



Cover image: Abraham Ortelius, *Theatrum orbis Terrarum* (detail of Europa), Antwerp, 1570 Herzog August Bibliothek Wolfenbüttel

“In the past the sheer impossibility of ‘Europe’ was also the by-product of national narratives”

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## Towards a European History?

EUI President | **Yves Mény**

History is one of the key disciplines represented at the European University Institute. It is probably the one facing the most demanding challenges, given the nature and the difficulty of searching the past, and of making sense of many facts, factors, interpretations which cannot easily be ‘falsified’ in the same way as most social or hard sciences can. History is first of all a story constructed by scholars on the basis of evidence related to social or political phenomena, countries, regions, personalities etc. The instruments of investigation are primarily the private or public archives to which historians have access, but the methods and instruments have become increasingly diverse and sophisticated over time. *A priori*, not a single tool available in social sciences is excluded in the study of history: statistics, interviews, anthropological approaches and even econometrics may help contribute to historical research.

The discipline of history, from this point of view is very dependent on others, but, at the same time, the other disciplines cannot develop without the contribution of history as a key for better understanding the present and the future.

All our societies are bound together (or divided) through the use (and manipulation) of memory. We can remember (partially and subjectively) our own life or the events we experienced. But even this simple auto-centred exercise is difficult. We forget and we select. We interpret and reinterpret. We believe in a truth which is not *the* truth or which is only *our* truth. Historians are crucial in helping us to create individual memories beyond our own experiences, yet to keep critical distance from constructs of collective memories, which have contributed to many conflicts and even wars in European History. Historians ►►

- are also expected in principle to distance themselves from their personal beliefs or from the preferences and choices expressed by a given group or country. 'Mission impossible' probably. Many historians confess that their views are a personal interpretation of facts and data. As Tony Judt put it in the preface to his major work on the history of Europe, "*Postwar* offers an avowedly personal interpretation of the recent European past. In a word that has acquired undeservedly pejorative connotations, it is *opinionated*."<sup>1</sup>

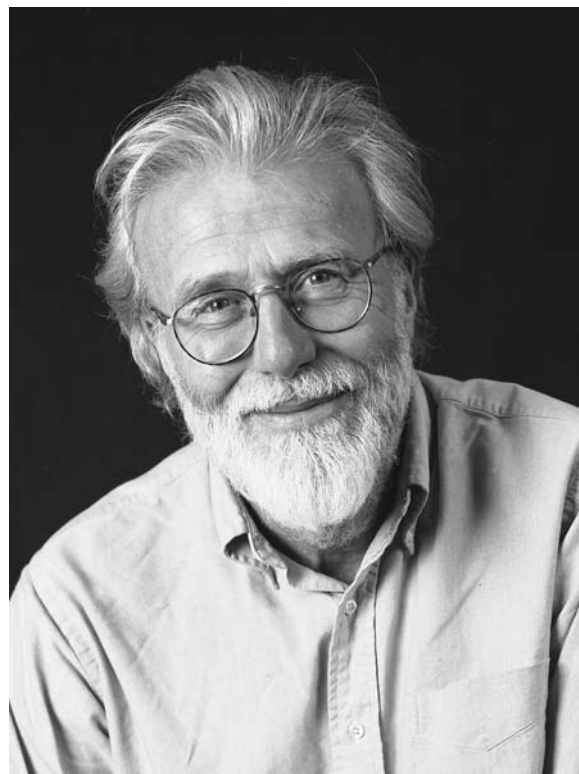
This frankness and candour has not always been the cardinal virtue of historians in the past. During the 19th and 20th centuries, too often, too many historians accepted to work in the service of the Prince or to place themselves in *servitude volontaire* for the sake of a group or a nation. They invented mythology around undisputed facts, created heroes and villains which still structure beliefs, preferences, hatred or stereotypes. The sheer impossibility of 'Europe' was also the by-product of national narratives.

Until very recently, there was no such thing as a European history. History was national. The curriculum and the careers were national. The French were studying and constructing *l'histoire de France* while the British were doing the same for Britain, the Germans for Germany and so on. The approach was always from the viewpoint of a given country. When a historian looked beyond national borders, it was usually with the lenses and prejudices of his country and culture. Historians with a wider perspective, such as Toynbee or Braudel were more the exceptions rather than the rule. For the first time in 2006, a text book was jointly produced by French and German scholars. This is telling regarding the difficulties and traps of a non-national history.

The challenges faced by a history department in an institution whose vocation and flag is Europe need no underlining. Writing the history of Europe calls for patience and modesty, given the magnitude and the difficulty of the task. It will take years and years before it is possible to produce a history of Europe which is not simply the sum of its parts, but there is an *ardente obligation* to do it. The History Department has embarked on this fascinating venture and has been helped from its inception by the recruitment of leading scholars such as Carlo Poni, Carlo Cipolla, John Brewer or Daniel Roche. Its great strength in this task lies in the diversity of cultures, experiences and training of its members, postdocs and researchers. In our History Department, passports have no meaning. Our historian colleagues travel transnationally even if they are rooted in some national historiographical tradition.

Those who study European integration after the Second World War in Florence benefit from rich archives

deposited both by EU institutions and many political leaders, policy-makers, parties or interest groups. Our former colleague, Alan Milward, who taught from 1983 to 1986 and again from 1996 to 2003, was at the forefront of this venture and was a leader in training a new generation of 'Europeanists'.



Alan Milward

A famous Italian lawyer, Mauro Cappelletti, used the American motto 'think federal' *vis-à-vis* European studies to try to change the minds of his nationally-oriented colleagues. Our historians act in the same spirit: "Think comparative, think transnational" is their mission statement. Beyond the methodological and programmatic implications of this intellectual manifesto, there is also a view of the world. A world where history would not be an instrument of power, antagonism and war but a scientific adventure for improving knowledge and life. As Kierkegaard put it "life can only be understood backwards; but...it must be lived forwards". ■

<sup>1</sup> Tony Judt, *Postwar. A History of Europe since 1945*, Penguin Books, New York, 2005 p. XIII



# EUI: A Special Place for European History

Professor of 20th Century European History | **Philipp Ther**

Since the foundation of the Department of History and Civilization (HEC), European history has played a key role at the EUI. The Department was a pioneer in exploring European history when it was established and in the following two decades. By contrast, today there are many MA and PhD programmes specializing in European history at national universities. Quoting Captain Kirk from Star Trek one could conclude: 'mission accomplished'. But a national perspective and framework still dominate the discipline of history in other universities and the Department still retains a special position for studying European history on a practical and academic level.

On the practical level there is the internationality of our students. Our 'young researchers', as we call them in respect of their work and in disrespect of the usual academic hierarchies, almost all come from EU Member States and neighbouring countries such as Turkey or Russia. There also is a strong influx from North America, especially in our postdoc programmes. This mixture means that many languages are spoken on the EUI campus and that different cultures come into contact automatically.

