

Jean Monnet Circle Seminar:

How does the European Union work? Functions, institutions and ongoing challenges

Guidebook

Winter Term 2023-24

Friday, 2 pm – 5:15 pm

online via zoom



Centre for Cultural and General Studies
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)

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Seminar Schedule

Date	Topic	Lecturer
03.11.23	Law within the European Union; Human Rights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judicial organs in the European Union Normative groundwork of the European Union Human Rights and European Integration 	Prof. h.c. Dr. Ingo Bott
10.11.23	Europe meets the others – the others meet Europe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theories of identity and diversity Concepts of integration in European societies Cultural pluralism and multiculturalism in Europe 	Prof. Dr. Caroline Y. Robertson-von Trotha
17.11.23	Europe and the Stars – Images, Narratives and the Embodiment of a Cultural Vision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critical awareness-raising of Europe’s cultural identity Literary and visual traditions that shape the idea of Europe Continuities and transformations of European Symbols 	Dr. Dr. Jesús Muñoz Morcillo
24.11.23	The European Union. Institutional Design, Democratic Deficit and Options of Reform <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competencies and legislative procedures of the EU Treaty of Lisbon as an alternative to a European Constitution European Commission, Council, Parliament, and Court 	Prof. Dr. Monika Oberle
01.12.23	The European Union and LGBTIQ* rights – a conflicted “ally” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ABC of LGBTIQ* equality The EU as an “ally”: Historical, political and legal context Current developments: Towards a “Union of Equality”? Queer perspectives on the EU 	Thomas Klöckner
08.12.23	European Elections 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do European elections work? What is at stake when citizens’ cast their ballot? Will the 2024 European elections trigger EU reforms? 	Julian Plottka
15.12.23	Economic and Monetary Union in the EU more information following soon	Prof. Dr. Dirk Wentzel

Prof. h.c. Dr. Ingo Bott

Lawyer and partner at “Plan A – Kanzlei für Strafrecht”

Honorary Professor for criminal law and compliance at Universidad Tecnológica del Perú

Expert for Criminal Law for the Council of Europe

Law within the European Union; Human Rights

Our workshop will begin by dealing with the sources of European Union Law. We will learn and discuss how European institutions define the normative groundwork upon which the Union is supposed to grow. Another main topic will be how and why Human Rights apply when talking about the European Union and its institutions.

The lecture is meant to be and will be interactive. Active participation and discussion is highly encouraged. We will follow a very practical approach dealing with real cases and decisions. Exemplary scopes are: freedom of speech; migration; labour mobility; Brexit; Foreign relations; criminal investigation and prosecution beyond national borders.

Literature and links:

- Herdegen, Matthias: Europarecht, 15. Auflage, 2013.
- Meyer-Ladewig, Jens; Nettesheim, Martin; von Raumer, Stefan: Europäische Menschenrechtskonvention, 4. Auflage, 2017.
- Oppermann, Thomas; Classen, Claus Dieter; Nettesheim, Martin, Europarecht, 7. Auflage, 2016.
- https://europa.eu/european-union/topics/human-rights_en.
- https://euro-lex.europa.eu/summary/chapter/human_rights.html?root_default=SUM_1_CODED%3D13.

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Prof. Dr. Caroline Y. Robertson-von Trotha

Founding Director of ZAK | Centre for Cultural and General Studies
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Europe in diaspora: Europe meets the others – the others meet Europe

In the course of globalization and internationalization, people of different cultures are characteristic for modern European societies. Only meeting with the cultural “other” raises awareness for the own cultural identity, for cultural similarities and differences. Accepting other cultures presumes openness for cultural dialogue on the one hand. On the other hand it implies limits of tolerance towards values and norms of foreign cultures that can be in extreme contradiction with existing values and norms of the receiving country. Due to the multicultural composition of European cities, with migrants now living there in the third and even fourth generation, the very concept of “other” has to be questioned. Where European cultural dialogue is constrained it is necessary to question the legal framework of living together. The receiving country can make specific integration offers, such as language courses. Cultural dialogue is only possible if the host society is open regarding other cultures and if migrants are willing to accept the major underlying democratic conditions in the receiving country. Integration in following generations is dependent on many factors, particularly on inclusive practices, levels of education and attitudes of the first generation towards their new home.

Regarding the development of European societies this seminar focuses on:

- Theories of identity and diversity
- Concepts of integration in European societies
- Cultural pluralism and multiculturalism in Europe

The seminar aims to challenge the sociopolitical discourse regarding identity and diversity in Europe.

