The European University
Institute offers first-class research facilities in a stunning Renaissance setting

In this issue of the EUI Review, the reader will find a variety of ‘voices from the past’, belonging to alumni who look back at their EUI experience and some of whom take the opportunity to make recommendations for the Institute’s future. The reader will note that many of them do not refer to the Institute or to the EUI, but more poetically to the Badia. This used to be the common designation at a time when all the EUI’s activities were concentrated in the historical building of the Badia Fiesolana. However, since 1990, the EUI has swarmed across the hillside and is now located in around a dozen different buildings in the area between Florence and Fiesole. Nowadays, a researcher in the Economics Department would not refer to their years at the ‘Badia’, since most of their working life would have been spent at Villa San Paolo, near Piazza Le Cure, with only very occasional forays into the Badia Fiesolana. Similarly, most seminars attended by members of the Departments of Law and History take place at Villa Schifanoia rather than the Badia. Still, the Badia Fiesolana remains the prima inter pares among the buildings: it is home to the President and the Library, the best mensa and the Bar Fiasco, and it is here that the June Ball and the annual Awards Ceremony take place.

This increase in the number of locations is the expression of a steady expansion of the number of people who belong, at any one time, to the EUI’s intellectual and administrative community. One consequence of this is that encounters and intellectual exchange do not always happen spontaneously, as in the early days. Instead, working groups have to be set up, and lunch meetings arranged in order to discuss research projects and ideas;
Marco Del Panta Ridolfi was nominated Secretary General of the European University Institute by the High Council in December 2006 and takes up his post in March 2007.

The new Secretary General studied Political Sciences at the University of Florence, paying frequent visits to the Library of the EUI. In 1988 he entered the Italian Diplomatic Service and worked in Vienna and Cairo, and on two occasions followed his specific interest in the scientific and cultural aspects of diplomacy in the Cultural and Scientific Department of the Italian Foreign Ministry in Rome. From 2004 Marco Del Panta worked in Brussels at the Italian Permanent Representation to the European Union where he followed the dossiers of Culture, Research, Audiovisual and Telecommunications. He was also the Italian negotiator for the 7th EU Framework Programme for Research. Starting in 2006, he took part in the negotiations on the enlargement of the Union to Turkey and Croatia.

A new Secretary General for the EUI

Bruno de Witte is Professor of European Law and Dean of Studies at the EUI
All told, I spent three years at the EUI. I left the Institute early in 1995 after a year and a half in the SPS department, and then returned on sabbatical from the European Commission to the Robert Schuman Centre and graduated in 2001 under the supervision of Yves Mény. Both periods were thoroughly enjoyable, although if I had been more aware of how lost for a topic I was during my first year I might have enjoyed it less!

On my return to the European Commission in Brussels in 2001 I got a job for which my EUI credentials were certainly instrumental. I joined the Prodi Task Force on the reform of EU governance headed by Delors’ former ‘forward study’ man Jérôme Vignon. His long-standing commitment to introduce academic thinking into the Brussels policy debate made him notice the EUI on my résumé. By that time the Institute was well on its way to becoming a household name amongst Brussels decision-makers. What an irony then that the final output of our work was heavily criticised by the academic community, not least through the ‘molehill’ metaphor which Yves Mény’s Robert Schuman Centre coined for the White Paper on EU Governance.

Perhaps I had not paid sufficient attention after all during my talks with my supervisor and failed to absorb the knowledge transmitted at EUI seminars? Not really. While a lot of my university education has disappeared in a black hole—how scary—some EUI seminars are still stored in my brain. I vividly remember learning about regulatory policies from Majone, the methodological insights into social science research of Eder and Bartolini, Keating’s views on the rise of regions, and the understanding of power which Heydebrand—in spite of his short stay—and Lukes bestowed on me. I also remember a whole range of impressive talks given by distinguished academic guests who visited the Badia.

Whereas the EUI had opened the doors of EU governance, the governance paper opened doors to joining advisory teams of various Members of the European Commission. I had never intended to become a spokesperson but, as with public policy, life can take unintended turns. For three years I was the European Commission’s spokesperson on the EU Constitution working closely with Michel Barnier and also briefly with Antonio Vitorino at the Giscard Convention and the IGC. This was a fun period full of creative work and political crisis management. I vividly recall all the discussions with the Brussels media on the Commission’s position in the EU’s institutional triangle and the place of God in the Preamble.

Certainly my Florence training had prepared me to interact with the so-called intellectuals of the Brussels press room, the ‘institutional nerds’ as some would call them (unjustifiably in my view, given the importance of institution-building, but then again that is the EUI alumnus speaking). Our excitement of that period came from questions related to the balance of power between political institutions or Member States of varying sizes. I dealt with many other politically sensitive challenges on which the Commission as a whole did not always take the clearest position.
My last day of work on the EU Constitution was in October 2004 in Rome. I spent a sunny autumn day waiting for the signatures on the Treaty to dry and watching the city from the Capitol Hill; it was a day exactly like the many sunny autumn days I had spent on the Loggia of the Badia. After this experience I ‘landed’ a job as the spokesperson for EU Transport policy, although most of my time was spent on aviation and maritime issues. The good thing after the Constitutional experience was to come back to a public policy file which raised many issues that I had studied for my doctorate, from regulatory costs over implementation problems to mobilisation of protest by affected groups. The most interesting issues I dealt with were the EU’s satellite navigation project Galileo, with constant opposition from American media and some big businesses; the EU–US negotiations to create a transatlantic aviation market; and cases of company restructuring under competition law in the airline and railway industry.

I also worked for President Barroso as spokesman for the transition team. Here the word transition refers to the period between the European Council’s appointment of the future Commission President and the confidence vote for the full college by the European Parliament. It is an extremely challenging and instructive period in terms of high EU politics. During his parliamentary hearing, Rocco Buttiglione, one of the 2004 nominees for the Commission, decided to make his own transition to Eurofame by calling homosexuality not a ‘crime’, but certainly a ‘sin’, and by labeling the subsequent row a struggle between Catholic Europe versus the others. The Italian debate on the EU was not really improved when a Minister of the Berlusconi government came to Buttiglione’s rescue stating that ‘everyone knew the EP was full of “faggots” anyway’. In short, while transition period may sound semantically boring there were few dull days in the office, either for media or spokesman.

How had the EUI prepared me for all this and shaped my career? Although I had been exposed to international environments before coming to Florence my stay at the EUI was my first exposure to a truly multi-national setting. I was amused to observe how some nationalities would often stick together, a rather unusual practice for Belgians! Moreover, being at the EUI was a daily training in bridging diversity between research traditions and political views, a good preparation for an EU civil servant. The seminars and my thesis supervision introduced conceptual rigour to my thinking and sharpened my analytical skills considerably; something I still carry with me today.

Graduating from the EUI and publishing papers based on my work also helped me to fulfil my ambition to keep a foot in academia. I teach a course at the College of Europe on regions and the EU, a direct result of my PhD thesis. Teaching is not just important to maintain some sanity while working in a public administration. It is also something that I thoroughly enjoy doing, sharing knowledge and learning from students. I hope that one day better bridges can be built between the world of policy-makers and the world of policy thinkers in academia.

The ‘garbage can theory’ which I partially applied in my thesis does not make me overtly optimistic about the prospect for such bridging; there are some people in this world who carry solutions around, there are others who know about policy problems. Chance encounters can occur, but whether we can make them happen is a question that still occupies me today. It is therefore no coincidence that I am writing this piece in New Haven as a World Fellow at Yale University on a brief sabbatical from the European Commission. My quest to ‘force luck’ in bridging policy and academia continues.

One other chance encounter of my life is a EUI success story. My wife and I have been happily together since 1993. We met at the EUI before I had even found a supervisor. First things first.

Stefaan De Rynck is Spokesperson for the Commission of the European Union, and is currently a Fellow of the Yale World Fellows Programme.
When I arrived at the EUI the Cold War was still on. When I left, we were living in another world. When I arrived, we still talked of the European Community. When I left, I was a citizen of the European Union. During these years, the world changed and Europe changed. Even if I was not immediately conscious of the historical dimension of the changes, I felt that I was changing too.

I was never a great customer of Bar Fiasco, but it was there that I saw, with my German colleagues with tears in their eyes, the fall of the Berlin Wall. It was at coffee, on the Badia sunny terrace, that I discussed, heatedly, the first Gulf War. It was here that I felt the first signs of the Maastricht Treaty.

Although I did not learn theory and methodology at the Institute—I brought this from my university in Lisbon—it was there that I found the optimal conditions to develop my scientific work. I spent many of my days in EUI’s excellent Library, arguably the best for European studies. I never had a permanent work place, but liked to change and I always looked for a place by a window, expecting a different view. It was in the Institute that I attended seminars, agreed and disagreed, and often lunched at the same table with those whose work I had just been reading, and who I admired from a distance. I studied with those who were my intellectual references.

“I spent many of my days in EUI's excellent Library, arguably the best for European studies”

But at the Institute we did much more than just write a thesis, and we learnt much more than just science. It was at the Institute that I improved my languages: English, French and Spanish and fell in love with Italian but, lazily, gave up on German.

On the Loggia, with Florence on the horizon, I gave up reading only Portuguese newspapers and learnt to benefit from reading the international press. It became a compulsion. Today I can’t live without it.
But I learnt more than just that. I learnt that my colleagues from northern Europe would be in the lunch queue at noon and my southern colleagues would arrive at just before two o’clock when the mensa was about to close. The first would be back working in the Library at two o’clock while the second would still be in the coffee bar.

“I learnt that Europe’s strength is precisely its diversity which also enriches our unity.”

I learnt that Europe’s strength is precisely its diversity which also enriches our unity. And all this—knowledge and citizenship—makes a university.

At the time I was not particularly aware of the fact, but, years later, visiting many of the greatest European and North American universities (I was Visiting Professor at Berkeley and Georgetown) I had no doubts: the European University Institute is on a par with the best universities in the world. And we have reason to be proud of it.

And there is something that other universities don’t have—Florence. As many of you, I lived at Pian di Mugnone for a year, but I loved cities. In the second year I moved to Florence, oltrarno to a small monolocale with a window over the Arno. It reminded me of E.M. Forster’s novel but I used to say that it was not so much a ‘Room with a view’ as ‘a view with a room’.

Nuno Severiano Teixeira was Professor of International Relations at the New University of Lisbon. Since July 2006 he has been the Portuguese Minister of Defence

The Upper Loggia Revisited

HEC 1983-1986 | Sophie De Schaepdrijver

I was a graduate fellow in Florence in 1983–1986 (History Department). I vividly remember the visit to the Badia and the interview, and my elation, at 21, at being admitted to the programme. Looking around the Badia’s galleries I came across the balcony with its classic view and equally classic reclining chairs, and asked whom those chairs were for; my guide snorted and said, ‘Well, they’re for us students, what do you think?’... Whether this imbued me with a sense of privilege, I can’t remember, but it certainly was a luxurious start to three years of research in a splendid environment.

My study of foreign migration, social topography, and the urban labour market in nineteenth-century Brussels required lengthy periods of archive work; it was good to come back to Florence and immerse myself in the library, a Fundgrube where, on days off, I contemplated other avenues of research—which I was able to pursue later.

Career-wise, these were very grim times for historians, but quantitative skills helped, as did the willingness to migrate; so, after leaving Florence, I taught statistics for the humanities at the Free University of Amsterdam (VU). I spent a year as a Fellow at the Amsterdam School for Social Studies, and defended my PhD at the University of Amsterdam (UvA) in 1990. The thesis was published in the same year. I subsequently taught at Groningen University, and at the University of Leiden, where I was awarded tenure in 1992. I moved to the U.S.A. for personal and professional reasons in 1995, spending my first year as a Fellow at the National Humanities Center in North Carolina, where I wrote my second book on Belgium in World War One. After a few years of teaching at New York University, I was appointed associate professor of modern European history at Penn State University, where I have been since 2000 (minus one year spent as a Fellow at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Studies, 2005–2006).

I congratulate myself on having been fortunate enough to stay in the profession (not a foregone conclusion back in the 1980s), to see for myself, through teaching, how students are drawn to history, and to choose my own areas of research. I finally feel entitled to one of those reclining chairs, on the fabled balcony-with-a-view. Grazie mille!