At the EUI it is normal to find students from over ten countries sitting at the same lunch table or attending the same seminar. You are likely to hear as many languages in the cafeteria, not only the global communication tool English, but Polish, Russian, German, French, Spanish and sometimes other languages. This European experience on a daily level changes the mindset. Students and professors are constantly confronted with different viewpoints, experiences and academic cultures.

Of course, you might also hear some of those languages at the big national universities such as in London, Paris, Berlin, Kyiv or Moscow, but there is one key difference with HEC. While a French doctoral student who studies in Paris is still likely to deal with French history at least as a point of reference, and while German comparativists are likely to integrate Germany at least as one case, students at the EUI often study topics which have no connection to their home country. To give but one example: a French doctoral student at the EUI decided to study the construction of a national heritage in Ireland and will now compare this case with Scotland and some other regions in Europe. Another HEC student who is of Danish origin but studied mostly in Germany is analyzing Soviet



nationality policy. He intends to study the relationship between Moscow and the Soviet periphery, which we do not exclude from our vision of Europe. Of course, many other students at the EUI still deal with 'their own', i.e. national history, but they are exposed to an environment that questions standard interpretations of national history. Was Poland really economically backward in modern history? Not from the perspective of a Rumanian student. Was antisemitism especially strong in Germany and can that explain the Holocaust as Goldhagen did? You will hear interesting ►►

“A French doctoral student at the EUI decided to study the construction of a national heritage in Ireland and will now compare this case with Scotland and some other regions in Europe”

- ▶ insights from our Central European students. Any idea of exceptionalism and any internalist vision of history will be questioned at the EUI.

## “ Historiography has traditionally been shaped by a national perspective and framework ”

Although this European experience might be inspiring on a daily level it is not easy to utilize it for a dissertation project. It is still a great challenge for a historian to cover more than one specific case or country. The implementation of a European perspective in a dissertation project and the writing of European history on a professional level requires the knowledge of several languages and cultures, and of specific methods. In contrast to the social sciences, HEC expects its researchers to be able to read the languages of the countries they study. This requirement presupposes intensive training and hard work before and after applying to the Department, but we are convinced that this ‘Europeanization’ is worth the effort. Knowing several languages and cultures is an asset for the job market after completing a PhD, and it contributes to the profile and the quality of the EUI beyond our Department. Last but not least, our young researchers are comforted by the fact that they all have to deal with this challenge.

Another challenge for the Department is the development of European history on a theoretical level. Historiography has traditionally been shaped by a national perspective and framework. This is also true of most master narratives on European history which have been published in recent years, but this statist approach and national framing is insufficient for the present day world, which is shaped by dramatically increasing international connections and cooperation. This is especially true for Europe, where the EU is shaping many aspects of the daily life of its citizens and thus sets an example for the cooperation of states, economies and cultures on a global level. Yet, historians should aspire to go beyond this present-oriented legitimization of European history. In recent years, historians have explored earlier phases of globalization, which were in fact paralleled and supported by a process of Europeanization. Already a hundred years ago, there was a sharp increase in cultural exchange, economic cooperation and labour migration in Europe and on a global level, and there were earlier periods of Europeanization and globalization. In particular, the 19th century was a period of convergence in the economic, social and cultural history of Europe (for the specific area of music this is explored in the book series *Musikkulturen europäischer Metropolen im*

*19. und 20. Jahrhundert*, published by Oldenbourg in Vienna and Munich). But this was not a linear process, as is widely believed of present-day globalization. Many contacts were interrupted during times of war or through the erection new borders such as during the Cold War. Moreover, increasing international contacts and cultural exchange do not necessary generate mutual understanding and cooperation. Processes of convergence often provoked strong resistance and nationalism.

One of the fields of study of European history is, hence, the mutual perception, communication and interaction between various places, countries, groups, societies and cultures. This has only been taken into account in some books which bear the title of European history, for example in Norman Davies’ *Europe. A History* (Oxford 2006) and in Tony Judt’s *Postwar. A History of Europe Since 1945* (New York 2005). However, the vast majorities of syntheses on European history still follow a statist approach and concentrate on certain countries which are usually located in the former West of Europe.

This very general demand for a history of Europe which stresses mutual perception, communication and interaction, requires a theoretical foundation. Several members of faculty have published on the theory of European history, and have done so in many different languages. What we have written, is not just resting peacefully in books and journals, but is taught in seminars and our annual summer school with its special focus on comparative history, *histoire croisée* and transnational history.

What all these ‘relational approaches’ (Michael Werner and Benedicte Zimmermann, ‘Penser l’histoire croisée: entre empirie et réflexité’, *Annales HSS*, 2003, 7-36) have in common is that they allow us to transcend the boundaries of one state or culture. The historical comparison analyzes the differences and commonalities between various cases. The nation or state have traditionally been the dominant units of analysis, but EUI researchers and professors increasingly compare cities, regions (and hence units within the nation), groups (and other entities within a society) and institutions. The *histoire croisée*, which is closely related to the approach of *transferts culturels* concentrates on the mutual exchange between various units of analysis and the adaptation of imported elements of culture in the analyzed case. The *histoire croisée* deliberately ‘crosses’ and entangles the histories of places and social groups. Transnational history is still more of a debate than a well defined approach, but it also concentrates on external contacts and influences and their transformation through the exchange and reception of cultures. It would require ▶▶

- ▶ a long article or a book to explain these relational approaches in detail, so it may now suffice to refer to a book published this year by Heinz-Gerhard Haupt (ed. with Jürgen Kocka, *Beyond Comparison? Debates Inside German Historiography*, Providence 2008) and to the publications of several other HEC faculty such as Sebastian Conrad, Kiran Patel, Philipp Ther and Bartolomé Yun-Casalilla.

The 'family of relational approaches' is not only an adequate basis to study European history. It is also of relevance for the social sciences where the nation state is still the dominant unit of analysis, be it in economy, political science or sociology.

Our teaching staff and researchers aspire to write history 'beyond the nation'. This implies that European history is more than just a combination of national histories. In fact, the nation states which now form the EU are very young entities. Europe was ruled much longer by empires which often transcended the geographical boundaries of the continent. Our Department is therefore especially interested in the neighbouring regions of Europe such as Turkey, the Mediterranean or the Americas.

Most books about European history leave not only these neighbouring regions and their connections to Europe aside, they also have a strong bias on Western Europe. The Department perceives it as its task to integrate the

former Eastern Europe in its studies. There are already numerous researchers from the new EU Member States at the EUI. We would like to stress, though, that our interest in Central and Eastern Europe is not driven by the need of Brussels or the old Member States of the EU to know more about this part of the continent. Our vision of Europe is instead based on past perceptions of Europe rather than on the present boundaries of the EU. This means that our spatial concept of Europe relies not on fixed boundaries such as the Ural mountains (Russia and especially South-Eastern Europe were long excluded from Europe by Western European intellectuals), but rather on dynamic ones.