Literature:

- Barrett, Martyn (2013): Interculturalism and Multiculturalism: Similarities and Differences. Council of Europe Publishing.
- Höllinger, Franz / Hadler, Markus (Hg.) (2012): Crossing Borders, Shifting Boundaries. National and Transnational Identities in Europe and Beyond. Campus.
- Kusenbach, Margarethe / Paulsen, Krista E. (eds.) (2013): Home. International Perspectives on Culture, Identity and Belonging. PL Academic Research.
- Robertson-von Trotha, Caroline Y. (ed.) (2011); Europe: Insights from the Outside (= Interdisciplinary Studies on Culture and Society, Volume 5).
- Robertson-von Trotha, Caroline Y. (Hg.) (2019): Diaspora. Netzwerke globaler Gemeinschaften (=WIKAR Report, Band 3).
- Robertson-von Trotha, Caroline Y. (ed.) (2022): Realities, Challenges, Visions? Towards a New Foreign Cultural and Educational Policy (=WIKAR Report, Volume 4).
- Schoefthaler, Traugott (2007): Adventures in Diversity. New Avenues for Dialogue between Cultures. German Commission for UNESCO.

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Dr. Dr. Jesús Muñoz Morcillo

Research Associate and Lecturer at the Art History Department (IKB)
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)

Europe and the Stars – Images, Narratives and the Embodiment of a Cultural Vision

The idea of Europe as a cultural entity is the result of manifold literary and visual traditions that suggest a civilizing movement from Orient to Occident, from the sunrise to the sunset, from the origin of things to the claim of perfection. An etiological myth about an abducted Asian Princess gave Europe its name, the exile of the Trojan warrior Aeneas that founded Rome gave Europe its political identity, and an Asian prophet called Jesus gave Europe its religion. Consider the European flag: A crown of twelve stars against a sunset-blue sky evokes a rich symbolism that connects Greek and Christian traditions – from Ariadne’s wedding crown (constellation Corona Borealis) to the star crown of the Immaculate.

In this seminar, we will focus on canonical – and often ambiguous – narratives and pieces of art that still shape our awareness of Europe in cultural and political terms. We will discuss how strong these visual and literary traditions are, which artifacts and symbols embody them, and to what extent they have changed their meaning since the birth of the European project.

Literature:

- Figes, Orlando (2019): *The Europeans. Three Lives and the Making of a Cosmopolitan Culture*. New York: Metropolitan Books.
- Fornäs, Johan (2012): *Signifying Europe*. Bristol/Chicago: Intellect.
- Friedmann, Rebecca/Thiel, Markus (ed.) (2016): *European Identity and Culture. Narratives of Transnational Belonging*. London/New York: Routledge.
- Padgen, Anthony (ed.) (2002): *The Idea of Europe. From Antiquity to the European Union*. Cambridge University Press.
- Steiner, George (2012 [2004]): *The Idea of Europe. An Essay*. New York/London: Nexus Institute.
- Wilson, Kevin / von der Dussen, Jan (1995 [1993]): *The History of the idea of Europe*. London/New York: The Open University/Routledge.

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Prof. Dr. Monika Oberle

Professor of Political Science and Civic Education
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**The European Union:
Institutional Design, Democratic Deficit and Options of Reform**

The European Union (EU)´s political decisions affect the life of citizens in its 28 member states more than ever. Not only the number of its members, but also the Union´s competencies have been growing steadily since its original foundation more than sixty years ago. Furthermore, the EU has been “deepened” by introducing the majority vote to decisions in a growing number of policy areas leading to a loss of national sovereignty, a development which – some argue – the democratization of the Union has not kept pace with. The Treaty of Lisbon, ratified in 2009 as an alternative to the failed Constitution, promised to bring both more efficiency and more democracy to the EU-27+, however, it still needs to prove its problem solving capacities.

The seminar will give an introduction to the main institutions (esp. European Parliament, European Commission, European Council and Council of Ministers), competencies and legislative procedures of the European Union, provide an understanding of the much-discussed problem of the EU’s so-called “democratic deficit” and discuss options of institutional reform, taking a critical look at those brought about by the Treaty of Lisbon.

