representation, Mr Staes offered many insights from his parliamentary career, in which he focused especially on budgetary affairs, agricultural policy and development cooperation.



Visits to NATO, the European Commission and “Terra Brasilis” in Brussels

Organized together with the PECS programme, MEPP students were invited to join a study trip to NATO in Brussels on the 18 November 2011. The visit to the transatlantic security and defence organization provided useful information on the current transformation of NATO as much as its current global involvement. On 8 December 2011, all European Studies’ students visited the European Commission and the current exhibition “Terra Brasilis” in Brussels. Both events fitted perfectly into the interdisciplinary character of the programme. First, at the European Commission students received first-hand information on the current sovereign-debt crisis as much as on the European Neighbourhood Policy and the Commission’s activity in the field of European cultural policy. Second, the exhibition “Terra Brasilis”, which is shown in the framework of the cultural framework “Europalis” focusing on Brazil, provided students with a historical perspective on European cultural explorations in Brazil as much as the interconnectivities between Europe and South-America over time.



MAES Students during their visit to the European Commission in December 2011.

EU-China relations in times of the European Sovereign-Debt Crisis:

On 30 November 2011, the Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies (GGS) and the Master of European Studies organized an expert -conference on the EU-China Relations in times of the European Sovereign-Debt crisis. Next to Vice-Rector Filip Abraham



Professor Jan Wouters (Director GGS) and Peter Dun (European Commission)

(Group of Human Sciences), Professor Jan Wouters (Director, GGS) and Professor Stephan Keukeleire (Vice-Director European Studies), several prominent international experts from outside Leuven contributed to the success of this event: Prof. Pierre Defraigne (Madariaga College), Prof. Eric De Keuleneer (Solvay Business School), Dr. Jonathan Holslag (VUB), Yuan Xue (Twenty First Century Business Herald), Nicola Casarini (EU Institute for Security Studies) and Peter Dun (European Commission). Overall, more than 150 students from several master programmes at the KU Leuven attended the conference.

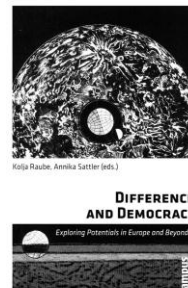
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Prof. dr. Patrick Pasture (Director)
Prof. dr. Stephan Keukeleire (Co-Director)
Dr. Kolja Raube (Programme Coordinator)
Vanessa Van De Plas (Administrative Coordinator)

New Publication

Raube, Kolja, and Annika Sattler (eds.)
Difference and Democracy – Exploring Potentials in Europe and Beyond.
Campus, Frankfurt/ New York, 2011



The contributors to *Difference and Democracy* take a novel interdisciplinary approach to this important dimension of social interaction in Europe, drawing on political science, sociology, communications studies, legal studies, and art history. Contrary to alarmist accounts of difference in Europe, these essays explore its potentially positive impact, outlining the conditions under which differences could lead to effective and legitimate political action.