Sophie De Schaepdrijver is Associate Professor of Modern European History at Pennsylvania State University

Spring 2007
The European University Institute introduced me to Italy, Italians and a marvellous cast of characters that formed my outlook not only on international law but with regard to a number of the important things in life. Once I had first learned to live off *spaghetti aglio, olio e peperoncino*, and handled the art of making a proper *espresso*, I found myself participating in seminars with inspiring teachers and thinkers. Cassese, Weiler, Cappeletti, Teubner, Bercusson, de Witte, and Joerges made a particular impression. We were also exposed to a marvellous range of visiting scholars and key decision makers: Dworkin, Dinstein, Delors, and Due (at the time President of the European Court of Justice) to mention just a few by opening my EUI address book at random. One felt one was at the fulcrum of not only European integration, but also of a significant epistemic community. For me this was more than simply rubbing shoulders with scholars, I witnessed remarkable gatherings which have had considerable impact. I might mention here a long lunch hosted by Cassese. The group drafted a first version of a treaty concerned with visits to places of detention in order to prevent torture. It was premature. But last year, nearly 20 years later, the idea came to fruition and we saw the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. I only took the notes and served the wine, but I have become a sought after ‘expert’ on the origins of the Treaty. At that time there were few requirements with regard to courses, one attended or participated according to whim and developing interests. I discovered that I could get different insights into my legal research preoccupations by attending seminars on political science, philosophy, and sociology. I met people who were sceptical about international law in general and human rights in particular. This made EUI a very formative place to be. I can still picture seminars with Lukes, Barry, Bourdieu and Eagleton.

I came for a one year LLM and stayed for five. During that time I was lucky enough to be recruited by Antonio Cassese as his research associate and doctoral student. In town I might have been referred to as a *porta borsa*, but at the Badia I got to work on fascinating research projects. Starting with a book about the Achille Laure incident, moving on to a couple of conferences, one on torture and another on the regulation of transfrontier television, and finally busting a gut for a mega project on the European Union and Human Rights. In this last project I got real insights into how things get done in an inter-governmental context. It helped me to blag my way into a job as the representative of Amnesty International to the UN in New York. Faced with questions about lobbying at the UN, I gave examples of what we had done to convince the EU to change course. When asked whether I could cope in a multicultural environment I regaled the panel with stories of coping with the *Cassa di Risparmio*. The Badia gave me a sense of the multicultural, the international, and the aspirations of some to build the supranational.

Towards the end of my time I landed a job working with Nino Cassese and Joseph Weiler on the new Academy of European Law. This was a great adventure, undertaken along with many others. Villa Schifanoia is a pretty decent work environment. It was remarkably easy to persuade academics to come to Florence for a week or more in June. I myself have been cajoled back to give courses at the Academy three times. Having the chance to try out ideas with such a diverse and engaged audience certainly improved the published version of the General Course I gave in 2004.1

I now work as an academic at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, where we are developing a new institution together with the University of Geneva and the International Committee of the Red Cross. When it came to devising a name and image I wanted us to be an Academy. I argued that we would be seen as reaching the same high standards as the Florence Academy. The Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights will start in October 2007 with a raft of research projects and a bilingual LLM (English and French). As the old adage goes: imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

Andrew Clapham is Professor of Public International Law at the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva

---

**What is your current role?**

I’m on the Executive Board of ING Group, a global financial services company with about 120,000 employees in over 50 countries and based in Amsterdam and the world’s 13th largest company, according to *Fortune Magazine*. I’m in charge of retail and private banking, corporate operations and IT. My work brings me into contact with Europe and Asia, focussing on promising markets emerging in places such as Poland, India and China.

**And before that?**

Following EUI, in 1987 I began my career as a management trainee at a Dutch bank, ABN AMRO. Four years later, I moved to ING, where I’ve been ever since, holding various positions, including head of ING Poland and ING Latin America. I moved several times in Poland, Belgium and the US. My three children were born in different countries but now we live in the Netherlands.

**“ That’s only a year at the EUI. Did it really have such an impact on you? Yes, it had an enormous impact. It was a fantastic place. Fan-tas-tic.”**

**And when were you at EUI?**

My period of study at EUI ran from September 1986 to August 1987. But in addition to the 12 months in Florence, I spent 6 months back in Amsterdam writing up my LLM thesis. And believe me, working at the bank during the day, and writing up my thesis into the small hours, I needed every single day of those six months!

**That’s only a year at the EUI. Did it really have such an impact on you?**

Yes, it had an enormous impact. It was a fantastic place. *Fan-tas-tic.* Maybe my memories have become too romantic over time, but I still get very enthusiastic about it. All those people from so many different backgrounds, with different values, and seeing reality in a different way.

You discover the extent of your ‘national baggage’ and one of the great opportunities at EUI was to confront and get rid of that baggage and become a better observer of reality. By which I don’t mean reasoning away differences. It is a question of understanding differences, learning to attribute them to certain factors in the past or indeed the present, and then being able to deal with them in a fresh way.

I recall a social science professor during my year at EUI who was doing research on national prejudices. His starting point was that if you put intelligent people together, have them live and work together intensively, develop friendships, then they will communicate with each other and all national prejudices will disappear. Not an unreasonable premise, you might think. The work included entrance and exit interviews with many of my fellow students, asking what they thought of, say, Germans, English, Italians, Dutch, etc. His starting point turned out to be completely wrong. Over time national prejudices were strengthened, not weakened! But the character of those prejudices changed, acquiring a level of understanding.

After a year I had developed—and still have—very strong friendships with fellow students from many countries. So it is not that these ‘prejudices’ become antagonistic. But you had the opportunity to really dig into these issues and find out how things get done differently by different societies. But that doesn’t mean done less effectively.

For example, one day I was at a bus stop in Pian di Mugnone and no bus appeared. At last a lady came up and told me there was a bus strike. ‘Strike?’, I thought, ‘But it hasn’t been announced.’ Coming from the Netherlands I assumed there would be a week’s warning, but the strike was just decided on the day and you learned about it by chance.

Then I started thinking: in Holland, if there is a problem, you analyse the problem, you make a plan to solve the problem and then you execute the plan. But sometimes it’s much quicker *not* to make a plan. Skip it, because intuitively you know what to do. You don’t need analysis or planning. Just get on with it. But you only learn that by seeing it first-hand. I realized, there are other ways to do things that also work, and that in many circumstances may produce much better results.

**And have you benefited from that insight in your business career?**

Yes, a lot. Working with different nationalities and cultures, like the Chinese or Dutch culture, is vital in...
my job. It helps me to stand back when working with other cultures and say, well if that's the way the problem's solved here, that's the way it's solved. Who am I to think it should be different?

If you want to work effectively internationally, it is vital to get over the cultural barriers. It allows you to get a handle on the individual, irrespective of nationality. You can see that person in the context of their national traits. And if you can do that, you can connect to them. And once you've learnt that skill, you can apply it in Asia, South America or anywhere. I think that's one of the great lessons I learnt at EUI.

What were some of the other benefits of EUI?
Interacting not just with great brains (because the intellectual quality of the people is quite clear), but also people who are seriously interested in content. There are also very good research facilities and you have the chance to interact with top academics who have worked all over the world.

EUI is an intellectual meeting place. It reminds me a bit of the original concept of the Renaissance Man. And for that to be happening in Florence! The city itself was also extremely inspiring and energizing. It really makes you want to try to do something worthwhile, to make a difference.

What about the intellectual stimulus of EUI, as someone who did not go on to become an academic?
I had a similarly uplifting experience when I attended Harvard Business School eight years later. It's not that in business you don't think, because you really do. Engaging with people who are thinking deeply about topics and doing serious work is an intellectual environment that I love. If I ever had an opportunity to spend time at EUI between jobs, I would jump on it! Not that I can contribute in an academic sense, but to pick other people's brains, replenish my own, get ideas and make observations to use in my job.

What are your thoughts about the future of this institute on its 30th birthday?
EUI has achieved a lot in that time. I'm not an academic, so I can't compare all these great academic institutions, but clearly EUI has established itself as a place of learning 'of high repute'.

“ If you want to work effectively internationally, it is vital to get over the cultural barriers. It allows you to get a handle on the individual, irrespective of nationality. [...] I think that's one of the great lessons I learnt at EUI”
I still think the Institute can play a greater role in Europe by going out more into the world. Not just providing an excellent seat of research, but doing something more practical with that research. Not only publications, which in a sense is a ‘passive’ use of research, but by finding ways to apply it more.

“ I still think the Institute can play a greater role in Europe by going out more into the world”

Europe badly needs ‘thought leadership’ to compensate for its leadership vacuum. The Institute could play a role, providing thought leadership to the political and business movers and shakers of Europe. I appreciate that EUI cannot have as its purpose the building of modern Europe. That’s a political role. But it could, and perhaps should, help provide the intellectual context—the scope, observations, analysis and so on—to help political, business and other social leaders fulfill their role of building a modern Europe.

Around what sort of issues?
Questions like how Europe competes with the US and an emerging India and China, and what role Europe can play in this new world. Others have to make the decisions but the Institute could, for example, provide research programmes that try to answer directly just that sort of specific question.

What is the ‘business plan’ for Europe, for instance? What are we good at? And what does that plan require in terms of governance, decision-making processes and the like. What economic areas should we focus on, given our labour-cost structure? Labour protection is part of our history and culture, so how do we retain elements of that whilst transform it into something that makes us economically competitive in the world?

How do we use our cultural diversity to our advantage? How do we ensure that Europe, with all its cultural diversity, remains an important centre of thought leadership, so that we don’t leave the agenda-setting to big blocks of relatively uniform cultures like the US?

One only has to look at the recent French and Dutch rejection of the European Constitution to see that European political leadership has not been engaging sufficiently with its people. There has to be a context for policy to make sense.

What personal legacy have you retained from your time at EUI?
In my business life one great legacy is that I’ll never be solely an executor of business objectives. I’m always aware of a social dimension, thinking more broadly than just doing business and making money. Which is not a sign of intellectual capacity, but of intellectual experience, and for me a formative part of that experience was my time at EUI.

Eli Leenaars is a member of the Executive Board of ING Group

Congratulations to…

Jacek Saryusz-Wolski (JMF 1989-90) who has been appointed Chairman of the European Parliament’s Committee on Foreign Affairs. Jacek Saryusz-Wolski has an MA and a PhD in Economics, both from the University of Łódź. He was a professor and Director of the Centre for European Studies there and has been an expert on European communities since the 1970s. He was the first to be appointed Minister for European Affairs in Poland in 1991, and held the position until 1996. He was elected to the Parliament in 2004 for the Republic of Poland’s Platforma Obywatelska and was the Parliament’s Vice-President from July 2004 until January 2007. Jacek Saryusz-Wolski was Jean Monnet Fellow at the EUI, 1989-1990.

Jacek Saryusz-Wolski has an MA and a PhD in Economics, both from the University of Łódź. He was a professor and Director of the Centre for European Studies there and has been an expert on European communities since the 1970s. He was the first to be appointed Minister for European Affairs in Poland in 1991, and held the position until 1996. He was elected to the Parliament in 2004 for the Republic of Poland’s Platforma Obywatelska and was the Parliament’s Vice-President from July 2004 until January 2007. Jacek Saryusz-Wolski was Jean Monnet Fellow at the EUI, 1989-1990.
I first came to the Badia thirty years ago, newly graduated in Philosophy from the University of Trieste and just married to Alberto, a Florentine architect. The Badia offered a considerable research scholarship at a time when the Italian university had closed its purse-strings. But in truth the Institute attracted my attention mainly because of its adjective, ‘European’. Born in Trieste to a Jewish family, whose members came from Dalmatia, Greece, Friuli, Poland and Transylvania, I had suffered from the awkward atmosphere of my city, suspended as it was between the nostalgic remembrance of its Habsburg grandeur and the present crisis due to its unhappy location, surrounded by the Iron Curtain—a place where the consequences of World War II were still heavily felt, with their tail of grudges fostering opposed nationalisms.

Florence in itself had always attracted the Triestines—Slataper, Saba, Stuparich and Dario de Tuoni—looking for the cradle of the Italian culture they revered. The Badia in particular, for a graduate student who had sweated on Neoplatonism, represented a kind of film scenario, where many of her books’ names appeared in the flesh. One could see two professors having a conversation in the corridor, and learn that they were Charles Wilson and Rosario Romeo. Nor was it difficult to detect who was who: one was waving hands about his head while talking loudly, while the other was whispering with his hands clasped behind his back… Carlo Cipolla was also easily recognizable, by his blue waistcoated suit and his thirty-year-old blue 1100 FIAT, in brand new condition, glittering in the Badia car park. What in fact struck me most at the Institute was its atmosphere, international, but at the same time also neatly European. Different car plates also meant different attitudes and different academic traditions: soon I learnt to identify the rhetoric constructions of French students, the harsh but well documented presentations of the Germans, and the ‘Oxford style’, starting with a soft ‘I would have thought’, which announced a devastating assault on the speaker. What appalled me most was the strong competition, which sometimes developed in direct shooting at the target fellow-student who was presenting his paper: this was something unheard of for me, coming from the Italian university, where solidarity among students was compulsory, at least in front of the professor. But students constituted then a small and close community, and some nasty clashes ended up in great drinking at the Bar Fiasco, which was then starting its ‘glorious’ career.

Of course all that glitters is not gold. And at the beginning the Badia had a lot of problems, as all pioneer enterprises. Many of the rules for its functioning had to be invented, and sometimes we were left with the impression that the standards for our academic requirements were changing each week. Furthermore, since students were not selected on the basis of their subjects’ affinity to the competences of the professors, it was often very difficult to find an adequate supervisor.