Literature:

- Hix, S., & Hoyland, B. (2011, 3rd ed.): *The Political System of the European Union*. Basingstoke et al.: Palgrave.
- Holzinger, K.; Knill, C.; Peters, D.; Rittberger, B.; Schimmelpfennig, F.; Wagner, W. (2005): *Die Europäische Union – Theorien und Analysekonzepte*. Paderborn u.a.: Schöningh.
- Tömmel, I. (2008, 3. Aufl.): *Das politische System der EU*. München: Oldenbourg.
- Weidenfeld, W. (Hrsg.) (2013, 3. Aufl.): *Die Europäische Union..* München: Fink.
- Wessels, W. (2008): *Das politische System der Europäischen Union*. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag.
- Warleigh-Lack, A. (2009, 2nd ed.): *European Union: The Basics*. London: Routledge.
- <http://europa.eu> (official site of the European Union).

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Thomas Klöckner

Doctoral researcher in EU & Queer Studies at the University of Tübingen

Scientific Coordinator of the European Centre for Research on Federalism (ECRF).

The European Union and LGBTIQ* rights – a conflicted “ally”

Equality and diversity have been core norms of the European Union (EU) for many decades, and the goal of combatting discrimination based on sexual orientation was already added to the EU Treaties in the late 1990s. Since then, advocacy for the concerns of the LGBTIQ* community has evolved into a significant aspect of the EU’s political agenda. Since 2019, the European Commission, under the presidency of Ursula von der Leyen, has committed itself to create a more equal Union and to foster the rights of sexual and gender minorities. However, LGBTIQ* rights remain a contested issue in the EU. While encouraging milestones have been achieved in some areas and countries throughout the last decade, stagnation or clear steps backwards can be observed in several Member States. In this seminar, we will first explore the wide range of the queer community and the different dimensions of LGBTIQ* rights. We will then conceptualize the EU as an “ally” by looking at the historic evolution and current state of LGBTIQ* rights in Europe as well as the EU’s competences and decisions on the matter. After examining some of the pitfalls and shortcomings of this practice, we will look at recent developments in some Member States and discuss current EU initiatives to promote LGBTIQ* equality. To conclude, I will give some brief comments on “Queer” research in Political Science and EU Studies.

Literature and Links:

- Ayoub, Philip (2016): *When States Come Out: Europe’s Sexual Minorities and the Politics of Visibility*. Cambridge University Press.
- Ayoub, Phillip; Paternotte, David (Eds.) (2014): *LGBTI Activism and the Making of Europe*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Ayoub, Phillip; Paternotte, David (2019): *Europe and LGBT Rights. A Conflicted Relationship*. In Michael J. Bosia, Sandra M. McEvoy, Momin Rahman (Eds.): *The Oxford handbook of global LGBT and sexual diversity politics*. New York: Oxford University Press. DOI: 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190673741.013.11
- de Groot, David (2023): *The rights of LGBTI people in the European Union*. Briefing, European Parliamentary Research Service, May 2023 [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS_BRI\(2023\)74786](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS_BRI(2023)74786) (14.09.2023).
- European Commission (2020a): *Spotlight on the EU and LGBTI equality*, February 2020. <https://op.europa.eu/webpub/com/factsheets/lgbti/en/> (14.09.2023)
- European Commission (2020b): *Union of Equality. LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025*, November 2020. https://commission.europa.eu/system/files/2020-11/lgbtiq_strategy_2020-2025_en.pdf (14.09.2023).
- Giegerich, Thomas (Ed.) (2020): *The European Union as Protector and Promoter of Equality*. Cham: Springer.
- Mos, Martijn (2013): *Conflicted Normative Power Europe: The European Union and Sexual Minority Rights*. In: *Journal of Contemporary European Research* 9(1), pp. 78–93. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/288741020_Conflicted_Normative_Power_Europe_The_European_Union_and_Sexual_Minority_Rights (14.09.2023).
- Thiel, Markus (2022): *The European Union’s International Promotion of LGBTI Rights*. London, New York: Routledge

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Julian Plottka

Researcher Associate at the Jean Monnet Chair for European Politics at the University of Passau and Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn.

European Elections 2024

In June 2024, the citizens of the European Union directly elect the Members of the European Parliament. Since the first European elections in 1979, the elections suffer from a low turnout. They are considered secondary to national elections, because in European elections, there is less at stake.

The course will analyse how the European elections and the following process of electing a new European Commission work. Are the European elections still secondary? Or will EU citizens decide about the composition of the next European Commission, as the concept of the Spitzenkandidaten procedure suggests? What are the topics most likely discussed in the electoral campaigns? Will the new Commission turn these campaign promises into policies? What are the deficiencies of the current system of European elections? Is there a debate on reforming the EU institutions to make them more democratic?

