



THESEUS

establishing a European society

NEWSLETTER

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UPDATE IN BRIEF

THESEUS Outstanding Award 2014

Loukas Tsoukalis, Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP) was awarded the THESEUS Award 2014 for Outstanding Research on European Integration. Wolfgang Wessels, THESEUS Chairman, complimented Tsoukalis for his engagement in the field of European politics. He cherished that Tsoukalis did not recede from keeping an attentiv and critical view towards EU developments. Listen to Tsoukalis' acceptance speech and read more about the scientist on: <http://theseus.uni-koeln.de/index.php?id=220>.



UPCOMING EVENTS 2015

The year 2015 will come with a set of new and diverse THESEUS events. The seminar Europe@Work and the THESEUS Summer School 2015 will take place in June 2015. Emiliano Grossman, Sciences Po Paris, will come to Cologne as the next THESEUS Visiting Professor, and THESEUS Outstanding Award Winner 2014 Loukas Tsoukalis, ELIAMEP, will hold a speech in Cologne. More information on upcoming events will follow on www.theseus-europe.net.

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FEATURE TOPIC: EU PRE-PRESIDENCY CONFERENCE

On 4 December 2014, more than 100 politicians and scientists came together in Riga to discuss Latvia's working priorities for its upcoming presidency of the Council of the EU starting in January 2015. „Yes, we are ready”, stated Lolita Čigāne, member of the Latvian Parliament, in her opening speech at the EU Pre-Presidency Conference. „We are highly motivated for this presidency and we want to work closely together with our European partners to make the best out of it.“ Along the conference title „Moving the Union forward: Involvement, Growth, Sustainability”, Latvia aims at fostering a competitive, engaged and digital Europe.

At the conference, six topics were discussed in single panel sessions: citizens' concerns in a stronger EU, the Union's role in the international arena, European energy policy, the Eastern partnership, relations to Central Asia, and the EU's digital market. The conference was a great chance to reflect these topics from an interdisciplinary and international perspective. Interested young researchers were invited to participate. The conference was jointly organized by THESEUS, the Latvian Institute of International Affairs (LIIA) and the Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA). <http://theseus.uni-koeln.de/index.php?id=221>.



THESEUS is a European network of thinkers and actors. THESEUS aims at fostering an open and constructive dialogue about future challenges of Europe between academia and politics as well as between generations. Its purpose it to establish a European interdisciplinary and cross-generational network.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

PHD WORKSHOP 2014

On 16 and 17 October 2014, the THESEUS PhD Workshop took place at Centre d'études européennes (CEE), Sciences Po Paris. Ten postgraduate students of different universities had been selected to present their research works on the topic „The EU after the Crisis”, and to discuss these with professors Renaud Dehousse, CEE Sciences Po, and Wolfgang Wessels, Jean Monnet Chair, University of Cologne, as well as with senior discussants.



„The workshop was a great opportunity to receive constructive feedback from fellow PhDs and well-established academics”, said participant Alexandra Maria Bocscé, University of Cambridge, after the workshop. „It will greatly help me in improving the theoretical framework and structure of my PhD work.” Participant Yoav Shemer-Kunz, University of Strasbourg and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, described the workshop as „a moment of inspiring exchange of thoughts and a great motivation” to pursue his academic career. Registration for the next THESEUS PhD Workshop will be in spring 2015. Do you want to take the chance and participate? Get more insights in previous THESEUS PhD Workshops on: <http://theseus.uni-koeln.de/index.php?id=workshop>.

www.theseus-europe.net

THESEUS VISITING PROFESSORSHIP 2014/15

Exploring the characteristics and origins of Euroscepticism – that is, what THESEUS Visiting Professor 2014/15 Céline Belot, Sciences Po Grenoble, does with her students in her current Master seminar „From Europhiles to Eurosceptic citizens: Exploring the EU legitimacy crisis” at the University of Cologne (UoC). Why have we observed a shift of a period of permissive consensus, a kind of indifference towards EU politics, to a situation of growing Euroscepticism since the beginning of the 1990s? What influence did media and political actors have on this development? And: Why do differences exist between citizens’ attitudes of the EU across EU member states? Belot’s seminar started on 27 October, when Belot also held her public inaugural lecture „The emergence of the EU as a political issue: cause for despair or source of hope for European integration” at the Fritz Thyssen Foundation in Cologne. In her speech, Belot depicted the term „politization” and explained its development within the EU context. She shared results of one of her recent studies on the French presidential elections in 2012. The study shows that nowadays political parties have to position themselves on EU issues to gain voters support. French citizens who feared European integration



voted for instance for the EU-sceptic Marine le Pen, whereas those who worried that EU politics might erode social policies voted for the left. After her speech, Belot, together with Wolfgang Wessels, Jean Monnet Chair of the UoC, engaged in a lively discussion with her audience on her research as well as further aspects of EU politization. We have spoken with Céline Belot about her motivation and expectations of her seminar at the UoC. You can read the interview on <http://theseus.uni-koeln.de/index.php?id=winter201415>.



ANNOTATION

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THESEUS & THE JEAN MONNET CHAIR COLOGNE



Jean-Monnet-Lehrstuhl | Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Th. Wessels



*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year | Joyeux Noël et
Bonne Année | Frohe Weihnachten und ein gutes neues Jahr
2015*



THESEUS and the Jean Monnet Chair Cologne wish you all Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2015! We are looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming activities, and thank you for your interest in the THESEUS project!

IMPRESSUM:

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