Personally, I was very lucky. Although I had applied to HEC, I was admitted to the SPS Department because of Maurice Cranston’s interest in my studies on Bentham. I was obliged to attend most of the SPS seminars on quantitative and comparative Political Science. They opened up my views on the subject, which I had tackled only from a philosophical perspective. Together with Stefano Bartolini, Peter Mair and Peter Kenneally, I learnt a lot from Hans Daalder, who fascinated me both for his intellectual enthusiasm and for his moral rigour. I was certainly lucky, compared

“...I learnt to identify different attitudes and different academic traditions: the ‘Oxford style’, starting with a soft ‘I would have thought’, announced a devastating assault on the speaker.”
with other students who never finished their dissertations. I never suffered from the famous 'Badiaitis', a dangerous virus which attacked students and professors alike, who were blinded by the Badia's incredible Winter sunlight, enraptured by its unique landscape, their judgement clouded by the wine and food, and who stopped doing anything but enjoying life. On the contrary, I reacted to the cultural shock doubling my capacity to work, and trying to take all the advantages offered by the place. I remember going around with my research project, inflicting my ideas on Bentham's social philosophy to at least a dozen professors, of all the Departments, even Economics. At the end I was the first Italian student who got her PhD at the Badia, in three years on the dot.

“ The Badia was a privileged observatory for Europe’s building, but also of its difficulties ”

My fondest recollections, however, are associated with my supervisor, the late Maurice Cranston. By EUI rules, I had the right to write my dissertation in Italian. Cranston however urged me to do it in English, and took the painstaking task of correcting it line by line. I still remember those difficult days, discovering a small red question mark on half of my pages: it meant 'I have not understood one single word in this page: re-write it'. Desperate, I learnt a lot, also because he always manifested his appraisal of my efforts: Cranston was a generous master, in Political Theory, in English and in academic life. He taught me to 'go my own way'. I still think of him, when I write a difficult piece, and wonder whether he would have liked it, or cut it with a little red question mark.

Thanks to his appraisal I remained at the Institute as a research fellow. After Cranston went back to London, I became assistant to the SPS Summer School with Rudolph Wildenmann and worked on European government coalitions with Ian Budge. In the meantime, thanks to President Maihofer's enthusiastic support, my thesis was published in the Institute's series with De Gruyter, and more than twenty years later, it is still cited as a standard book in Bentham studies.

The Badia was then a privileged observatory for Europe's building, but also of its difficulties: it entailed an extremely complicated balance between Northern and Southern, Catholic and Reformed, small and big countries, which conditioned all its actions. And yet its enlargement went on, including Spain and Portugal, rescued from authoritarian regimes.


Though never really breaking my contacts, family life and career have kept me somewhat distant from the Institute. Since 1985 my career has developed in the University of Florence, where in 2000 I achieved the Chair in History of Political Thought.

I have worked on Utilitarianism and the History of Feminism, on the theories of property and of political obligation, on 16th to 19th century English and Dutch political thought. But from time to time I could appreciate the wealth of the Badia's intellectual patrimony, as in the case of the ESF Network on 'Republicanism' (1995–1998), where I happened to meet again Martin van Gelderen and Karin Tilmans.

In the meantime Alberto has become an internationally known expert in antique carpets and our daughters Ada and Noemi, who both attended the Institute's crèche, are now respectively 25 and 20.

This academic year I am on sabbatical leave, trying to conclude a decade long research on 'The Jewish Commonwealth as a model in European political thought'. I am very grateful to the History Department for awarding me the Fernand Braudel fellowship, which allows me to write my book, while participating in the Department's activities, particularly the van Gelderen-Strath-Wagner seminar on 'Republicanism and Federalism'. I also hope to help with some of the students' researches, and possibly contribute to re-establish a more important presence of Political Theory at the Institute.

Back to the Badia I realize the many things that have changed, here and in the world. The Institute has dramatically increased in numbers, buildings and reputation. Europe now is again including its Eastern part. Slovenia has entered the European Union. Trieste is flourishing, with its natural hinterland restored. The European Union is slowly finding its identity and its place in the world.

Thirty years have passed since I first entered the Badia, just married. I took advantage. Both Alberto and the Institute have changed my life. For the better.

Lea Campos Boralevi is Professor of History of Political Thought at the Faculty of Literature, University of Florence.
My time at the EUI was a turning point for me, fanning an interest in the European integration process and in the European institutions that has never dimmed and, indeed, has brought me to where I am today.

I belonged to a generation of UK state school children who benefited from an expansion in university education and conscious decisions by the ‘elite’ universities to open themselves up. My father left school at twelve, my mother at fourteen, but I and my two brothers all went to university and two of us went on to further studies. At Oxford I studied PPE (Politics, Philosophy and Economics) and became a convinced internationalist; attempts at cooperation seemed obvious responses to the cataclysmic events that had twice afflicted the twentieth century world. In my final year (1979), I considered applying to the EUI but thought I first needed some post-graduate research experience, so I went to the Johns Hopkins University Bologna Center, gaining a Masters in International Studies. My thesis studied the links between Continental codetermination, the 1977 Bullock Report on Industrial Democracy and the so-called ‘Vredling directive’. My supervisor was Branko Pribicevic, a great Yugoslavian political scientist who had studied at Oxford under G.D.H. Cole. A gentle man with a wealth of knowledge, Pribicevic was living proof that European learning didn’t stop at the EU’s frontiers—something I would remember years later when I managed the Tempus programme.

The EUI was the logical next step. I had wanted to join Peter Flora’s project on the welfare state. But the project was winding down so I joined the team of another great German empiricist, Rudolf Wildenmann, who had just come to the Social and Political Sciences Department and was putting together a major project on the future of party government. Wildenmann, like
Pribicevic, was a grand old man of political science, proud to have rubbed shoulders with Alfred Weber early in an illustrious career. My (hopelessly over-ambitious) research angle was the future of European party government (the first direct elections to the European Parliament had taken place in 1979). Looking back, we were spoiled by the wealth of talent around us. Department members like Peter Flora, Rudolph Wildenmann and Vincent Wright attracted the cream of political science to the Badia, and I suspect we became just a little blasé.

In my first year I lived off Piazza Mino in Fiesole and the morning walk down the Via Vecchia, with its stunning view of Florence halfway, invariably put a song in my heart. Later, I lived out towards Olmo, in a beautiful, though neglected, villa. They were salad days! The EUI had not yet spread to any other building and it was possible to know virtually all the student body and all the administration. There was a lot of well-lubricated socialising, frequently starting at the Bar Fiasco. Our football team tried hard to play the butchers of Greve away at least twice a year (they were generous with their post-match barbecues). I served as student representative for two years and in that guise sat on the Publications Committee and attended meetings of the Academic Council. Through the latter I got to appreciate Werner Maihofer (then President), and Marcello Buzzonetti (then Secretary General), both great Europeans and democrats when it came to political science to the Badia, and I suspect we became just a little blasé.

My time at the EUI was a turning point for me, fanning an interest in the European integration process and in the European institutions that has never dimmed and, indeed, has brought me to where I am today.”

The EPU’s first event was a conference focusing on the Spinelli Treaty. It was my introduction to the European integration process and some of its key players, and I got hooked. Almost immediately afterwards, I went to the European Commission for a five month stage in that part of the Secretariat General dealing with relations with the Parliament. My idea had been to brush up my direct knowledge of the EP before sitting down to draft my thesis.

At that time I was hovering between academia and the European civil service. I liked studying and writing about European integration but I also wanted to be involved directly in it. In an ideal world, I would have liked to have combined both. In the end, the issue was forced when an open competition I had been sitting for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg) came up trumps and I started work there in the autumn of 1985. Eighteen months later I succeeded in another open competition, to the EU’s Council of Ministers, and moved to Brussels. Both experiences have given me a broader vision of the integration process and of European institutions. In Strasbourg I worked as clerk to parliamentary committees on refugees, migration and demography and health and social affairs. I worked alongside some first-rate colleagues from, among other countries, Turkey and I like to say that I have already lived the next big enlargement and know that it can work! At the Council of Ministers I worked in the internal market sector just as the ‘1992’ White Paper’s recommendations were getting under way.

A year after I had arrived in Brussels I got an invitation from my previous director in the Commission to re-join him. I was fascinated by the European Parliament and jumped at the chance. Over the next five years I covered everything economic and monetary, including trade issues. It was a hugely privileged position. Not only did I have a front row view of the various Delors’ Commissions in action, and of the European Parliament’s speedy evolution, but I was ‘in at the creation’ of a number of historic developments; the internal market programme, the economic and monetary union process, and German unification being chief among them.

My thesis had meanwhile languished in boxes. (My fervent advice to all PhD researchers is to get a first draft done before the grant runs out!) To his credit, Wildenmann never stopped nagging me to get on with it, and in the early 1990s I at last successfully defended my thesis at the Badia. (By now, my theme had narrowed down to a study of the way British MEPs had ‘gone native’). Completing and then publishing my thesis was cathartic. I started to write and publish on European institutions and politics and this activity led
in time to an invitation to become a Professor at the College of Europe (Bruges), a privilege and a pleasure I enjoyed for five years (2000–2005). In effect, I was able to realise my ideal.

In the mid-1990s I managed inter-institutional relations in the old ‘DG X’. It was at this time that the first moves (faltering, admittedly) to create a genuine European communication policy got under way. In 2000 I was appointed manager of the Tempus programme and of a number of bilateral exchange programmes with the US and Canada in DG Education and Culture. It was one of the most satisfyingly productive periods of my career. On my watch we extended Tempus first to all of the Western Balkan countries and then, post ‘9/11’, to all nine MEDA countries. At the same time, we got bilateral pilot programmes under way with Australia, New Zealand and Japan. And then, in early 2003, we were able to establish a new programme, Erasmus Mundus, which is a sort of reinforced EU version of the Fulbright programme, and which has since, I note proudly, gone from strength to strength. In this period I also wrote and published a biography of Neil Kinnock.

In 2003 I became Head of Communications in the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and in 2006 I became a Director of Consultative Work. Since the Amsterdam Treaty the Committee has had rule-making autonomy and it has been steadily enhancing its role through broader and more modern interpretations of the consultative function (including fleshing out the concept of ‘participatory democracy’). I find this evolutionary process fascinating. In my current post we are tackling a number of burning issues for the EU, from agricultural reform through to climate change, from the energy package through to industrial conversion. We have just established a Sustainable Development Observatory and are hard at work on issues such as simplification and better regulation.

The photograph (page 13) shows me with a Somali refugee, Zahra Maalow, who lost pretty much everything (family, friends and home) through war but approaches her new life in Europe with an extraordinary and inspiring mixture of optimism and enthusiasm. I met her through a project the EESC did with the British Council on ‘New Young Europeans’. I think it is important we should remember just how far Europe has come, and how fast. War has become a folk memory, and the EU is now hard at work in brokering solutions to global problems, from energy to terrorism, from climate change to intercultural dialogue. Other parts of the world look to our successful model and try to imitate it, and we should help them. Many of the earliest federalists had a global vision and maybe, for people like Zahra, that vision is getting a little nearer.

Martin Westlake is Director for Consultative Work at the European Economic and Social Committee.
When I was admitted at the EUI, Department of Political and Social Sciences in 1984, the Italian university system did not yet offer a doctoral degree and for an Italian student the EUI was the only opportunity to complete a PhD in Italy.

In the few years I spent at the EUI, the Department of Political and Social Sciences was in a state of upheaval. When I defended in June 1989, Professor Steven Lukes had just arrived (but not yet started teaching), while Professor Brian Barry, who had arrived a year earlier to replace Professor Athanasios Moulakis, was leaving after a short and difficult year. I recall that time as the most difficult in my entire academic career. However, I was fortunate enough to have two formidable external supervisors, Norberto Bobbio and Eugenio Garin (I was writing a dissertation on Italian liberalism in the age of state-building and their tutoring was extraordinary), and an excellent scholar and sensitive listener in the person of Professor Brigitta Nedelmann who rescued me by accepting to become my internal supervisor. Hence, although my last years at the Badia were not easy I met wonderfully supportive colleagues and scholars.

When I started writing my dissertation, very few people in Italy used computers; the Italian university system was pre-modern in this respect (even the prestigious Università di Bologna, my alma mater). The Badia was ahead of all Italian academic institutions and extremely well organized: the Computing Service was like heaven for me, not only because of its invaluable experts, but because we students knew we could count on them when (almost weekly, in my case) we panicked for a lost file or a stacking machine.

The most memorable place was, however, the caffetteria, the place in which, one might say, the European Union was palpable. For many of us coming from national universities where foreigners were rare or the universities too big to allow a direct interaction among all their students, the Badia was a cosmopolis. For me at least, studying at the Badia was an existential and civil experience, not only academic—an immersion in a post-national atmosphere.

The first time I went back to the Badia after my graduation was to participate in a workshop on Agonism organized by Peter Wagner in November 2000. It was a moving and exciting experience to be back after almost twenty years. The place looks different, more spacious and functional, yet two things at least remained unchanged to my eye: the classroom where I defended and the view of Florence from the terrace.