This dynamic vision of Europe also encompasses the study of European values. Quite often, what came to be seen as specifically European, was defined from outside, or the Europeans defined it as an act of demarcation towards non-European cultures. Even the term civilization, which is contained in the name of our Department, was formed as a result of a transcultural process of communication. As a result of World War II, Europe is more than ever embedded in a wider context, if not 'provincialized' (D. Chakrabarty). But as our researchers might already discover as a result of a successful application, the EUI is not a provincial place. In recent years, we have expanded our grant programmes for researchers of non-European origin. However, quite often they come to study European history at the EUI. ■

## NEW: The Marc Bloch Prize

The Department of History and Civilization at the EUI is proud to announce the **Marc Bloch Prize in Modern European History (15th -21st centuries) for the best new MA thesis in early modern or modern European history.**

Only studies with an explicit comparative or transnational perspective will be considered. Submitted theses should be of a high scholarly historical quality, and research accuracy, innovation and literary merit will be important factors in the final selection. A prize of € 4,000 will be awarded in a ceremony at the EUI in Florence. The winner of the prize will be invited to give a talk on the subject of her/his thesis.

Eligibility is limited to candidates holding an MA degree (awarded in 2007 or 2008). The judging panel is appointed by the EUI's Department of History and Civilization. The jury's decision is final. For complete information:

[www.eui.eu/HEC/BlochPrize.shtml](http://www.eui.eu/HEC/BlochPrize.shtml).

**Entries must be received by: 1 November 2008.**



# Comparative and Transnational History in the HEC Department

Professor of Social and Political History | **Gerhard Haupt**

Professor of Cultural and Social History | **Bartolomé Yun**

«En un mot, cessons, si vous le voulez bien, de causer éternellement d'histoire nationale à histoire nationale, sans nous comprendre. Un dialogue entre des sourds, dont chacun répond tout de travers aux questions de l'autre, c'est un vieil artifice de comédie, bien fait pour soulever les rires d'un public prompt à la joie; mais ce n'est pas un exercice intellectuel bien recommandable»

Marc Bloch's invitation to stretch the scope of historical inquiry has informed a great deal of work in the Department of History and Civilization, but until recently, this 1928 speech was taken into account by a remarkably small number of historians in general. Writing history has remained very much linked to the nation state and its past. Today, debate about the commemoration of the past, memory and the transmission of history in schools and through the media are conducted within the framework of the nation state, as if it were the only one to work with.

It is in response to this limited horizon that we welcome and encourage studies beyond this perspective within the Department. The aim is to situate the nation state in an international comparative perspective. In doing so, historical research can underline the specificity of national cases, at times even the importance of 'national paths', but it also helps put the national in a broader international context.

“Since the comparative approach implies a way of writing history which starts with the configuration and solution of problems in different contexts, the unit of comparison is not necessarily the nation”

Since the comparative approach implies a way of writing history which starts with the configuration and solution of problems in different contexts, the unit of comparison is not necessarily the nation. Thus, economic historians sometimes prefer to compare

economic regions inside Europe in order to explain industrialization patterns, social historians may put towns side by side as a means of understanding social structures or geographic mobility and demographers consider local communities in order to understand shifts in population patterns.

Choosing the units of comparison depends to a large extent on the questions raised, but contrasting different cases in an explicit and systematic way always gives fresh and challenging interpretations of historical material. It forces historians to clarify methods and assumptions of historical writing, and obliges them to construct the object of historical analysis in a more conscious way.

One of the shortcomings of comparative history is that it often fails to integrate the relationship between the units analysed: here, transnational history is useful. As a history of interactions and their nature and effects, transnational history pays special attention to transfers and connections occurring between nations, but also beneath them. Compared to the traditional history of international relations, the scope of actors and exchanged goods is expanded when looking at the past from this viewpoint. Social politicians and consumer experts, organizers of international expositions and social hygienists, social groups (aristocracy, merchants, workers, etc.), and institutions (the Church, NGOs, etc.) construct transnational networks which are analysed in a systematic way. Mediators of cultural transfer like travellers, translators and editors merit special attention, as do transnational places like port cities, diasporas and the movement of cultural products, such as opera, books or works of art. In using this approach current historiography is undergoing an impressive extension of actors, themes and geographic boundaries.

The importance of Asian goods for 18th century consumption, the use of Chinese workers in imperial German factories or international conferences in the struggle against terrorism—all these transnational perspectives open up important fields of research and trigger our curiosity. One of the methodological challenges of this approach is the study of the effects of such transfers on specific societies or economies. It ►►





► is not always easy to explain structures by considering specific and singular relationships and influences. But if transnational connections are to become more than an exotic subject for historians, special attention must be paid to their concrete impact on different areas.

Comparative history and transnational history are key components of the HEC Department. They are applied by most professors and researchers. To this end, comparisons and transnational approaches are not only applied to European history but also to world history, and the role Europe has played in it. An annual summer school is devoted to these questions, and attracts a significant number of participants and

prominent specialists in the world are invited. Since 2004 a specific departmental seminar has been devoted to this subject and many seminars are coloured by these approaches such as those on the circulation of goods and knowledge, global history and the history of empires, history of violence, gender history to name but a few. The Department is becoming a point of reference in the broad and challenging international debate on how to develop comparative and transnational history. ■

# Beyond Europe

Professor of Comparative History | **Sebastian Conrad**



“All historians are world historians now”, observed Chris Bayly recently “though many have not yet realized it”. This may seem somewhat of an exaggeration, but the general tendency applies: the scope of historical studies is expanding, and consequently, transnational and global perspectives have moved to the forefront of the discipline. This is also true for history at the European University Institute where placing European history in a broader perspective and going beyond Europe thematically and analytically was already important early on, and will continue to be important in the future.

Global perspectives owe much to the fundamental economic, political and cultural process of global integration in the present. At the same time, they can look back to different genealogies and a variety of approaches that have been instrumental in moving historians’ analyses beyond the confines of the nation-state. Among them, historical comparisons reaching back to Max Weber and Marc Bloch, and transnational history that has been championed in order to better understand the complex

processes of cross-border exchange and interaction. Since the 1990s, with the end of the Cold War and the emergence of the new meta-narrative of globalization, new approaches have informed scholars’ attempts to systematically look beyond Europe: a renewed interest in international relations beyond old-fashioned forms of diplomatic history; postcolonial studies that have revolutionized the field of Europe’s relation with the non-Western world; histories of globalization that attempt to trace the pre-history of the present conjuncture back to the 19th, and frequently to the 16th, centuries. A common feature of many of these new departures is the attempt not only to inscribe Europe into a larger framework, but also to de-centre the hegemony of Eurocentric narratives that have long relegated the rest of the world to what Dipesh Chakrabarty refers to as the ‘waiting room of history’.

