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heirs
history of european integration research society

DEPARTMENT
OF HISTORY
AND
CIVILIZATION

Call for Papers

Capitalism, Crises and European Integration from 1945 to the present

First HEIRS-RICHIE Conference, European University Institute, Florence,
26-28 May 2016

The severe multidimensional crisis that has been affecting Europe since 2008 calls for a critical rethinking of European integration history. The crisis has raised questions about the nature of today's European 'project', which appears in many ways different from what it was at its inception in the past century. Arguably, European integration took root in a moment of exception in the history of capitalism, when inequalities were at a historical low – in sharp contrast with the present era of globalised 'neoliberal' capitalism and record inequalities. Europe's present travails also highlight the importance of crises in shaping European integration. This feature is inherent to European integration history; the post-war mushrooming of integration and cooperation projects were closely linked to the need to overcome the deep social and economic crises of the continent.

This conference seeks to historicise post-war European integration in its connection to the history of capitalism and its crises in their multiple dimensions: economic, social, political, intellectual, environmental, among others. The aim will be to highlight different moments of change, rupture or continuity in the ideas and realisations that underlie European integration. We invite contributions on themes that include, but are not limited to:

- ***Crises and European integration:*** exploring how crises have constituted moments of economic change, intellectual redefinition, and political and social re-configuration in European integration, as well as analysing how competing narratives of crises have been linked to competing visions of European integration.
- ***Ideology, Capitalism and European Integration:*** the EC/EU and other international organisations have been loci of constant competition between different political and ideological currents. How did ideas and ideologies championed by national and transnational actors penetrate different European 'projects' and policies? How can processes of transfers, learning and competition between and within European organisations be traced? How did European integration impact ideological changes in Europe and beyond?

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- ***Political Economy of European Integration:*** investigating how European organisations perceived, adapted, encouraged and responded to shifts in modes of production and organisation in different economic sectors; seeking to read the political economies fostered between the lines of the European treaties, institutions and policies: monetary, industrial, agricultural, social, trade, development, migration, employment, gender equalities, etc.
- ***European Integration, regionalism and globalisation:*** arguably the main development of capitalism in the past fifty years, globalisation has been intertwined with European integration. How did European institutions and policies seek to shape, moderate, or shield European populations from increasing ‘globalisation’? Or how, on the contrary, did it constitute a multiplier effect on globalising forces? Can we identify diverging roles between different regional and international organisations in this respect?

PhD students and early postdoctoral researchers in history and connected disciplines are invited to submit an abstract of no more than 300 words and a short CV by 18 December 2015 to Aurélie Andry at aurelie.andry@eui.eu. Travel and accommodation costs will be covered. Selection committee: Aurélie Andry, Haakon Ikonou, Quentin Jouan, Guia Migani, Emmanuel Murlon-Druol, Federico Romero, Laurent Warloutzet.

The History of European Integration Research Society (HEIRS) and the Réseau International des Chercheurs en Histoire de l’Intégration Européenne (RICHIE) are postgraduate student networks that strive to foster collaboration and interaction among postgraduate researchers across Europe with an interest in European integration history. This conference will bring together PhD students and academics from various disciplines to discuss their work in a number of panels. It will be coupled with a workshop on the theme ‘Capitalism, Crises and European Integration in the long 1970s’. In addition, there will be keynote lectures and speakers will be available for in-depth discussions. Some papers will be selected for publication in high-ranked history journal. The conference is part of the Jean Monnet Project ‘Rethinking European Integration History in Times of Crisis’ supported by the European Commission and the Alcide De Gasperi Research Center on the History of European Integration at the European University Institute.

For more information on this event, please visit: <http://www.eui.eu/Research/HistoricalArchivesOfEU/News/2015/1013Call-for-papers-Capitalism-Crises-and-European-Integration-from-1945-to-the-present.aspx>

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