Nadia Urbinati is Nell and Herbert M. Singer Associate Professor of Contemporary Civilization at Columbia University.
When I arrived at the Badia in 1980 my peers and I were constantly reminded of our whipper-snapper status by the nostalgia expressed by members of the administration for the so-called ‘pioneers’, those researchers who had arrived in the first years of the institution’s existence. We were ‘newcomers’, we were told, and had missed the important founding years of the Badia.

Everything is relative, and I would be surprised if a ricercatore arriving in 2007 were not to view me and my peers as pioneers, and as having been intimately involved in laying the foundations of the EUI. Indeed, if the ‘first’ generation of pioneers could be defined by those who used the library before it was moved from the old refectory (that’s what we were told we had missed), then the second generation can perhaps be defined as those who used the Bar Fiasco before it was moved from the cloister. It was there that, in such a small community, so much social and academic interaction occurred, and its location en route to the exit ensured that even die-hard ‘prohibitionists’ dropped in for a coca cola and a chat before wandering up to the bus stop to catch the no. 7 home. Once it was moved you had to make a conscious decision to go there…

Looking back, at the time the Badia was an extraordinarily small community. A tiny group of professors, researchers and administrators located in a single building turned us into a genuine community where everyone knew everyone else. In the early 1980s two student Christmas pantomimes were held (an attempt by the British contingent to spread ‘best practice’ across Europe) and virtually all members of the Badia were in the audience, including the professors who watched in horror as they were each cruelly mimicked on stage.

There was only one computer, and I remember us all crowding into a small room on the bank corridor to try and land a space ship on the moon. The ‘typing pool’ for the researchers consisted of a small room off the cloister, with three typewriters, and you had to get there early if you wanted a place. The courtesy rules also dictated that if you left your typewriter for longer than ten minutes you had to cede your place to someone else—an espresso in the morning therefore really was just that. I could go on to describe the old-style mensa, the ‘table tennis’ room, the Bad-ia News and the Worse News (both prestigious forerunners of the EUI Review), the struggles in the bank when the BNL stopped overdrafts, Champagne breakfasts on May Mornings, hot weekends on the beaches of Elba… but if I start I might never stop.

Those days are long gone, and the Badia is a bigger, better and certainly different place now. It has lost the defining characteristic of its early years: that everybody knew everybody else. Yet, at the same time, certain of its features are still present and make the EUI a distinctive place to be. There is the rich array of seminars and workshop activities and the astonishing standing and calibre of external speakers, something almost certainly unmatched anywhere else in Europe. There are the projects run by professors which can provide unique opportunities for doctoral students. There is the egalitarianism in social interaction which is so sadly lacking in many other European universities. And there is, of course, the knocking on the table in lieu of applause, always a sure-fire sign when you are at a seminar elsewhere in Europe of the presence of the ‘Florence mafia’.

“The rich array of seminars and workshop activities and the astonishing standing and calibre of external speakers [are] almost certainly unmatched anywhere else in Europe”
There is also (still!) continuity with the past through some staff members date back to the old days. In the last issue of the EUI Review, the President listed those members of the administration who were still at the Badia and who date back from the early period. Yet, I don’t think he mentioned the academics from that time who have now come back, and whose return says so much about the attractions of the Badia as a scholarly place to be. So if I pay a visit in 2007 it will be like yesterday and not 27 years ago since I will be saying good morning to the likes of Stefano Bartolini, Donatella della Porta, Philippe Schmitter, Peter Mair, Bruno de Witte, and, of course, Yves Mény himself! And did the President not also overlook those academics of yesteryear who have become members of the EUI’s administration? It will not be long now before three of my former PhD colleagues will be the longest-standing employees in the Badia!

There is also a timeless element about the Badia and that is the consistent quality of its graduates. The question is less whether or not that has always been the case than the fact that the difference years ago was that one just did not know. Indeed, if we were to identify a more serious defining characteristic of the Badia ‘pioneer movement’ it would surely be the unknown quantity that the EUI represented at that time. It must surely produce more social science/history/law doctoral graduates each year than any other institution in Europe. Yet, back then, things really were different. People used to ask me why I had come to a largely untried, untested institution of relatively tiny proportions in a converted monastery on the outskirts of Florence, where the doctorates were still not officially recognised by the British government, thereby giving up the opportunity of a PhD at Oxford, whence I had come. ‘Ah, but I’m going back after a year,’ I said. Yet, after a year, ‘something’ got its hooks into me: I cancelled my registration at Oxford and stayed in Florence for over five years, first as a researcher and then as a library assistant (my flatmate and colleague who followed the same route, stayed on for longer…for life it appears). I also subsequently found it difficult to stay away, returning on two occasions for year-long Visiting Fellowships, in addition to a multitude of other short-term visits.

“...a genuine experiment in higher education: a genuine attempt to construct a self-governing, cross-national, European community of scholars...”

Saying that it is an understatement to say that the decision changed my life sounds like an overstatement, but it is true. There is little I could write to express how much my career and life changed as a consequence of the decision to go to Florence in the first place and then to stay on longer than originally intended. The Badia is my alma mater (wherever else I started my studies), and I still feel completely at home when I pass through its doors. And this is not just because I became an Italian politics specialist, nor just because I became an Italo-phile, and nor because I got married in the sala rossa of the Palazzo Vecchio.

No, there is something else in the Badia’s DNA which has an effect on those who pass through its doors; and it’s probably something to do with that nebulous and imprecise idea of not just toleration of other nationalities and cultures, but of learning and thriving from their presence—learning, that is, how to live differently to before. True, not everybody who has passed through its doors has loved the Badia. On the contrary, there have been many who haven’t liked its way of doing things, or, more usually, its way of not doing things. Yet, the Badia has represented, for thirty years now, a unique experiment in higher education: a genuine attempt to construct a self-governing, cross-national, European community of scholars, with all nations bringing their ideas, attitudes, procedures and, yes, habits (good and bad), attempting to draw on the best of this diverse mix to produce a distinctive whole. Everyone at the Badia, wittingly or unwittingly, is part of this exercise, and its impact on individuals would be found to be startling if we stopped to analyse ourselves seriously. My current position as Academic Director of the European Consortium of Political Research owes much, in my view, to my extensive experience of working in the Badia, since the ECPR—in a contextually different manner—has similar aspirations and challenges facing it as the EUI.

If I recall correctly, in the old days there were two ‘great debates’ about the Badia: first, whether it was a ‘University’ or an ‘Institute’ (there was a difference, it was said, and the Badia had to make up its mind); and second, whether and how it should integrate more with the Florentine academic community (it needed to be more Italian in its academic exchange it was said). Those questions were never answered, nor, as far as I am aware, were policy decisions ever made on the back of them: the EUI solved them in its own way through its natural evolutionary development, and in doing so became the unique institution it is now. Long may its evolution continue.

Martin Bull is Professor of Politics and Associate Dean Research, at the University of Salford. He is also Academic Director of the European Consortium of Political Research
Me llamo Susana y trabajo como economista en la City de Londres en un banco de inversión (Deutsche Bank). Imagino que, como economista, trabajar en el sector privado (y más en mercados financieros) es una excepción a la regla, y que el grueso de doctores en Economía acaban trabajando en la Academia, en centros de investigación o en organismos internacionales. En mi caso, no fue una decisión premeditada, sino que ocurrió de manera casual. Cuando acabas la tesis estas deseosa de trabajar donde sea. También imagino que, aunque de vez en cuando echo de menos dar clase, el tirón nunca fue lo suficientemente fuerte como para justificar un giro profesional.

¿Y qué es lo que hago en la City? Nuestro trabajo consiste en predecir las decisiones del Banco Central Europeo sobre los tipos de interés (“the call”). Como la zona del Euro es bastante más heterogénea de lo que sería idóneo en una unión monetaria, hacen falta economistas especializados en cubrir distintas áreas. Yo sigo algunas economías del sur de Europa: España, Italia y Portugal. Si alguien está interesado en el aspecto pecuniario del tema, que sepa que los que de verdad están bien recompensados son los “traders”. Parece ser que nuestra productividad marginal, aquí en el departamento de investigación económica, se considera sensiblemente menor.

Llevo trabajando en la misma institución desde que vine a Londres hace casi diez años; ésto es relativamente extraordinario, sobre todo en el contexto de mercados financieros donde la movilidad es muy elevada. Aun así, mi trabajo ha cambiado bastante dentro del Banco: empecé como económetra, estimando modelos de determinación de tipos de cambio con Mark Salmon y, más tarde, modelos de crisis monetarias con Peter Garber. Actualmente, trabajo como economista de la zona del Euro.

A mí me gusta lo que hago. Como en todos los trabajos, hay elementos repetitivos y, de vez en cuando, tengo que realizar tareas un poco ingrata que debo sortear de la manera más elegante y digna posible; pero, en general, con mi formación (macroeconomista) es un gustazo controlar como se comportan estas economías, hablar con los inversores y descubrir qué les preocupa, hacer predicciones y escribir artículos, ir a la televisión como experta (ya, yo tampoco me lo creo)…. y siempre con el trasfondo de la política monetaria. Pero todo esto (mi vida actual, sin ir más lejos) es una consecuencia bastante directa de haber ido a Florencia y de tener un doctorado en el Instituto.

Yo siempre he pensado que hay una selección natural en el proceso de entrada en el Instituto y que las personas interesadas son dinámicas y emprendedoras)

Comentarios del tipo “todo lo que soy se lo debo al Instituto”, suenan un tanto contundentes, pero guardan una semilla de verdad. Yo siempre he pensado que hay una selección natural en el proceso de entrada en el Instituto y que, por lo general, las personas interesadas son dinámicas y emprendedoras. Quiero pensar que no son (somos) derrotistas: si no nos hubieran aceptado en el Instituto, lo hubiéramos intentado en otro sitio. El refranero popular, con su infinita sabiduría, considera que “quien la sigue la consigue”. No sé si es cierto, pero desde luego quien no la sigue, no la consigue seguro. Así que el Instituto ayuda, pero cuando se alía con el tipo adecuado de gente (y no me refiero solo a personas intelectualmente capaces), las consecuencias pueden ser fantásticas: posibilidades profesionales ilimitadas, gente interesante, profesores...
de primera fila, seminarios en los que no entiendes nada de lo inteligentes que son, la posibilidad de cursar un semestre en una buena universidad europea o americana, la oportunidad de aprender nuevas lenguas o trabajar en la Comisión Europea, el Fondo Monetario, el Banco Mundial... Y, desde luego, la completísima dimensión social (de la que hablaré más adelante).

Pasados los años, existe el riesgo de mitificar Florencia. Para mí fue desde luego una experiencia fantástica, intensa y muy feliz (a veces), pero también dura y agotadora otras. Los cambios de residencia, a veces de país o de continente (diez mudanzas en un par de años no es tan extraordinario, ¿verdad? pero agota...), los exámenes, la oscuridad a las cuatro de la tarde (evidentemente, no nací en Helsinki), la sensación de: ¿y ahora qué? (cuando estás entre el capítulo 1 y el 2 de la tesis), las dificultades para coincidir con tu supervisor, el vértigo psicológico cuando debes enfrentarte a la tesis una y otra vez, o cuando debes corregir errores editoriales cuando no puedes ni verla...

“Florencia te permite equilibrar una vida académica todo lo intensa que se desee con una vida social igualmente enriquecedora”

Para mí, lo más duro fue acabar la tesis. Hace falta mucho empuje físico e intelectual, y hay que sacarlo de donde no lo hay. Y notas que tu tiempo en la Badia se acaba, que ya no perteneces a ese lugar. En mi caso, solo recuerdo otro episodio en mi vida (posterior) comparable: el parto natural de mi hijo Max y, aún así, el parto es más corto y al final te dan un nene... mientras que para la tesis hace falta bastante más resistencia y en ambos casos se sufre una especie de vacío post-evento. SIempre he pensado que lo mejor de acabar la tesis es que no tienes que hacerla otra vez. Pero, al menos, sabes que si puedes con ello, puedes con casi todo. Así que, en retrospectiva, viendo el mercado de trabajo actual (cada vez más competitivo y exigente) tener una tesis es una muy buena carta de presentación. De hecho, para ciertos trabajos se ha convertido en un sine qua non. Pero además de para conseguir un trabajo, y si una no se dedica a la Academia, ¿para qué sirve realmente la tesis? Yo creo que sobre todo para desarrollar tu capacidad analítica, de pensar y de razonar más allá del conocimiento establecido. Sabes perfectamente cómo empezar de cero con cualquier tema. También es cierto que, después de cuatro años en el cubiculo profundo y un tanto insalubre de la tesis, se pierde un poco el sentido de la realidad, y hace falta unas cuantas dosis de “visión global”, de capacidad sintética... es el momento idóneo para empezar en el mercado de trabajo.