Gone, then, the simple narratives of diffusion. Gone, too, an earlier trust in the concept of modernisation that modelled everyone else’s history according to an idealized West. Instead, the focus is on complex and conflictual processes of exchange and interaction that have led to the emergence of what some scholars call ‘uneven modernities’—not identical, but related. In 1991 the work of the first Vasco da Gama Professor at the EUI, Prof. Kirti N. Chaudhuri, in his broad ranging study of the Indian Ocean was influenced by Braudel’s classical work on the Mediterranean. Drawing on mathematical and statistical methodology, but also extending to the dynamic interaction between economic life, society, and civilisation in the regions around and beyond the Indian Ocean during the period from the rise of Islam to 1750, Asia before Europe became an important—albeit controversial—point of reference for non-Eurocentric world histories.

Since the millennium, global history perspectives have acquired a firm place in the Department, long before most European universities embarked on similar endeavours. Bo Stråth, for example, organised a series of workshops and conferences bringing together scholars working on different parts of the world. The present faculty has a strong commitment to issues of global reach, as the long-standing seminar in global/world history (Tony Molho, Diogo Curto) or Giulia Calvi’s seminar on Gender and World History, among others, demonstrate.

In many ways, the historiography of the early modern period has been more open towards cross-cultural entanglements than modern historians with their at- ▶▶



► tachment to what Anthony Smith has called ‘methodological nationalism’. This is evident in the work of Yun-Casalilla who combines economic history with social history perspectives and transnational approaches. His recent projects have focused, in particular, on aristocracies and colonial élites and their respective roles in the rise of the modern world, in economic development and capitalism. In *Marte contra Minerva. El precio del Imperio español, 1450-1600* (Barcelona: Critica, 2004), he examines the way in which social and institutional changes taking place in the Spanish Empire affected the economic and social development of its territories. He uses a comparative approach by looking at France, England, the Low Countries and the Italian peninsula, and considers the Spanish kingdoms within a broader European and Atlantic context.

The colonial situation is also present in Romano’s work in the field of the history of science. After focusing on the development of mathematics in the context of the Jesuit order in the 16th and 17th centuries, she has expanded the scope of her work to the scientific exchange between Europe and non-Europe. She looks at the Jesuit mission as a form of practice that disseminates, and produces, knowledge, and thus explores the mutually constitutive effects of science and empire in the early modern period. A starting point was an edited volume on Rome as a global capital of scientific knowledge (*Rome et la science moderne entre Renaissance et Lumière*, Rome, EFR, 2008). In her current research, she compares the Jesuit mission in New Spain (Mexico) and China and the ways in which these relations have contributed to the development of ‘European’ science.

Since the founding of the Vasco da Gama chair, the history of colonialism has been very prominent in the Department. The current chair holder, Diogo Ramada Curto, has worked extensively on the history of the Portuguese Empire between 1415, the conquest of Ceuta, and the late 18th century. Long one of the most widespread and far-reaching colonial projects, the Portuguese Empire has been at the margins of much recent research on colonialism. Diogo Curto has done much to rectify this, both at the EUI and beyond. His *Portuguese Oceanic Expansion, 1400-1800*, edited together with Francisco Bethencourt and published in 2007, provides an excellent overview of Portuguese oceanic expansion, the patterns of settlement, political configurations, ecclesiastical structures, and the interaction between Portuguese and local people. It provides a broad understanding of the Portuguese Empire in its first four centuries as a factor in world history.

In modern history, Sebastian Conrad has reconceptualised the history of German nationalism in the late 19th century within the context of the history of globalisation. His book *Globalisierung und Nation im*

*Deutschen Kaiserreich* (Munich: C.H. Beck, 2006) uses the example of mobility and labour migration to show to what extent German nationalism was transformed under the auspices of cross-border circulation. Effects included the emergence of diasporic nationalism, the racialization of the nation, the implementation of new border regimes, and the hegemony of ideological templates that articulated nationalist discourse with global geopolitics. The book deals with areas ranging from the African colonies to the Polish-speaking territories in Eastern Europe, from China to Brazil, arguing that the dynamics of German nationalism were not only negotiated in the *Kaiserreich*, but owed more to the global context in which it was constituted than is usually recognised.

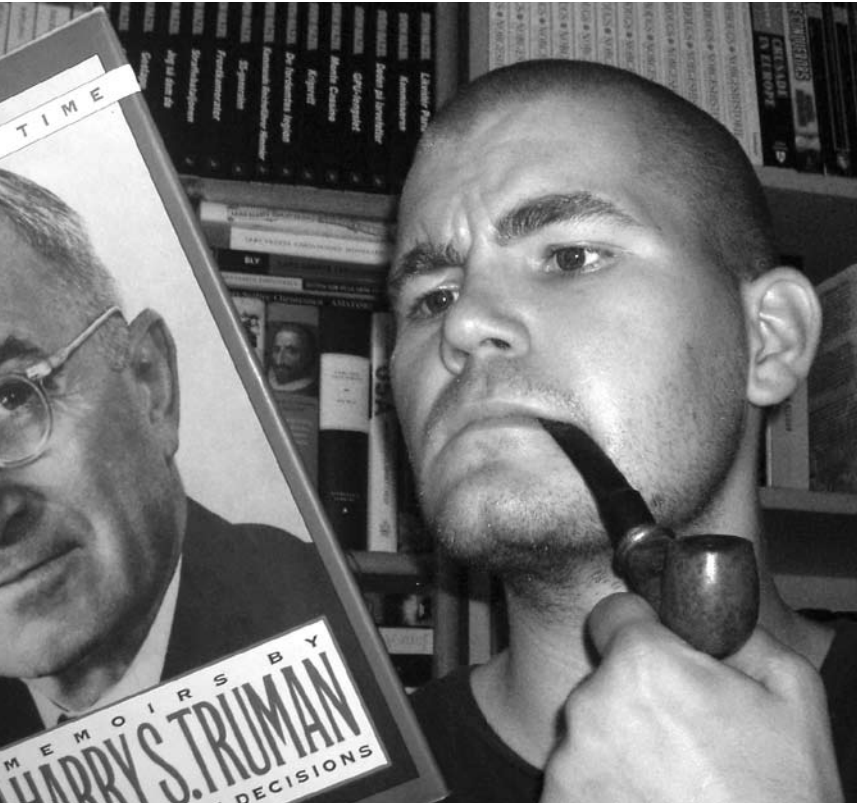
“Gone is an earlier trust in the concept of modernisation that modelled everyone else’s history according to an idealized West”

The field of economic history, finally, has been among the first to consciously adopt global perspectives, and the history of commodities, as well as the integration of world markets since the 18th century have emerged as central topics of debate. Federico’s work needs to be placed in this context, for example his recent *Feeding the World* in which he synthesizes two hundred years of agricultural development throughout the world. It covers, in the framework of quantitative economic history, all the factors that have affected agricultural performance: environment, accumulation of inputs, technical progress, institutional change, commercialization, and agricultural policies and ends with a discussion on contribution of agriculture to modern economic growth. The book is global in its reach and analysis, and represents a grand synthesis of a large topic.

