

Summer School - Call for proposals

Political Constructions of Europe New Historical and Sociological Approaches

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Context

The second edition of the Summer school will bring together senior scholars, postdoctoral students, and Ph.D candidates for an intensive four-day exchange on new historical and sociological approaches to European Studies. The school will be held in the extraordinary setting of the Moulin d'Andée (<http://www.moulinande.com>) located on the banks of the Seine in Normandy, one hour outside of Paris. It will be a unique opportunity for in-depth empirical, methodological and conceptual discussions on the study of the European Union and an occasion to strengthen and broaden existing European networks of scholars.

Pursuing the initial exchanges of 2015, this year's edition will take stock of the recent evolutions in the field of EU studies and will sketch out a shared research agenda. Until quite recently, work in history, political science and sociology developed quite independently, but recently the disciplinary boundaries have softened and shifted. A number of political scientists developed approaches inspired by political sociology and socio-historical perspectives ; simultaneously, a new historiography of European integration has emerged with a generation of historians from Germany, Denmark, France and elsewhere, who developed and explored more sociological perspectives and methods (transnational networks, field theory, etc...). These historians have called for closer collaboration between the disciplines as a way to renew the field of EU studies and study the blind spots of existing paradigms. Sociology had until recently remained on the sidelines, but recent research on professions and configurations of elites in their relationship to the "European project" have provided new avenues for closer cooperation with political sociology and history.

Overall, these innovations have generated several new insights: a more historically-grounded perspective which places contemporary transformations in their context of historical possibility; a more actor-centered orientation which questions the porosity of social spaces affected by European institutions while embedding "European actors" in wider social spaces; a more empirically-focused research agenda, opening black boxes and conceptualizing central ideas of the European process as the result of actors' mobilizations and legitimation strategies; last but not least, a more reflexive posture able to question forms of entanglement and circulation between an emerging transnational academic field and EU-implicated fields.

Objectives

The residential Summer school follows three objectives. The first is the diffusion of new research concepts, methods and research techniques which have developed in parallel within the different disciplines (historical sociology, field-theory, prosopography, articulation between quantitative and qualitative methodologies, etc.). The second is the development of forms of reflexivity of EU studies' scholars, a domain which has remained for the most part a blindspot, but which has recently become a topic of research interest regarding the "making of the European Union". The third is to consolidate to take stock of recent developments in cross-disciplinary research and identify some shared objects for future research.

Organization

The Summer school will be organized around 6 half-day themes spanning over 3 and half days (27-30 July 2016). Each half-day (3 hours) will be dedicated to a theme which will follow the same structure: a keynote presentation of 45 minutes by a senior researcher will focus on the state of the art, methodological questions, research practice and perspectives; a discussion of two or three papers written by participants which operationalize the concept or method being discussed; an open discussion with all participants. Among confirmed keynote speakers: Virginie Guiraudon, Kiran Patel and Sylvain Laurens. The sessions will be structured as follows

- 1) *Socio-historical approach of EU polity formation*
- 2) *EU Studies and the "European project": "dangerous liaisons"?*
- 3) *Field-theory in Brussels: opportunities and difficulties*
- 4) *Sociography and prosopography of European actors*
- 5) *Studying European attitudes and perceptions*
- 6) *Transnational circulations and transfers*

Application process

The Summer school is open to all researchers interested in developing their skills or participating in these interdisciplinary discussions and perspectives on European topics. This includes senior researchers or lecturers, post-doctoral students, and PhD students. All proposals will be examined, but preference will be given to first time participants. We plan to bring together a total of 30-35 scholars. **Discussions will be mainly held in English but participants are expected to have a passive knowledge of French.** Participants will be expected to remain for the duration of the Summer school.

Please send a CV and one to two pages description of a paper proposal describing the research object, the methodological approach and the empirical material, to the organizers (georgakakis@univ-paris1.fr; jay.rowell@misha.fr; vauchez@univ-paris1.fr) by **March 15th, 2016**. Participants will be rapidly informed and paper givers will be asked to send their papers by June 1st, 2015.

Participants will be asked to cover their travel costs to and from the Moulin d'Andé train station but **all other expenses will be covered by the Summer school.**