Pero Florencia te permite equilibrar una vida académica todo lo intensa que se desee con una vida social igualmente enriquecedora. Se descubren tantas cosas: la pasta “al dente” (y no hay vuelta atrás), el chocolate del Cibreo, el aceite extra virgen de primera extracción, los paseos por L’Oltrarno, el tiramisú, las “sagrás”, las excursiones de los domingos, los cappuccinos del Instituto, las pizzas de verdad, los conciertos del Mayo Musical, las pinturas del Renacimiento, la magnífica arquitectura de la ciudad, las fiestas del Fiasco (el bar de estudiantes que en mis tiempos estaba en la Badía Fiesolana), alguna que otra fiesta de “June Ball” épica, el perfectísimo trasero del David, los atardeceres tras el Florentino, alguna que otra fiesta de “June Ball” épica, el perfectísimo trasero del David, los atardeceres tras el Florentino. En retrospectiva, el haber ido a Florencia amplía misas y abre horizontes, y te permite volver de donde venías, pero con nueva visión y nuevo bagaje. Hace 10 años recuerdo sentir una especie de vértigo personal pensando que, por trabajo, podría irme a cualquier recóndito rincón del mundo – ¿y también me moría de ganas de hacerlo!. Con los años, cada vez que vuelvo a Valencia (mi ciudad) siento que está más bonita que nunca, y que me pertenece, y que a lo mejor un día me mudo. Pero también me pertenece Florencia, y Londres... y, sobre todo, mis amigos de Florencia, que son para siempre, como los diamantes.

Susana García-Cervero is Senior Euroland Economist at Deutsche Bank in London
After the summer break, the EUI opened its doors to a series of high-profile visitors. On 13 October, Josep Borrell, then President of the European Parliament visited the Badia and delivered a speech on Europe and globalisation.

On 25 October, the Institute welcomed the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Massimo D’Alema. After visiting Villa Salviati, the Minister met a small delegation of Institute researchers; he concluded his visit with a speech entitled “La seconda occasione dell’Europa”.

On 16 November, the President of the Italian Republic, Giorgio Napolitano, visited the Institute. President Napolitano attended an extraordinary session of the Academic Council. This meeting was followed by the prestigious Pico della Mirandola Prize Awarding Ceremony to French Statesman, Valéry Giscard d’Estaing in the Sala degli Affreschi at the Badia. On this occasion, the EUI welcomed also President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi (Italy), President Jorge Sampaio (Portugal), Prime Minister Constantine Simitis (Greece), and Chancellor Helmut Schmidt (Germany).

The following day, these distinguished statesmen were joined by former Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany, Joschka Fischer and others at a two-day conference in Palazzo Vecchio, which was organised by the EUI and the Gabinetto Vieusseux.
Thirty Years of EUI—Changes in Time or Time for a Change?

SPS 1978-81, SPS 1983-85, RSC 2006-07 | Thomas Grunert

After thirty years of existence the EUI is thriving. Has it changed its character or vocation in that time? Has it had an input in and an impact on European policies? Does it justify tax-payers’ money, allocated by the European Union, the Member States and, in particular the host country Italy? In other words, can we justify continuing to invest heavily in this ambitious, but never very clearly defined, project, as it evolves and expands—intellectually andlogistically, now that it is so firmly on its feet?

These are questions which come to the mind of a ‘first-generation ricercatore’, who spent the early period of the EUI (1978–1981), writing his PhD at the Institute and as Research Fellow (1983–1985), and who is currently revisiting his professional roots as a European Parliament Fellow at the RSCAS.

When the EUI was founded in 1976 there was no Fellowship programme, Robert Schuman Centre, Max Weber Programme, or Masters Programme. What did exist was the Bar Fiasco, but without today’s films, pool billiard competitions which provide the chance to develop a ‘we feeling’ and a community spirit in today’s less intimate institutional environment. There were still monks in the Badia, some researchers lived in situ, Padre Balducci was alive and we had the chance to be a community.

What would I prefer: the scenario of 1978 or 2007? Probably a combination of both, which unfortunately is impossible. In the initial period there were about 150 persons working at the EUI, approximately 100 ‘ricercatori’, about 30 administrative staff and some local agents, like Gastone who was ‘keeping the door’ and kept us in a good mood thanks to his human qualities and his professionalism.

Gastone died last year, but the EUI survives him. Has it changed its nature? Of course. In the 1970s we were literally ‘one big family’ we all knew each other and where we all worked together, partied together, lunched together, and discussed research and personal problems.

The number of people working at the EUI has increased dramatically since then, and the atmosphere has changed. There is a difference in social communication with only a hundred people or close to a thousand. There is a difference if you area all in one building, the Badia Fiesolana, or split into several different workplaces. With no longer a single common working place one cannot get to know everybody everywhere. This is the price one pays for expansion and professional and institutional success.

This view was confirmed when talking to some of the EUI’s ‘dinosaurs’, those who received their ‘médaille de fidelité’ in December, having served the EUI for 30 years. But the fact that they are still here proves it is still worthwhile and a privilege, now perhaps even more than 30 years ago, to work and study at the EUI.

Academics, unlike boxers, do come back, especially if the place merits it as the EUI certainly does. Veerle Deckmyn, Bruno de Witte, Stefano Bartolini, Peter Mair, Philip Schmitter and last but not least Yves Mény are animating the academic life and administration at the Badia in 2007. All of them are, like me, now some 30 years older, possibly somewhat wiser and,
after a career elsewhere, now in leading functions at the Institute.

Switching from ‘impressionist’ to professional considerations, and going back to the initial questions regarding the evolution of the EUI, 1976–2006 the evaluation one makes of the Institute depends on what you have in mind as a project. The EUI definitively has evolved and occupies a solid position in the world of academia—and to some extent in that of politics.

“When the political authorities in Brussels discussed the project of a ‘European Constitution’, not only the European Parliament, but all Institutions sought the advice of the academic community of the EUI”

In my professional world, the European Parliament, the Institute is indeed present. In particular, when the political authorities in Brussels discussed, in the framework of the Convention on the Future of Europe, the project of a ‘European Constitution’, not only the European Parliament, but all Institutions sought the advice of the academic community of the EUI. Hence the Institute definitively had an impact on the shape of the Constitutional Treaty, which aims to take the European project to a higher level of integration. This is certainly an achievement, but is it the principal ‘vocation’ of the EUI to be an academic policy-oriented advisory body? What is its real scope as a project? To be a European think tank? To promote a new European academic elite? To prepare young scholars for careers in an increasingly competitive academic environment? To produce first-class research? To generate career perspectives for young scholars in general or those with a European orientation? To provide a pleasant ‘sabbatical’ setting for well-known academics enabling them to enjoy the outstanding quality of life that the place offers?

The latter apart, it is a mixture of all these. But where should the focus be, taking into account that European citizens have to pay for this expensive enterprise? The basic choice is whether the EUI should evolve into a ‘think tank’ for the EU, sharpen its profile as an academic research institution, or concentrate on providing promising young academics with a sound professional perspective for careers in academia or the EU?

Despite the absence of a distinct profile, over its 30 years the EUI served all these purposes to some extent. Judging by its graduates, perhaps there is no need for a specific focus. If one looks at the organigrammes of EU institutions, international organisations or prestigious universities, one finds an impressive number of former ‘Badia-ites’ in leading positions.

But what about the research output of the doctoral students, teaching staff and fellows? Does it justify the money allocated? Can it be considered ‘first class’? And does it have an impact on the development of the social sciences or influence the ‘policies of the EU’?

The questions are ‘food for thought’ when considering the output and relevance of the Institute’s activities. Personally, I believe that the number of more ‘esoteric’ research topics might be reduced (but not eliminated) to the benefit of an enhanced (European) policy orientation in all four departments (and not only two of them).

Although I view the role of the EUI from my professional perspective as a European civil servant, who wishes to contribute to the evolution of the European Union, to make it more competitive on the eve of globalisation so that it serves its citizens better, I would not argue for transforming it into a European Aspen Institute or to an equivalent of the US Congressional Research Service (Library of Congress), or a Harvard/Berkeley style research and think tank, or a Bruges College d’Europe or a superior EIPA.

The EUI may indeed need to sharpen its identity, role and goals. Much ground has been covered since 1976, and the EUI has all the assets necessary to navigate troubled waters, to set its own destination and to perform well in the Global Challengers’ race. ■

Thomas Grunert is Head of Unit - Delegation Europe, Directorate General External Policies, General Secretariat of the European Parliament
Hace ya quince años, cuando estaba en quinto de Económicas en la Universidad de Zaragoza, nuestro profesor de macroeconomía avanzada, que venía de la Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona, nos dio una charla sobre el Programa de Doctorado en Economía de dicha Universidad. Yo no tenía ni idea del alto status de ese Programa pero recuerdo que, tras la charla, mi conclusión fue: no haría un doctorado por nada en el mundo, que gran pérdida de tiempo!

¿Qué sucedió entonces, para terminar haciendo un Doctorado en Economía en el Instituto Universitario Europeo? Como sucede muchas veces, fue una casualidad. Tras comprobar que ningún programa de MBA me aceptaría sin experiencia profesional, me dediqué a buscar becas para estudios de postgrado fuera de España. La propuesta del Instituto me pareció interesante – pasar un año en Italia cursando un Master en Economía – así que decidí probar.

El resto de la historia es simple: el Programa del Instituto me encantó, pase cuatro años inolvidables, conocí gente maravillosa e hice amistades duraderas, obtuve un doctorado en Economía y, sobre todo, una formación en ciencias sociales difícil de replicar en ningún otro lugar del mundo. Por otra parte aprendí italiano, idioma mucho más útil de lo que parecería a primera vista, ya que uno se encuentra italianos en todas partes! ¿Qué ofrecía el Instituto que cambió tan radicalmente mi opinión respecto a la idea de invertir varios años de mi vida en un doctorado? Ciertamente, la calidad del programa y del profesorado, pero también el ambiente multicultural y multidisciplinario, y las infinitas ofertas culturales que ofrece Florencia. La aridez de la teoría económica se veía compensada por los cappuccini en la hermosa terraza de la Badia, y la pizza y la birra de San Domenico.

“La gran ventaja del Instituto sobre otros centros de postgrado es que permite abarcar muchos campos diversos”

El Instituto era un lugar que ofrecía muchas posibilidades, pero el estudiante debía tomar la iniciativa. La rotación del profesorado era elevada, su actitud poco paternalista, y el límite temporal de las becas podía generar ansiedad. Pero las posibilidades estaban allí y eran abundantes, sobre todo a través de múltiples programas de intercambio. Siguiendo el consejo de mi director de tesis, disfruté de dos semanas en Bergen (Noruega), haciendo un curso del programa nórdico de doctorado en Economía (dirigido por Finn Kydland, quien formó parte posteriormente de mi tribunal de tesis y recibió el Premio Nobel de Economía en 2006). Este curso contribuyó de manera muy importante a la elección de...
Mi tema de tesis y me proporcionó diversos contactos, a raíz de los cuales disfruté más adelante de un semestre en la Universidad de Pensilvania. También ofrecían múltiples posibilidades el programa de seminarios, por donde pasaban los mejores investigadores mundiales. Claramente, quien estaba dispuesto a relacionarse con los principales expertos mundiales en su materia lo podía conseguir.

Mi experiencia profesional tras el doctorado cubre varios de los posibles campos que se le abren a un doctorado en Economía: investigación y economía aplicada en el Fondo Monetario Internacional; análisis económico y de mercados, y gestión de carteras en mi ocupación actual como manager de un hedge fund; colaboración con periódicos y think tanks a través del periódico español El País (donde escribo una columna quincenal) y el Centre for European Policy Studies de Bruselas (donde soy research fellow). Asimismo participo en el debate de política económica global como miembro del Consejo de Gobierno en la Sombra del Banco Central Europeo y del Euro50 Group. Desde mi punto de vista, la gran ventaja del Instituto sobre otros centros de postgrado es que permite abarcar muchos campos diversos y proporciona una capacitación profesional que va más allá de la formación de profesorado universitario. Además, el tamaño del Instituto permite un dialogo fluido interdepartamental que es muy difícil de lograr en otros centros de mayor tamaño.

A esta interacción social contribuía también en gran medida nuestro querido Bar Fiasco. Como parte del comité de gestión del mismo, y organizador y DJ en numerosos eventos, podría llenar páginas y páginas de recuerdos y anécdotas. Las fiestas nacionales en el Fiasco justificaban los tópicos más típicos (modestia aparte, los principales centros de poder mundiales estarán conmigo? En mi opinión, el problema al que se enfrenta el Instituto, al menos en Economía, es la falta de un legado histórico. La ausencia de cátedras de largo plazo implica que será muy difícil que un día se pueda decir que el Instituto era la cuna de éste o aquel premio Nobel, o del desarrollo de ésta o aquella teoría. El Instituto es, al fin y al cabo, un lugar por donde pasan los mejores de la profesión, pero ninguno deja huella. Esta despersonalización del Instituto puede dificultar la consolidación del Instituto como centro líder de investigación a nivel mundial. Quizás la solución sería crear un modelo mixto, con una o dos cátedras permanentes de alto nivel, combinadas con el sistema actual de contratos.