These examples illustrate some of the global history approaches and perspectives used in the Department. This is also due to the increasing number of researchers who deal with topics of colonialism and the non-European past. Not only can European history no longer be understood without taking its broader context into account, but for some young historians, Europe may not even be the starting point when attempting to understand the particular part of world history they have decided to research. ■

# The EUI: A Light-Hearted Look from Below

Researcher, HEC Dept., 1st year | **Mats Ingulstad**



The poet and etymologist John Ciardi once remarked that “A university is what a college becomes when the faculty loses interest in students.” The European University Institute is neither a college nor a university in this sense, but is what a university becomes when the faculty is free to focus their energies on research, including yours.

“Here you will not find any of the ‘ivy-covered professors in ivy-covered halls’ commemorated in Tom Lehrer’s songs”

The EUI is not a normal university, it is a research institution. It therefore introduces the first-year doctoral researcher to some interesting experiences. The first is a feeling of dread. After five or more years of climbing through the academic ranks, many of us could not avoid feeling but an inkling of superiority over the new undergraduate students that entered our old universities. They seemed to get younger and more inexperienced every autumn. But as there are no undergraduate students at the EUI, on the first day you feel like you slipped on one of the greasy rungs on the academic lad-

der and slid all the way back down to the bottom. This feeling, which hopefully will imbue the academics of tomorrow with some much-needed modesty, lasts about five minutes. That is exactly how long it will take before somebody asks you about your research topic, and before you know it you are engaged in a lively debate over constitutional pluralism, voting behaviour in the Czech Republic or whether clocks in the early modern period were made as metaphors for political reality.

Since the EUI is not a university in the traditional sense, it offers less in terms of the range of degrees, but more in the sense of community. Here you will not find any of the ‘ivy-covered professors in ivy-covered halls’ commemorated in Tom Lehrer’s songs. The styles and methods of professors hailing from every corner of Europe are very different, but they all have the same enthusiasm for their discipline. While some lead discussion seminars on existing literature, others invite doctoral students to present their own research for group discussion. With representatives from so many different sub-fields and national traditions gathered around the table, somebody is bound to provide you with new insights. You can also follow a seminar in another department, where you can find out for yourself whether inter-disciplinary research lives up to all the hype. At the very least the experience will provide you with ammunition for engaging in some friendly academic ‘tribal warfare’ over lunch. The language courses will provide you with friends in other departments and nothing builds friendship like struggling together to find the Italian word for pizza or spaghetti.

The community also extends beyond the boundaries of departmental and research seminars. A number of important books have even been conceived by professors and their doctoral students over a glass of wine in the university bar, inaptly named the Bar Fiasco. It opens at 6 p.m. and only closes when the time for constructive (or deconstructive) thinking is past.

But there is one warning for all considering applying for a position at the EUI. Be wary of the academic variant of the Stendhal syndrome. This ‘disease’ was first described by a French visitor in the early 19th century, and is diagnosed as a psychosomatic dizziness brought on by the overwhelming beauty of Florence and its art. If having lunch between manicured hedges and old statues in a 11th century convent does not induce symptoms of the Stendhal syndrome, listening to your fellow researcher’s discussions on the Polish agricultural sector, Irish national ideals or Lacanian philosophy, almost certainly will. ■

# Women, Gender Relations and Families in European History

Professor of Social and Cultural History | **Giulia Calvi**

Shedding light on the agency, memories, images and words of women has enormously enriched our vision of Europe and its past. The relations between men and women, together with the symbolic representations of the masculine and feminine, are an essential element in the construction of European culture.

These gender identities and relations do not give us a coherent or one-dimensional image of Europe, but a heterogeneous set of discourses, tensions and practices that challenge master narratives.

The history of women and gender relations has a long-standing tradition in the Department of History and Civilization (HEC) at the EUI. Gisela Bock opened up the field in the 1980s when hardly any independent chairs or undergraduate curricula of women's studies existed in European universities.

At that time England and a few Nordic countries, notably Denmark, with Sweden and Norway following in the 1990s, were developing academic curricula in this area. In Southern Europe, including France, the field was part of the traditional historical disciplines and mostly left to the initiative of individual scholars, with no specific chairs or academic programmes. In most countries, research was promoted in extra-academic centres, journals and groups and the overall European picture was fragmented albeit lively and rapidly developing.

The Chair on History of Women and Gender Relations at the HEC was an absolute innovation, as it promoted a high-profile, international visibility to a burgeoning field of research at a post-graduate level. Inaugurating an independent chair in the history of women and gender in Florence meant attracting young researchers who had no opportunity to develop their curriculum after graduating from programmes that neglected the historical agency of women in the making of European societies.

In this period research and teaching developed in connection to the women's movement as part of an agenda that was both academic and political. This created inside the EUI networks of interdisciplinary work among scholars from different fields—professors, visiting scholars, Jean Monnet fellows and researchers. Luisa Passerini was among those who made a very significant contribution during this period. Indeed this exciting potential is one of the unique characteristics of the EUI at large, and the chance to develop first-class research in an international community of



migrating scholars is one of the main factors contributing to the rapid development and exchange of ideas, as well as the construction of networks in Europe.

Research and teaching in the field of women's history and gender has achieved the major breakthrough of moving in the direction of a transnational, European dimension in a field that has been defined by a regionally specific research agenda.

In the following years scholarly activity in women's history and gender relations in the Department mirrored the intellectual and academic traditions of successive professors (Hufton, Schulte, Calvi). Research on women's work and citizenship; welfare policies and motherhood; the representation of political power in and through the body; the engendering of legal discourse ►►



“The Chair on History of Women and Gender Relations at the HEC was an absolute innovation, as it promoted a high-profile, international visibility to a burgeoning field of research at a post-graduate level”

- ▶ and practice; the changing language of subjectivity and identity translates a move from the history of women in Europe to a gendered history of power and social practices, to one of representation, language and meaning.

These trends coexist and overlap and express the variety of interests and questions coming from doctoral research where work on specific groups of women co-exists with issues of masculinity, visual representation of gender relations and with an increasing interest in the history of empires and colonialism.

All this helped construct a comparative approach to a gendered history of Europe within a multifocal framework with a gradual moving away from a Western European focus towards a narrative where migration and the issue of displacement across and beyond borders are emerging points of interest.

The present approach is characterised by a deeply critical history of Europe which challenges all notions of Eurocentrism and nationalism. With the enlargement of the EU the Department accepted researchers from the Central Eastern European countries who challenged comparative approaches to gendered models and processes of citizenship, with a new emphasis on migrating communities as well as political, ethnic and religious identities. Students from Latin American countries have also contributed to this de-centralised and eccentric reflection on European historical categories, questioning hegemonic Western definitions of man, woman, family and gender relations.