Literature and Links:

- Kaeding, Michael/Müller, Manuel/Schmälder, Julia /Hrsg.): Die Europawahl 2019. Ringen um die Zukunft Europas, Springer: Wiesbaden 2020, <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-658-29277-5>.
- Plottka, Julian/Müller, Manuel: Enhancing the EU's Democratic Legitimacy. Short and Long-Term Avenues to Reinforce Parliamentary and Participative Democracy at the EU Level, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung: Democracy and Human Rights, Brussels 2020, <https://iep-berlin.de/site/assets/files/1316/fes-study-on-eus-democratic-legitimacy.pdf>

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Prof. Dr. Dirk Wentzel

Professor for Economics and European Economic Relations
Jean-Monnet Chair in European Economic Integration
Pforzheim University

Economic and Monetary Union in the EU

European integration is a success model without precedent. The biggest internal market in the world and the strength of the European currency signify that the EU is an “economic giant” (Henry Kissinger) that continues to grow. The attractiveness of the European integration for non-EU-members still is enormous as the list of countries – in the Balkans and in former states of the Soviet Union – willing to join the EU shows. An obvious and astonishing discrepancy exists between the interior view of the Europeans, who become more and more aware of their strength, and the exterior view on Europe, which in manifold respects turns out to be more critical. European trade policy is perceived as unfair and protectionist by developing countries; European agricultural policy is an exclusive example of regulatory policy. At the same time, the European’s commitment is perceived as too little regarding peace making and peace keeping missions in global trouble spots. The odds of European foreign policy are an essential characteristic for the outside.

This Jean Monnet lecture aims at a clear outside view on Europe on the basis of academic insights. Economic dynamics and political perspectives need to be developed in equal measure to sustainably strengthen Europe’s importance.

Literature:

- Adam, Hans und Peter Mayer (2014): Europäische Integration, UVK Lucius, UTB-Taschenbuch.
- El-Agraa, Ali M. (2011): *The European Union. Economics and Policies*, Cambridge University Press.
- Leonard, Dick (2010): Guide to the European Union. The definitive guide to all aspects of the EU, THE ECONOMIST BOOK.
- Neal, Larry (2007): *The Economics of Europe and the European Union* Cambridge University Press.
- Wagener, Hans-Jürgen und Thomas Eger (2014): Europäische Integration. Wirtschaft und Recht, Geschichte und Politik, 3. Auflage, München.
- Wentzel, Dirk (2006): *Europäische Integration. Ordnungspolitische Chancen und Defizite*, Schriften zu Ordnungsfragen der Wirtschaft, Band 82, Stuttgart und New York.

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Formal requirements regarding the Jean Monnet Circle Seminar

- Participation in all lectures of the Circle Seminar is **obligatory**.
- Credits can be received through a paper which deepens the **topic of one lecture** (in agreement with the respective lecturer).
- **2 ECTS** credits can be acquired through active participation and preparation of the seminar and an additional protocol, reflection paper or short essay (7.000 characters)
- **3 ECTS** credits can be acquired through a scientific paper (of 4 to 5 pages or 12.000 to 15.000 characters) elaborating on the assigned topic.
- **4 ECTS** credits can be acquired through a scientific paper (of 8 to 10 pages or 24.000 to 30.000 characters) elaborating on the assigned topic.
- **5 ECTS** credits can be acquired through a scientific paper (of 10 to 15 pages or 30.000 to 45.000 characters) elaborating on the assigned topic.
- **6 ECTS** credits can be acquired through an essay (of 15 to 20 pages or 45.000 to 60.000 characters) elaborating on the assigned topic.
- If you want to write an essay, **you can freely choose your own topic** or use a **suggestion from the lecturer**.
- Please use the **MLA Style Guide for citations** (https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/index.html). Your paper should meet the usual academic standards in its formal presentation, i.e. designate quotations as such (no plagiarism!), etc.
- It is your responsibility to submit your paper on time, until the **1st of March 2024**.
- Please submit your paper (including a signed declaration on the independent writing https://www.zak.kit.edu/downloads/Plagiarism%20Declaration_ZAK.pdf and citation of all used sources) **via mail** to the respective lecturer, with Sophia Wagner sophia.wagner9@kit.edu/Christine Myglas christine.myglas@kit.edu in CC.
- For questions please contact: Sophia Wagner (sophia.wagner9@kit.edu)
- Further information: <https://www.zak.kit.edu/english/6125.php>