¿Cómo puede mejorar el Instituto, en su camino hacia un centro de excelencia para la creación de líderes europeos? En mi opinión, el problema al que se enfrenta el Instituto, al menos en Economía, es la falta de un legado histórico. La ausencia de cátedras de largo plazo implica que será muy difícil que un día se pueda decir que el Instituto era la cuna de éste o aquel premio Nobel, o del desarrollo de ésta o aquella teoría. El Instituto es, al fin y al cabo, un lugar por donde pasan los mejores de la profesión, pero ninguno deja huella. Esta despersonalización del Instituto puede dificultar la consolidación del Instituto como centro líder de investigación a nivel mundial. Quizás la solución sería crear un modelo mixto, con una o dos cátedras permanentes de alto nivel, combinadas con el sistema actual de contratos.

Sin embargo, creo el modelo actual del Instituto es perfecto para la formación de líderes a escala global. A pesar de ser una institución joven, los ex alumnos del Instituto pueblan las principales instituciones de gobierno mundial – bancos centrales, ONU, Comisión Europea, FMI/Banco Mundial, gobiernos nacionales – y es una fuente de contactos de incalculable valor. Estoy seguro de que dentro de varias generaciones los principales centros de poder mundiales estarán controlados por ex alumnos del Instituto, es tan sólo una cuestión de tiempo.

Los psicólogos afirman que la mente humana es selectiva y tiende a recordar lo bueno y olvidar lo malo. En este caso, yo creo que mi mente ha sido muy imparcial – fueron cuatro años extraordinarios! □

Angel Ubide is Director of Global Economics, Tudor Investment Corporation

Le travail d’économiste au F.M.I. regorge de défis. Il s’agit de mêler à la fois compétences théoriques et compréhension des enjeux politiques sur le terrain. Les économistes du F.M.I. sont amenés à se rendre périodiquement dans les pays membres afin de discuter avec les autorités nationales de la situation économique du pays et des réformes de politique économique. C’est dans ce cadre, surtout, qu’il faut chercher une compromis entre ce que suggère l’analyse économique et les contraintes d’ordre politique. Le travail d’ économiste au F.M.I est ainsi une source de satisfaction, dans la mesure où on est au fait des enjeux économiques globaux.

Après avoir étudié à l’Ecole Nationale Statistique et de l’Administration Economique (ENSAE) et à l’Université de Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, je voulais bénéficier d’un programme de doctorat bien structuré. Tout particulièrement, j’aspirais à travailler sous une supervision de qualité avec des professeurs de renommée internationale.

De ce fait, la qualité du corps professoral de l’I.U.E a été un élément déterminant dans mon désir de postuler à l’ I.U.E. J’ai ensuite passé quatre années de ma vie en Italie.

Mon expérience à l’I.U.E m’a enrichi à plusieurs niveaux. L’interaction avec des chercheurs de cultures et de disciplines diverses a donné lieu à d’innombrables échanges notamment lors de nos déjeuners à la mensa. En effet, l’enrichissement mutuel des chercheurs sur le plan académique et culturel est à mes yeux incontestablement l’atout majeur de l’I.U.E. J’ai eu le privilège de travailler sous la supervision de Giuseppe Bertola et Rick van der Ploeg sur ma thèse de doctorat qui traitait des conséquences des différences de dynamiques démographiques sur les flux de capitaux internationaux. Travailler sous la direction de ces professeurs a été fructueux tant d’un point de vue humain qu’académique. J’ai bénéficié du professionnalisme et du sens de la rigueur de Giuseppe et de Rick, lesquels m’ont enseigné la méthodologie de la recherche. Ils m’ont permis également d’être plus à même d’appréhender la complexité de l’analyse économique.

De plus, les séminaires de recherche hebdomadaires du département économie, qui attirent les plus grands noms de la science économique internationale, permettent aux chercheurs de s’imprégner de travaux de recherches de grande qualité. L’I.U.E joue pleinement son rôle de forum de discussion de questions européennes, donnant ainsi aux chercheurs un accès privilégié au débat sur l’avenir de l’Europe.

Chaque année, les recruteurs du F.M.I. se rendent sur le campus de l’I.U.E afin de procéder à une présélection de candidats pour ce programme

Cette expérience unique m’a permis de renforcer mes compétences académiques et de mieux comprendre un monde en perpétuelle évolution. J’ajouterais pour conclure que les fortes amitiés fortes que j’ai scellées avec bon nombre de chercheurs, de professeurs et avec le personnel de l’I.U.E ont rendu mon expérience italienne très agréable.

Rabah Arezki is Economist in the Middle East and Central Asia Department, IMF
My decision to come to the European University Institute was inspired by a profound interest in European integration and a latent love of Italy. After completing my Master's thesis at the University of Amsterdam on Dutch perceptions of Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), and having taken two Italian language courses, I wanted to attend Europe's elite institution to do a PhD comparing other European Community (EC) countries' perceptions of EMU. I was personally excited about the EC. I was the kind of 21-year old who, while selling cut-price books on the market in Amsterdam, was under the counter reading Paolo Cecchini's optimistic report on the benefits of completing the Single Market and loving all I was reading about 'Europe 1992'. I was convinced that 'Europe was going somewhere' and was keen to go to the place that for me symbolised where Europe was going.

However, I was intimidated when I discovered who was teaching there in 1990. People like Blondel, Eder, Esping-Anderson, Lukes, Morgan, Strange, and Pizzorno were all top-rate European academics, and I doubted that I would get into the PhD programme. Fortunately, I was selected and thus started my first of several periods at the EUI.

My first year was wonderful. These were the days where everyone seemed enthusiastic about Europe's future, and it was an incredible privilege to be part of the EUI community. The Berlin Wall had come down, the geopolitical balance of power was changing, and the Maastricht Treaty was being negotiated.

My time at the EUI was crucial for my professional life. Today I am Full Professor European Politics at the University of Victoria (UVic), founding Director of the European Studies Programme at UVic, Jean Monnet Chair in European Integration Studies at UVic, and Director of its Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence. I hold, or have held, positions in academic professional associations such as the European Community Studies Association-Canada, the European Consortium of Political Research, European Union Studies Association, the International Studies Association, and the Research Committee on European Unification of the International Political Science Association. None of this would have been possible without having done my PhD at the EUI.

Personally, my time at the EUI had a profound impact on my private life. In many ways it is because of the uniqueness of the EUI that I could have the experiences that would touch me and change me forever. In my second year I had a baby from a relationship that was on the way out. I chose to keep the baby, but not the relationship. As a single parent in Italy I had no partner, no family, and no life-long friendships to provide a social safety net. It will not come as a surprise to anyone with children that the EUI community became my partner, my family and my life-long friends. I was supported by everyone, ranging from my peers, the EUI staff, professors, supervisors, and yes, even the President of the EUI.

I discovered that there were other mums, dads, families facing similar challenges and who had to balance parenthood with the demands of writing a thesis. I discovered that being a single parent at the EUI added to my life, as I had to learn about other cultures so much faster than my fellow students. I got to know more Italian, and more Italians, than my peers. To name but one example, I had to deal with the asilo nido (the crèche), on a daily basis, at a time when none of the crèche staff conversed with parents in English. This in itself was quite charming, except when my daughter had the rosolia, and I had no idea what it was! Also, I had to do things at the weekend (when the crèche was closed!): check out the Festa dell'Unità, go on walks in the Alpi Apuane, the Chianti, the Mugello, visit Elba, Cinque Terre, the Maremma, Arezzo, and so on. More than others, I was forced to explore all that Italy offers.

I was also supported by my supervisors: Roger Morgan and the late Susan Strange. I remember the day in September 1991 that I had to tell them that I was pregnant and single and intended to keep on working on my thesis. I was convinced they would not take me seriously, but to my great surprise they were positive. I recall Susan Strange saying: 'Oh that is wonderful, dear. It will slow you down.' I was even supported by the then President, Patrick Masterson who in 1995 when I only had a
few more months to go, but no more funding, provided me with a few extra months of ‘completion grant’.

I also owe a debt of gratitude to Yves Mény. In 1994 he urged me to talk to Jeremy Richardson, who was visiting the EUI to recruit post-doctoral fellows. Richardson needed to find people fluent in English, who had not recently resided in the United Kingdom, and who did not have British citizenship, and where else to find them but the EUI? Again, I was lucky and ended up with a two-year post-doc at the University of Essex on an HCM fellowship.

After my time at Essex I applied for a EUI Forum Fellowship and was ‘returned’ to the EUI. I worked under the supervision of Professors Michael Artis and Ramon Marimon examining the political economy of an integrated Europe. It was basically an economists’ forum, but luckily there a few political scientists, and I was one of them. I loved every minute of it.

At this time I met my partner with whom I have had three more daughters. We got together in April 1997 when I had just accepted a job on Vancouver Island, off the West Coast of Canada. Paul, was a second-year ricercatore in Economics. We spent a wonderful three months in Florence before I headed off to Canada. For three years we managed to commute between Canada and Florence, thanks in part to Yves Mény who allowed me to be a visiting fellow at the Robert Schuman Centre. In 2001 we had our second daughter, and in spring 2002 we came back to the EUI as visitors to the Robert Schuman Centre, this time thanks to the new Director, Helen Wallace. In the past few months Paul received word of his tenure at UVic and we have had our third daughter (see announcement in the EUI Review).

In summary, the EUI profoundly changed my life. It made me the researcher I am today, it put me on track for wonderful academic positions, and it touched me personally. I learnt more than I could have ever imagined about the other cultures in the world. Contrary to what others may have said about the EUI reinforcing prejudices, for me the opposite is true. Meeting all those people from different countries and continents helped me appreciate the richness of the variety of cultures and how every person deals with similar challenges in their own way, often consistent with their culture and background. For me that experience was part of the special contribution of the EUI—on a par with the wonderful formal training and academic experience we had.

Amy Verdun is Professor in the Department of Political Science, holds a Jean Monnet Chair in European Integration Studies and is the Director of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, University of Victoria.

Paul Schure is Assistant Professor in the Department of of Economics, University of Victoria.
My first visit to the EUI was in June 2002 when I was awarded a one-month library research fellowship. I was writing up my doctoral thesis on the EU’s Eastern enlargement, and was glad to meet scholars from the European Forum at RSCAS who were working on similar issues. My month at the EUI flew by and I was left with a desire to return.

I finished my thesis at the Sussex European Institute in the UK in 2003 and returned to my home city of Sofia where I worked for the UNHCR and taught at the New Bulgarian University. I had a book project in my mind and thought that spending time at the EUI would provide the best place to work on my manuscript and to start new research on the Western Balkans’ relations with the EU. Therefore I decided to apply to the RSCAS General Programme and was very happy to be awarded a Jean Monnet Fellowship starting in September 2005.

My ten months as a Jean Monnet Fellow went by quickly owing to my full schedule and the rich calendar of lectures, seminars, workshops, conferences with prominent scholars whose work I referred to in my own research.

Initially, I was perplexed that the scholars at the RSC worked on so many different subjects, each immersed in their own theoretical or empirical problems. I was working on the visa restrictions imposed by the EU on nationals from the Western Balkan countries. This is a highly sensitive political issue for nationals from the region, but marginal for those outside. Preparing for my lunch seminar, I needed to present my research in a way that was relevant and interesting for a wider public. Here I am grateful for the intellectual guidance of Helen Wallace, the director of the RSCAS, who lead seminars in a way that got everyone involved in the issues discussed.

When I was a doctoral student at Sussex I was fascinated by its interdisciplinary environment. This was crucial for me as my interest in European migration policy issues is related to international relations, political science, sociological, economic and legal perspectives. Migration studies are a truly interdisciplinary field in the social sciences. A pleasant surprise at the RSCAS was that the Centre was dedicated to preserving and enhancing its interdisciplinary profile.

In order to illustrate the interdisciplinary nature of the activities at the RSCAS, I should mention the Migration Working Group organised by Virginie Guiraudon from the Department of Social and Political Sciences. Throughout my year as a JMF, we had twice-monthly seminars which brought together political scientists, sociologists, economists, and lawyers. These were fascinating seminars with lawyers who would admit that political factors influence policymakers decisions, economists who were socially minded, and sociologists who would look up court decisions.

To conclude, professionally, my most important achievement as a JMF was to sign a contract with Edward Elgar Publishing for a book The Dynamics of Migration in the New Europe. I am a research fellow at the Centre for Migration Studies at the New Bulgarian University in Sofia where I teach at the Department of Political Science. I hope to come across my colleagues in my future academic career, now as an EU citizen.

Elena Jileva is Research Associate at the Centre for Migration Studies at the New Bulgarian University in Sofia.
Il y a quelques années, lors d’une journée d’études organisée par le Groupement de droit comparé (CNRS) et consacrée au devenir du droit comparé en France, j’ai été amenée à (re)construire mon parcours de comparatiste. Ce fut l’occasion d’exprimer toute ma gratitude à l’Institut qui a largement contribué à ma formation de comparatiste. J’avais quitté l’Université française (tout en maintenant un lien pour la réintégrer) à un moment où elle était encore peu ouverte sur le monde extérieur. Les choses ont changé, notamment en raison de la construction européenne qui a contribué à décloisonner les systèmes juridiques et à réduire l’extrême rigidité des mentalités universitaires.