In recent years critical theory has stressed the connection between women and transnationalism, emphasising the ‘nomadic’ quality of women’s lives as they move between spaces, families, borders. Virginia Wolf’s famous quote from *Three Guineas*—‘as a woman I have no country. As a woman I want no country. As a woman my country is the whole world’—has indeed become the catchword for an emerging set of questions that point to diasporas and migrations as key elements in the subjective experience of women and in the changing of gender and generational relations, family patterns and individual life cycles.

In this framework research on masculinity, changing models of manliness and new frontiers of kin is gain-

ing ground on an interdisciplinary basis which examines families, as well as relationships among genders and generations, in terms of contested fields where the authority of traditional male kin is being questioned.

Across Europe we can discern tensions in the field of women and gender history: interdisciplinarity vs. monodisciplinarity; and professional formation vs. the academic market.

Gender programmes are a North American invention constructed on interdisciplinary approaches led by cultural studies within autonomous academic curricula. This model has been adopted by northern European countries, but has encountered obstacles and resistance in Southern and Eastern Europe, notably in the field of history.

This tension is reflected in the EUI where continuing research and teaching is located exclusively in the Department, while interdisciplinarity is the outcome of changing presences and voluntary initiatives among scholars and researchers at the doctoral and post-doctoral level (Max Weber fellowships; Robert Schuman Centre).

A younger generation of researchers is now demanding a de-politicisation of gender studies and requires that this field does not overemphasize feminist knowledge and theory, but rather is concerned with research excellence in an increasingly competitive European academic market.

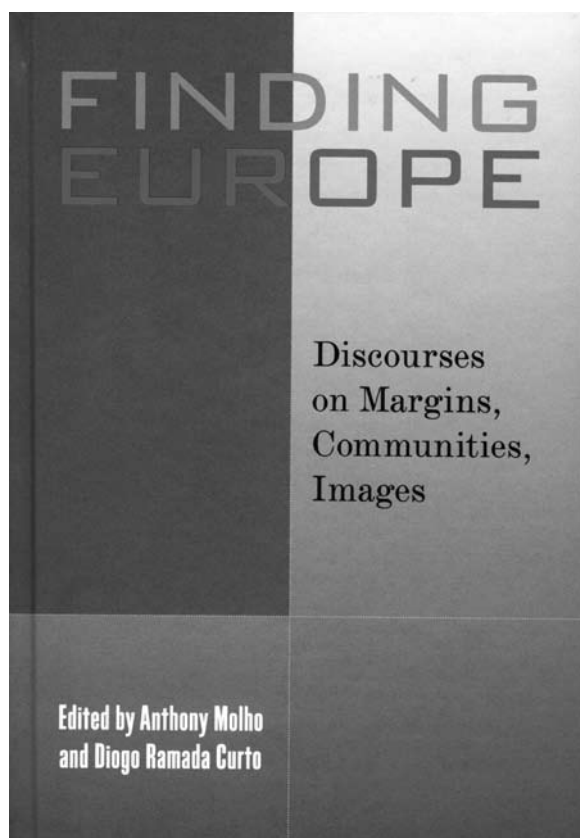
The tension between visibility and mainstreaming is being translated into a well-balanced teaching programme in the HEC department where research seminars on the history of women, gender and the family and a systematic overview of innovative historiography parallels department seminars where gender is discussed as an analytical category within mainstream European comparative history.

My research and teaching in the HEC department currently cover three main areas that include the history of women, gender relations and the family in a comparative dimension.

#### **Families in, across and beyond Europe**

The nuclear family is becoming increasingly redundant amidst diversification of households and the breaking up of marriages, and yet it continues to maintain its grip on what may be called the ‘imagined’ European family.

This normative ‘imagined family’ influences notions and self-perceptions about what a family should be like today, as migrant and minority ethnic families tend to be viewed as the locus of resistance to resist integration into receiving societies. Ethnic minorities in Europe practice arranged and forced marriages thus ▶▶



### **Identity and otherness: travel, migration, displacement in and beyond Europe**

Letters, journals, costume books, ethnographic, missionary and travel literature and even atlases constitute the central core of this research. The general framework is the construction of the European self *vis-à-vis* non-Western others through differences represented and perceived on the bodies of men and women, their clothes, sexual practices and family mores. In the first place research focuses on differences within specific regions of Europe, and to the iconography related to costumes and their broader meanings. The aim is to rethink the history of Europe, taking into account the representation of ethnicity, gender roles and culture from the 16th to the 19th centuries. Iconography plays an important part in this area of research.<sup>1</sup>

### **Women rulers: agency, practice and the representation of political power in Europe**

This new research field examines the formal roles of authority and government of women in early modern Europe. It does so going beyond the evaluations of female rule in terms of decadence, discontinuity and crisis that have prevailed in historiography since the eighteenth century. This approach is encouraged by the new notions of state formation processes that include gender as a category of historical analysis. Historiography has begun to question the language of sovereignty as a process encompassing gendered legal and institutional implications, which in turn affected the construction of a public legal sphere of practices, rituals and discourses.

Research focuses on styles of government and the dynastic functions and family roles in a transnational perspective. Political power, family roles and the life cycle are examined to map the gendering of state rule in Europe. The circulation of women rulers across the borders of European states in the *ancien régime* produced a complex set of transfers—language, personnel, material culture, technical expertise, educational systems, political style of government. Research addresses these transfers and the transformations that they activate across Europe, in a perspective of cultural, political and religious ‘hybridism’. The systematic examination of the correspondence of ruling women across European archives and libraries is our main archival source. ■

- ▶ reintroducing marriage practices which were widespread among the European élites for centuries.

While family historiography viewed freedom of choice in selecting a marriage partner as a periodizing element in 18th century Europe, contemporary social sciences enhance collective bonds and community values behind transcontinental arranged marriages. Complex questions connected to multiculturalism thus point to the family as a locus of contention and historical research allows us to set in a long-term perspective issues that sociologists tend to consider as ‘new’ developments connected to mass migration.

The project focuses on the shaping of family and household in European contexts from the 16th–19th centuries. Changing networks of kin, gender and generational relationships are examined comparatively and transnationally.

Law has had a shaping influence on domestic life, gender identities and family bonds shedding light on the experiences and mutual relationships of authority and dependence in the lives of men and women. Agency, gender and conflict are used in contrast to the prevailing demographic trends of previous years.

This area of research enhances a comparative cultural approach to the history of family ties and the way in which displacement and migration impacts upon them.

<sup>1</sup> Giulia Calvi, ‘Gender and the Body’, in A. Molho and D. Ramada Curto (eds) *Finding Europe*, New York/Oxford, Berghan Books 2007, pp. 89-114.

# Archipels thématiques

Professor of Social and Political History | **Gerhard Haupt**

La caractéristique essentielle du Département d'Histoire qui le distingue des autres instituts comparables est sa constante référence à l'histoire de l'Europe. Une histoire du Moyen Âge jusqu'au temps présent, étudiée sous différents angles, avec des méthodes diverses et des objectifs variés. L'origine géographique et intellectuelle de nos professeurs, tout comme leurs spécialités expliquent cette diversité dans l'analyse. De fait, ils apportent à l'étude de l'histoire de l'Europe des points de vue propres couvrant l'Europe de l'Ouest (Kiran Patel, Sebastian Conrad, Martin van Gelderen et Gerhard Haupt), l'Europe du Sud (Anthony Molho, Diogo Curto, Giovanni Federico, Giulia Calvi, Bartolomé Yun Casalilla et Antonella Romano) et l'Europe Centrale et de l'Est (Philipp Ther, Arfon Rees). Leurs spécialités vont de l'histoire de la construction européenne après 1945 (Kiran Patel) à celle du négoce maritime et international (Anthony Molho, Giovanni Federico, Bartolomé Yun Casalilla, Diogo Curto), de l'histoire intellectuelle (Martin van Gelderen, Arfon Rees) à celle de la famille (Antony Molho, Giulia Calvi) et des sciences (Antonella Romano), des études sur la consommation (Bartolomé Yun Casalilla, Gerhard Haupt) à celles sur la culture musicale (Philipp Ther) et celles sur l'Europe dans un contexte transatlantique et interculturel (Sebastian Conrad, Kiran Patel, Anthony Molho, Antonella Romano).

« L'histoire de l'Europe est le point de convergence de maintes initiatives et réflexions conduites par le département »

La diversité, loin d'être un handicap, devient une force pour dépasser la perspective nationale sur l'histoire, relativiser les apports des historiographies nationales et pour les intégrer dans un ensemble méthodologique et thématique plus large. Les méthodologies et les apports de l'histoire comparée et transnationale sont par conséquent intensément discutés et développés à travers des études de cas ainsi que dans des textes plus systématiques. De même, la confrontation avec d'autres disciplines (sciences sociales, anthropologie ou *cultural studies*) s'avère nécessaire pour mener à bien cette réflexion commune. Les chercheurs sont invités à sortir du cadre local, régional et national de leurs enquêtes pour s'aventurer dans l'étude d'autres réalités, d'autres discours et d'autres problématiques que ceux qu'ils ont connus jusqu'ici. Ils y sont aidés par leurs aînés et par des professeurs spécialisés dans leur domaines, de même qu'ils sont constamment informés

des plus récents développements de l'historiographie. Les séminaires qui ne regroupent qu'un petit nombre de participants facilitent les échanges. Les chercheurs bénéficient également d'une excellente bibliothèque, de la présence des Archives Historiques de l'Union Européenne ainsi que des ressources culturelles, archivistiques et documentaires de la ville de Florence. De cette aventure, ils peuvent profiter pour développer une certaine distance vis-à-vis de la formation historique qu'ils ont reçue dans leurs universités d'origine et acquérir la connaissance d'autres réalités et historiographies qui peuvent leur ouvrir d'autres horizons et carrières. L'histoire de l'Europe, qui est un champ en formation et en construction, est le point de convergence de maintes initiatives et réflexions conduites par le département. Cette approche comparatiste et transnationale de l'Europe est présentée aux étudiants de Masters à travers une *summer school* qui se tient chaque année.

Deux perspectives thématiques peuvent être distinguées dans les recherches menées et les enseignements dispensés par le département:

**Empires, nations et régions** : Le département participe activement à la redécouverte de l'espace comme catégorie d'analyse et comme phénomène historique. Il s'intéresse a) aux constellations, b) aux conflits et c) aux identités. Parmi les constellations, la formation des Empires se trouve au cœur de recherches (Diogo Curto, Bartolomé Yun Casalilla, Antonella Romano) qui peuvent contribuer aux interrogations en cours sur la construction européenne. Celle-ci pourrait être interprétée différemment selon si on la compare, par exemple, à la construction des Empires historiques (Kiran Patel). La naissance et le développement des Etats-nations et des régions en Europe sont un autre axe de la recherche, soit dans l'Europe moderne (Antony Molho, Martin van Gelderen, Bartolomé Yun Casalilla, Giulia Calvi), soit dans l'Europe contemporaine (Giovanni Federico, Gerhard Haupt, Arfon Rees, Sebastian Conrad, Philipp Ther). La relation des différents espaces ainsi que les frontières qui les séparent et les transferts qui les lient, sont analysés dans les ouvrages de Kiran Patel, Sebastian Conrad, Giovanni Federico, Diogo Curto. b) Les relations sont accompagnées de conflits. Guerres et expulsions ont été analysées par Anthony Molho, Kiran Patel et Philipp Ther, mais aussi dans une perspective coloniale par Diogo Curto et Sebastian Conrad. Les violences politiques qui accompagnent l'établissement des Empires et des Etats-nations sont traitées ►►





► par Arfon Rees, Philipp Ther et Gerhard Haupt, les rapports conflictuels entre colonies et métropoles sont au centre des intérêts de Diogo Curto et de Sebastian Conrad. c) Les espaces historiques sont aussi des lieux de formation des identités. L'intérêt pour les identités transnationales unit Anthony Molho, Bartolomé Yun Casalilla, Martin van Gelderen, Philipp Ther, Sebastian Conrad et Kiran Patel. Le nationalisme est étudié par Bartolomé Yun Casalilla, Gerhard Haupt, Philipp Ther et Sebastian Conrad. Ce champ d'intérêt lie l'histoire des relations transatlantiques (Kiran Patel) à l'histoire économique (Giovanni Federico), l'histoire politique et culturelle (Giulia Calvi, Martin van Gelderen, Antonella Romano), l'histoire coloniale et transnationale (Diogo Curto, Bartolomé Yun Casalilla, Philipp Ther, Kiran Patel, Sebastian Conrad).

Un autre axe central du département est formé par l'étude des **idées, discours et mémoires** de l'Europe du Moyen Âge à nos jours. Le département s'inscrit ainsi dans le débat historiographique et théorique récent sur le rapport entre histoire culturelle et sociale, sur le statut des « narratives » historiques et sur l'étude de la mémoire. Avec Martin van Gelderen, le département possède un historien culturel qui développe une histoire des idées nouvelles dans l'Europe moderne, un intérêt qui est repris pour l'Europe contemporaine par Arfon Rees. Les discours, leurs champs sémantiques et leurs effets sont analysés pour les sciences modernes

par Antonella Romano, pour le « gender » par Giulia Calvi, pour l'historiographie par Sebastian Conrad. La mémoire et les politiques de mémoire du XXe siècle se trouvent au centre de l'intérêt de Philipp Ther, mais elle est aussi centrale pour le projet sur l'héritage culturel de l'Europe animé par Anthony Molho.