L’Institut offre un environnement intellectuel très stimulant pour tous ceux qui veulent comparer les droits. À l’ère de la globalisation, le juriste a-t-il véritablement le choix ? On peut en douter : il est nécessairement comparatiste et il doit intégrer toutes les sources du droit quelles que soient leurs origines (internationale, régionale, nationale). Les comparatistes avaient initialement tendance à englober le plus grand nombre possible d’ordres juridiques et aspiraient à découvrir des lois générales. Aujourd’hui, la tendance est plutôt à limiter le nombre des ordres juridiques mis en présence et à faire gagner à la comparaison en profondeur ce qu’elle a perdu en étendue. Le plus souvent, le cadre de la comparaison correspond à un ensemble régional présentant une signification particulière. Pour les juristes européens, le cadre de l’Union européenne est le plus naturel, si ce n’est, obligatoire. L’Institut se présente donc comme un cadre idéal pour mener à bien une thèse de doctorat. Lieu d’échanges et d’ouverture, il offre les conditions d’un apprentissage assez rare pour le juriste confiné dans un ordre juridique national : il lui permet mettre à plat de ce qu’il a appris lors de sa formation juridique de manière à reconstruire, en intégrant une autre manière de raisonner en droit ou, du moins, en prenant conscience qu’on ne raisonne pas forcément de la même manière. Plus en général, cette formation réellement internationale et pluridisciplinaire constitue un élément distinctif de l’UE et un acquis durable que tout docteur sorti de l’Institut essaie de reproduire dans le cadre beaucoup plus rigide des différentes universités nationales.

Comme Jean Monnet Fellow, j’ai d’ailleurs été heureuse de retrouver cet état d’esprit de manière à mettre à distance le concours d’agrégation. Lieu de rencontres intellectuelles, l’Institut est aussi incontournable en raison de sa magnifique bibliothèque que je ne manque jamais de fréquenter lors de mes séjours à Florence qui est devenue « la mia seconda casa » grâce à un mariage florentin. Plus que tout autre endroit de recherche, l’Institut est un lieu où le parcours individuel et le parcours professionnel ont tendance à se confondre. C’est ici que j’ai en effet rencontré mon mari, Sandro Landi, un historien, docteur de l’Institut, qui lui aussi a fait carrière en France.

Que deviennent les anciens chercheurs français de l’Institut ? Malheureusement, les données disponibles sont plutôt incomplètes. Cela tient en partie aux anciens étudiants qui ne conservent pas tous un lien avec la Badia Fiesolana : l’association des Anciens (Alumni) dispose d’informations pour 118 étudiants dont 50 docteurs de l’UE (85 docteurs en 2001). Il ressort toutefois de l’examen de ces données des tendances lourdes. D’abord, plus de la moitié des anciens chercheurs se dirige naturellement vers une carrière universitaire en France ou à l’étranger (57,84 %). Plus précisément, les historiens (16,94 %) et les économistes (13,55 %) sont ceux qui réussissent le mieux à engager une carrière académique. Viennent ensuite les juristes (11%) et les politistes (9,32 %).
Probablement, les économistes et les historiens qui commencent leur doctorat à Florence, aspirent à une carrière universitaire. Pour le droit, cela est nettement moins vrai. Pendant longtemps, l'idée de se former à l'étranger était parfaitement contraire à une tradition qui veut que le juriste soit un "produit national". Mais les avancées de l'Europe ont aidé à décloisonner les systèmes juridiques et à réduire l'extrème rigidité des mentalités universitaires. Dès lors que le sujet justifie sa présence à Florence, en particulier en droit comparé et droit communautaire, une bonne thèse a les mêmes chances de porter son auteur qu'un doctorat national. Plusieurs exemples en témoignent, mais on ne peut pas nier que trop peu sont les juristes ayant intégré l'université de manière à asseoir la réputation des docteurs en droit issus de l'Institut. Pour les économistes et les historiens, il semble que précisément cette étape soit franchie (plus exactement, beaucoup se forment à l'IUE, mais nombreux sont ceux, en particulier parmi les historiens, qui préfèrent soutenir en France). La confirmation de cette analyse tient notamment à ce que très peu d'économistes font le choix du privé (7,69 %). En revanche, ils sont beaucoup plus nombreux à jouer la carte de l'international (26,92 %). Autrement dit, ceux qui font une thèse dans ce département ont dès le début l'idée de devenir des universitaires (65,38 %). La même analyse est valable pour les historiens à la différence, toutefois, que l'université constitue pour eux le débouché naturel (68,96 %). Par ailleurs, plusieurs historiens de l'IUE non-nationaux ont intégré le système universitaire français qui n'est donc pas forcément aussi fermé que l'on veut bien le dire. En particulier, le système britannique a attiré plusieurs de nos compatriotes car il semble plus accessible et la réputation de l'Institut y est bien assise.

Pour conclure, l'éventail des professions paraît plutôt large, même si la préférence va à la vie académique. Pendant longtemps l'Institut s'est peu soucié du devenir de ses chercheurs. Les choses changent et c'est heureux. Après vingt-cinq ans d'existence, un bilan significatif peut être proposé. Mais on aimerait en savoir plus et ces quelques lignes laissent dans l'ombre plusieurs interrogations sans réponse: pourquoi autant d'anciens étudiants coupent-ils les ponts avec l'Institut ? Pourquoi certains chercheurs préfèrent-ils encore aujourd'hui soutenir leur thèse en France ? Le doctorat de l'Institut offre-t-il les mêmes possibilités d'avancement qu'un doctorat national ? Certainement, faut-il engager une réflexion plus profonde car le potentiel de l'Institut ne semble pas pleinement compris par ceux qui ont la chance d'y faire leur thèse. Pourtant rares sont les anciens étudiants qui ne reconnaissent pas l'un des avantages incomparables de la Badia Fiesolana : une ouverture et un échange scientifiques beaucoup plus enrichissants qu'en France où bien souvent, même si cela change, on est seul.

Marie-Claire Ponthoreau is Professor of Public Law, Université Montesquieu-Bordeaux IV
Cuando recuerdo el Instituto Universitario Europeo, pienso en las maravillosas vistas de Florencia desde la Upper Loggia de la Badia, en la excelente biblioteca, en las horas infatigables de trabajo, en el luncheon seminar todos los martes, en los deliciosos cappuccini, en las largas charlas con profesores e investigadores (algunos amigos ahora), y en un sin fin de recuerdos que ocupan más de diez meses como Jean Monnet Fellow en el Convento (Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies) en 2005-06. Pero antes de hacer un recorrido por el año pasado, quisiera remontarme a mi primera visita al Instituto.

En 2001, gracias a una beca de la Generalitat de Catalunya, decidí iniciar mi investigación predoctoral en el Instituto en Florencia. Ello fue posible gracias al Prof. Bruno De Witte, quien desde el comienzo siempre ha apoyado mi trabajo de investigación centrado en el estudio de las Conferencias Intergubernamentales que revisan los Tratados de la Unión Europea. Mi planteamiento era difícil de llevar a la práctica: intentar mostrar que las reglas informales (no escritas) que rodean estos formales procesos de negociación tienen un impacto en la dinámica de las negociaciones (por entonces me atrevía a hablar de los resultados). Durante los siguientes seis meses, revisé la literatura a fondo sobre el neo-institucionalismo y logré crear un marco analítico para mi tesis capaz de ayudarme a identificar reglas informales.

Esos seis primeros meses fueron especialmente cruciales: aprender italiano, descubrir la ciudad de Florencia, reorganizar mi tesis, discutir con el Prof. Philippe Schmitter sobre mi investigación, hacer amigos sin que su nacionalidad y/o el idioma fuese un impedimento y conocer a Andreas quien se ha convertido en mi marido y con quien ahora espero tener un hijo en abril. Esos meses fueron seguidos (gracias a una segunda beca de la Generalitat) por otros seis nuevos meses con el fin de dar otro golpe fuerte a mi investigación. Con el apoyo de Philippe y del Instituto, conseguí avanzar en mi doctorado. La biblioteca del Instituto se convirtió en un instrumento vital para mi investigación, ya que libro que salía en el mercado sobre la Conferencia Intergubernamental del 2000 que culminó con el Tratado de Niza, libro que compraba la biblioteca (y con el cual podía seguir ampliando mis conocimientos). Esos nuevos seis meses estuvieron también marcados por numerosos viajes a Bruselas para investigar los estudios de caso directamente en las instituciones comunitarias y, sobre todo, llevar a cabo entrevistas a los actores políticos implicados en las negociaciones.

Ya entonces, siempre pensé que con mi doctorado acabado solicitaría una Jean Monnet Fellow, para hacer posible la publicación de mi tesis doctoral en forma de libro. Antes de ello, sin embargo, regresé a Barcelona (donde proseguí con mi investigación doctoral), realicé una corta estancia de investigación en la Universidad Libre de Bruselas (para profundizar en el estudio teórico y empírico), y más viajes y entrevistas en Europa, hasta que la tesis estuvo lista para ser defendida en la Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona el 30 de enero de 2004. De nuevo el Instituto jugó un importante rol, ya que estuvieron presentes en la defensa los Profesores del instituto Giuliano Amato y Philippe Schmitter. El Prof. Amato, a pesar de sus múltiples obligaciones, logró liberarse de sus compromisos para esta ocasión. Por otra parte, el Prof. Schmitter, debido a fuertes tempestades y nieve en Florencia, tuvo que dormir la noche anterior en un hotel del centro de la ciudad, para poder volar al día siguiente a Barcelona y acudir a la defensa. Finalmente, defendí mi tesis en la sobria Aula Magna de la Facultad de Ciencias Políticas de la Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona, donde el italiano, inglés,
castellano y catalán se convirtieron en las lenguas de discusión.

Los años siguientes fueron de intenso trabajo, la mayor parte de tiempo entre Mannheim (Alemania) y mi ciudad, Barcelona. En el Mannheimer Zentrum für Europäische Sozialforschung de la Universidad de Mannheim inicié una investigación enfocada a analizar la eficiencia de procesos de negociación intergubernamental. Ello me llevó a distintas publicaciones y, sobre todo, a profundizar en el conocimiento de las teorías de las negociaciones, y a participar en distintos proyectos tanto españoles como internacionales.

Cuando mi proyecto para la publicación de la tesis doctoral estaba listo, decidí solicitar una Jean Monnet Fellow. Volver a Florencia fue algo que siempre había esperado hacer y que, en cierto modo, me permitía acabar con lo que había empezado allí: mi investigación sobre las Conferencias Intergubernamentales. Ese objetivo se hizo realidad y pude regresar al Instituto, ahora como investigadora postdoctoral. El Instituto era el mismo, pero muchas personas ya se habían ido. La mayoría de mis anteriores amigos y compañeros se habían marchado aunque de vez en cuando me sorprendía encontrándolos por allí, a punto de defender sus tesis, simplemente de visita, o con alguna excusa como la fiesta irlandesa o el June Ball.

Los diez meses en Florencia como Jean Monnet Fellow transcurrieron más rápido de lo esperado. Adiós a la vida de estudiante de doctorado. Como Jean Monnet Fellow las obligaciones son mayores: todos llegamos con proyectos y obligaciones adquiridas antes que hay que completar; pero con el objetivo de trabajar en el nuevo proyecto, de sacar las publicaciones que estaban pendientes (y las nuevas), de acudir a conferencias internacionales, de ser partícipes de la vida académica del Robert Schuman Centre y de los Departamentos, y, en mi caso, de revisar y reorganizar el libro basado en mi tesis doctoral para publicarlo (algo que ahora confieso siempre acababa quedando en la cola). Para llevar a cabo todo este trabajo, conté con el apoyo de la Prof. Adriene Heritier y la Prof. Helen Wallace; ambas siempre dispuestas a evaluar y discutir mis textos e ideas.

Cada día salía muy pronto en dirección al Instituto. Aunque vivía en un bonito apartamento con unas maravillosas vistas del Duomo, tal privilegio, sin embargo, tenía un coste, y es que cada día tenía que luchar para conseguir subir al autobús número 7 y luego sobrevivir a los olores, empujones y grupitos de chicos que iban al colegio. Una vez en el Convento, trabajaba hasta el mediodía y, generalmente, iba a comer a Badia con algunos amigos y colegas. Siempre el mismo paseo con las maravillosas vistas de Florencia a lo lejos y, después de un cappuccino en la terraza, vuelta al trabajo. Por la tarde, solía pasear a Blacky (la preciosa perrita blanca del Convento), además de consentirle con su ración diaria de galletas de pienso y jugar con ella. Así transcurrían gran parte de mis días en Florencia.

Los últimos meses pasaron muy rápido; muchas cosas por acabar, empaquetar libros y papeles varios; y pensar en el futuro inmediato. Durante este tiempo, tuve la oportunidad de preparar mi actual proyecto de investigación en el cual estoy trabajando en la School of Political Science and International Relations de la University College Dublin. Se trata de llevar a cabo un estudio sobre la formación de preferencias, la elección de estrategias y el éxito en las negociaciones de los Estados miembros de la Unión Europea, en el marco de las “grandes negociaciones” sobre el Presupuesto. Concretamente, la investigación se ocupa de la última ronda de negociaciones que ha aprobado el Presupuesto, que cubrirá en gran parte los costes de la última y reciente ampliación a Bulgaria y Rumania, y que engloba el periodo 2007-2013. La investigación toma como casos de estudio España, Irlanda y el Reino Unido, tres países que representan tres posiciones muy distintas en el escenario de las negociaciones presupuestarias, y que permiten, por tanto, llegar a interesantes conclusiones sobre el comportamiento de los actores en negociaciones intergubernamentales.

Finalmente, mi libro está en la imprenta de la editorial. Mantengo un estrecho contacto con algunos amigos (profesores, investigadores y colegas) a los que aprecio mucho y espero volver a encontrar muy pronto. Ahora tengo el desafío de un nuevo proyecto de investigación y la convicción de que, aunque queda mucho por hacer aquí en Dublín, tendré que volver pronto a Florencia para visitar la biblioteca, no olvidar el italiano, ver a Blacky corriendo libremente en el jardín y encontrar a los buenos amigos que aún sigan allí; y con Andreas mostrar a nuestro bebé el sitio donde no sólo nos conocimos, sino donde trabajamos duramente para hacer realidad nuestros objetivos.

Gemma Mateo González is a research fellow at the University Institute of European Studies, Autonomous University of Barcelona
Career development of EUI researchers: the 30th anniversary survey

As for the 20th and 10th anniversary, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary there will be a survey of EUI alumni. These surveys give an interesting indication of what our researchers do, but also the trend from which a certain number of conclusions can be drawn.

First, over two-thirds of EUI alumni work in academia, and for the Department of Political and Social Sciences, this rises to over 80%, when they recently carried out their own Self-assessment Report which was presented to the Research Council. Two other major clusters of employment are in the international (10%) and national (8%) public sector, and the remaining 13% in the private sector is concentrated in large international law firms, central banks and consulting firms.

It is interesting to note that between the 10th and the 20th anniversary the number of PhDs entering the academic sector increased from around 50% to almost 70%. The growth of PhDs defended in Europe has accelerated significantly. In Europe and the United States about 40,000 PhDs per year were produced. However, in the US this number remained virtually stable, while in Europe it almost doubled to approximately 80,000 annually. In this context the fact that the academic job share has increased significantly is a good, and perhaps the best, indicator of the quality of the EUI doctorate in an increasingly fierce academic market.

The 30th anniversary survey differs from the one carried out 10 years ago in the way it is organised. The 30th anniversary survey will be carried out in cooperation with the Center for Innovation and Research in Graduate Education (CIRGE), based at Washington University and directed by Prof. Maresi Nerad, a world authority on doctoral education. Nerad has worked with Burton Clark in Berkeley, was a Fellow at the Council of Graduate Schools and now directs the CIRGE in Seattle. In recent years she has organised major surveys in various disciplines in the US, and the National Science Foundation uses her survey methodology to obtain a clearer picture of what is happening with PhDs in the United States. The fact that the EUI will be able to use not only her methodology but also the whole infrastructure of the set-up of the survey, which is managed in the US, will allow two things. First, it provides a sound and proven survey methodology. Secondly, it allows us to compare our results with those of the US, which is without doubt the most important and largest academic market in the world. Furthermore, the results will be very welcome for the EUI in view of the major survey planned by the OECD. We had a preview of the OECD survey methodology, which plans to inventorise the career patterns of all PhDs in OECD countries. Once the results are available it is vital that the EUI be able to position itself as regards the career patterns of EUI doctors coming onto the labour market.

In introducing this comparative dimension the Academic Service will work together with the Max Weber Programme, where a small team under the direction of Ramon Marimon will establish an overview of the academic career development in all European countries. While the North American market has a unique academic career structure, almost all European countries have a different nomenclature and academic ladder structure. The team’s objective is to inventorise all the categories of academic appointments and to try and find a common denominator, so that the results of our survey are comparable across Europe and the US.

The survey is planned for spring 2007 and we hope to be able to present the first results to the High Council in June. The same survey can also be used as input for the Strategic Review, which is being carried out by a special ad hoc group set up by the High Council.

Andreas Frijdal, Academic Service
Last year the EUI Alumni Association commemorated its first 20 years. To mark the occasion its Executive Committee published a short history of the Association *Noi si mura: The Building-up of the EUI Alumni Association, 1986–2006*. This traces the difficulties, achievements and challenges faced over two decades and brings together information on the Alumni Association drawn from our archives. Most of these archives have been on-line since 2002, reflecting the Executive Committee’s desire for transparency and accountability (www.eui.eu/Alumni/). The archives, along with other documents found at the *Badia Fiesolana*, are now being classified at the Historical Archives of the European Union, which will host the Alumni Association’s archives at Villa Poggiolo.

In 1978, some of the first EUI researchers met in London with the express intention of maintaining and nurturing the friendships formed during their time at the Institute in the form of an ‘alumni’ association, mainly for recreational value. Their proposals were welcomed with enthusiasm by the then President of the EUI, Max Kohnstamm. However, the period of preparation lasted longer and was more complex than initially expected. This was because the founding members had to resolve a number of preliminary questions regarding logistic, institutional and legal formalities, and this meant the involvement and consultation of a great number of people. The consultations lasted until 1985, when a committee was formed to draw up the statutes. Meanwhile, Sandra Pratt, Academic Service, was made responsible for identifying and examining the functions, organisational activities and finances of alumni associations of similar institutions. The committee benefited greatly from the advice of colleagues who worked with Sandra Pratt, President Maihofer and the Secretary-General Marcello Buzzonetti to compose a text outlining the ground-rules of the association.

Following this long preliminary phase, the Association was officially born on 18 May 1986, to coincide with the ten-year anniversary celebrations of the In-
The First Alumni Weekend was held on 16–18 May 1986 at the Badia Fiesolana and finished with the first General Assembly convened by the Alumni to approve the Statutes of the Association and nominate the Executive Committee. The EUI committed itself to providing material and logistic support to the Association, whilst recognising its full autonomy. In return, the Association placed great emphasis on close collaboration with the Institute. In dealing with its EUI affiliates, the Association proposed that it be used to promote and reinforce relations of collaboration and friendship made at the Badia Fiesolana, bringing together various generations of student researchers and facilitating communication and the exchange of information between them.

A constant presence, providing continuity and regularity in the life and development of the Association, was Brigitte Schwab, who showed great dedication to furthering the activities of the Association through...
The Association's primary objective is to maintain links between the Alumni and the Institute. This is defined generically, so as not to pre-determine the exact ways and means of achieving this goal. The different Executive Committees, which act as the 'deputies' of the Alumni, have provided services and activities for the Association's members in line with cultural requests, technical innovations and preferences and professional skills of the Committee at the time.

The creation of a website for the Association was a key moment in its history: guaranteeing visibility, the exchange and management of data, increased opportunities for making contacts, providing members with innovative services, and circulating a large quantity and range of informative material and reports.

"The Association has increased its scholarly profile by organising a series of high-profile conferences and workshops, publishing books and an on-line journal, in addition to providing research grants and prizes."

Before the internet, such services would have been unthinkable due to the costs and difficulties involved. Furthermore, the website is a visual indication of the independence of the Association, notwithstanding its strong links with the Institute, which hosts the virtual space of the Alumni Association.

The Alumni Weekends have generally been structured so that there is a period allocated to discussing institutional matters (such as the meeting of the General Assembly and the biannual elections of the Executive Committee), and a more social and recreational part (drinks, dinners or lunches, and guided tours), which also encompasses cultural events (such as museum visits, concerts, etc.). Some weekends involved scholarly activities, such as conferences, roundtables, research presentations and debates, in line with research being carried out at the Institute. These events emphasise the Association's task of making contacts with European institutions on behalf of its members. The Association has recently added guided walking tours in the Chianti. This event is particularly attractive for those alumni nostalgic about the beauties of Tuscan countryside, or for those who were unable to take advantage of their surroundings whilst studying at the Institute.

The Conferring Ceremony in which the diplomas of the Institute are conferred, was celebrated for the first time on 27 September 1996, on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the EUI. Given the success of the event and the enthusiastic participation of student researchers, both past and present, the Institute decided to make it a regular event. In 1996 the Association committed a part of the funds destined for study grants to finance the design of academic gowns for the alumni.

In recent years, the Association has increased its scholarly profile by organising a series of high-profile conferences and workshops, publishing books and an on-line journal, in addition to providing research grants and prizes for outstanding scholarly achievements. Two books have been published: Governing EMU: Economic, Political, Legal and Historical Perspectives (Florence: EUI Press), and EMU Rules: the Political and Economic Consequences of European Monetary Integration (Baden-Baden: Nomos), both presented at the Badia and at the European Central Bank. Another book, based on the proceedings of the 2006 conference on globalisation, is forthcoming with Palgrave.

Following a brief interruption, the tradition of distributing prizes was revived with the creation of an EUI Alumni Association Prize for the best interdisciplinary PhD thesis on a European issue. President Yves Mény called it 'a bridge between the past and the future' of the EUI. Two prizes have already been awarded. One was a prize of €3,000, a diploma, and a medal designed by the Florentine artist Onofrio Pepe, who is known for his exhibitions on Il mito di Europa (The Myth of Europe).

Recently, the Alumni Association decided to devote retroactively all revenue from the increasing membership fees to create an Alumni Research Grant administered by the EUI.

Today, the extensive re-structuring of the Institute's services and membership (such as doubling the number of Post-Doctoral Fellows) and its new strategy of combining doctoral and post-doctoral studies has required careful consultation and collaboration between the two bodies. This has not always been easy, especially as the position of Alumni Affairs Officer has repeatedly changed hands. It has sometimes been difficult to maintain consistent and dependable
contacts with Institute bodies. For this reason, it has become urgent to make the Association a more professional and autonomous body, that can draw clear lines around its objectives and status during this period of transition at the EUI.

The local branches of the Association provided for in the 1986 Statute, were rather unstable and some were discontinued over time. Their survival and vitality was not subject to a binding mandate, nor were their legal norms codified. However, they have always been linked to the interests and spirit of entrepreneurship of individual members. Local chapters are informal and do not have any separate legal status. The first local associations were established in Brussels (active by September 1986), and London (December 1986). Other ‘chapters’, were subsequently organised in Bonn, Amsterdam, Frankfurt and Lisbon. They aim to involve as many as possible of the EUI alumni living in the local area in the Association’s activities, and are steered by one (or several) ‘Coordinators’ who report back to the Executive Committee. In certain periods, the local branches have been very active in promoting scholarly and cultural projects and meeting with prestigious people in the European sphere. In addition to the established chapters, several alumni have contacted the Executive Committee in order to establish local branches in Rome, Edinburgh, Geneva, Norway and North America. The Executive would also like to see the revival of once active chapters, such as the Berlin branch.

The Alumni Association has tried to maintain a cohesive community of EUI researchers and fellows, and to ensure the success and expansion of this community. One of its most important tasks has been to act as a bridge between researchers and the Institute, and to promote alumni interests. Formerly, these interests focussed on providing a place for alumni researchers to meet and to foster contacts, but over the years, the Association has promoted scholarly activities such as participating in conferences, has provided career advice and contacts, awarded research grants and prizes, and engaged in the more ‘traditional’ array of social activities in Florence and elsewhere. ■

The AA is organising an Alumni weekend in Berlin on 8/9 June 2007. All alumni are most welcome to join in. Please contact the AA at alumni@eui.eu or AA Secretary Valerie.Hayaert@eui.eu and follow up on the alumni events on the website.

“Congratulations to Sarah Grattan and Daniele Caramani on the birth of their son, Dario, on 15 December 2006.

Congratulations to Amy Verdun and Paul Schure on the birth of their daughter, Yenay Esmée, on 20 December 2006.
Recently Published EUI Theses


Latest Books


Elena Brizioli, Library
Recent appointments - January 2007

**Rainer Bauböck** has taken up the Chair in Social and Political Theory, Department of Political and Social Sciences. Bauböck is on leave from the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute for European Integration Research where he is also vice-chair of the Academy’s Commission for Migration and Integration Research. He is the winner of the 2006 European Latsis Prize (p. 15).

**Luigi Guiso** has joined the Department of Economics, coming from Università di Roma Tor Vergata; Guiso’s research interests focus on finance and growth, households’ savings and financial decisions, firms’ investment and adjustment policies, the transmission of monetary policy, culture and economic performance. He has consulted for the Bank of Italy, the European Commission and the European Central Bank.

**Sven Steinmo** has taken up the position of Professor of Public Policy in the Department of Political and Social Sciences. Steinmo comes from the University of Colorado, and has a wide array of research and teaching interests, which can be broadly characterized as in the fields of political economy and comparative public policy.