**Class, Gender, Religion, Race.** En marge des thématiques sur lesquelles des intérêts convergent, le département est un laboratoire de différentes approches méthodologiques et thématiques. Une des richesses du département réside dans la multiplicité des aspects à partir desquels des époques et des problèmes sont présentés et traités. Il possède un bon nombre d'historiens sociaux qui s'interrogent sur les acteurs sociaux, pratiques sociales, conjonctures sociales et constellations sociales (Bartolomé Yun Casalilla, Anthony Molho, Diogo Curto, Giulia Calvi, Kiran Patel, Sebastian Conrad, Philipp Ther, Gerhard Haupt), en relation avec des conjonctures internationales (Kiran Patel), globales (Sebastian Conrad) et économiques (Giovanni Federico). Mais l'analyse des rôles sexuels et des divisions sexuelles n'est pas pour autant absente (Giulia Calvi, Antonella Romano). La religion comme ensemble de croyances, facteur social et politique est présente dans les ouvrages de Martin van Gelderen et Anthony Molho, Bartolomé Yun Casalilla et Gerhard Haupt. Les divisions et regroupements ethniques sont traités par Diogo Curto et Antonella Romano, Philipp Ther et Sebastian Conrad. ■

# Thoughts (in a Minor Key) about HEC

Professor of European History | **Tony Molho**

“So, what’s the big deal with the EUI’s History Department?” This was my Department Head’s first reaction when I informed him that I was thinking of leaving Brown University, where I had spent many happy years of teaching. And he continued, more or less in the same vein “After all, they are not much interested in History there. Contemporary stuff, yes! But History? Think carefully before you do something foolish.”

“Faculty forge a bond with the institution not because of their long tenure here, but, probably because of their commitment to their students and to the multicultural nature of the Institute”

I have often thought about his warning since then, especially in the couple of years following my arrival in Villa Schifanoia. On more than one occasion after coming here I thought of one of my grandmother’s *obiter dicta*, which she repeated to her many grandchildren: “There is no such thing as Paradise”, she would tell us, “but it is nice to change Hell from time to time”. My first impact with the HEC (whose real name is the Department of History and Civilization) seemed to prove that you could be born a subject of the Ottoman Empire in 1875, and still possess a clear vision of how the world functions. Appearances notwithstanding, this was not Paradise. But patience paid off, and it soon became clear that, in many respects, academic and otherwise, this was an especially interesting Hell in which to spend a few years of one’s life.

By the time I arrived at the EUI, I had spent a total of three decades teaching in the USA, three years in Italian universities, a year in Greece, and a year as a visitor in French research centres. In short, I had caught glimpses of different kinds of academic environments, had taught very bright students in American, Italian, and Greek universities, and had had a chance to observe at close hand two French institutions I greatly admired, the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, and the Maison des Sciences de l’Homme in Paris.

My decision to come to the EUI, as is almost inevitable with decisions of this sort, was a product of personal and professional considerations. Having spent a good portion of my professional life in the States, I thought

it was time to return to Europe. The EUI offered me a great opportunity to do so. Professional reasons also pushed me toward HEC. Distinguished historians in my field had spent years of their professional lives there. Some of them—Denys Hay, Carlo Cipolla, Carlo Poni, Stuart Woolf, Raffaele Romanelli—had been friends, and I had heard from them stories of their experiences at the EUI. Listening to them, I often envied them, and what I envied most was their sense of the quality of their students. Indeed, the only firm impression I had of the EUI was of its students (whom, soon following my arrival here, I learned to refer to as researchers).

HEC students have more than fulfilled my expectations. Not every one here is brilliant, but there is a quality about EUI students I had not encountered elsewhere. The variety of cultures, the linguistic diversity (despite everyone’s damnable if inevitable tendency to try and speak in English), the harnessing of such diverse and diffuse intellectual energies in small classes where everyone—students and teachers—has to struggle to find the right words, and concepts to understand difficult ideas while, concurrently, mediating the cultural gaps among us—all this generates a challenge and a tension that were new to me. I continue to admire my students’ ability here to create discursive communities whose object is to communicate—rigorously, analytically, convincingly—across cultures and academic backgrounds.

One can argue that these comments apply to all Departments at the EUI, but in HEC they take on a particular significance. The study of history has been a profoundly conservative field of study, born and nurtured in the embrace of the nation state. Everyone can think of the names of his or her country’s two or three major historians who shaped the grand historical narrative of their country in the 19th and 20th centuries. There are exceptions to this generalization, but by and large it holds. Historical instruction in universities with which I was affiliated in my pre-EUI days inevitably reflected this tendency: French history predominated in French universities, Greek history in Greece, Italian in Italy, and so on. Even in the United States, where distance from Europe often allowed American historians to see Europe whole, the overwhelming tendency there was to think of European history as the aggregate of its national histories.

By the end of the 20th century it was clear, even to many historians, that a national perspective was often ►►



► insufficient to understand the world in which we live. A new world had emerged, Europe and the world were developing in ways that demanded the adoption of new angles of vision on its past, and of new scales of analysis. In one sense, historians today are doing what historians had done in preceding generations. Our predecessors in the 19th and greater part of the 20th centuries, had reflected upon their own, contemporary world in a historical perspective. Our world has changed. So, inevitably, has our perspective on the past.

HEC is one of the very few history departments I know of whose explicit intellectual goal goes beyond a historical approach tailored to the nation state. The search for such an approach is still new, and in this sense, experimental. Historians are probing to find ways of recounting the history of our common, European past. What was Europe? Or, when or where was Europe? Where can one locate its roots? Which ideas, institutions, social movements and economic developments are suited to its study? What of its successes, and of its dark sides? How was it imagined, constructed, discussed over time? Studies of particular national phenomena take on different hues when they are cast against parallel phenomena in other regions in Europe, or in other parts of the world.

As the straightjacket of the nation state has loosened its grip on the collective imagination of historians, we have also been struck by the need to change the scale of our analysis, and not to measure everything by the standards of the history of the modern nation state. So, along side seminars on the history of Europe, and on comparative and transnational histories, we have often investigated phenomena at a small, even a minuscule scale, what now goes by the name of micro-toria. For as Carlo Ginzburg and Jacques Revel taught us, the juxtaposition of the small to the large, of the local to the regional, of the micro to the macro, of the national to the global, can tease out much that is new and unexpected about the past.

A search for new questions with which to address these issues and for the inevitably provisional answers that are fashioned along the way, defines much of the work of HEC professors and researchers. Much of the energy expended in the seminars, workshops, and dissertations in HEC is focused on these questions. Many of the visitors who come through HEC each year, to participate in seminars and workshops, and to sit on dissertation juries, bring us their questions and challenges. They often present us with issues that had escaped our attention, with questions that we had not raised ourselves, while we, for our part, reciprocate and enter into a dialogue ►►



- ▶ with them on issues that stand at the centre of our collective reflection. In this sense, HEC often turns into an intellectual frontier where a new, and more modern kind of historical thinking emerges from the collective work of its teachers and students.

One of HEC's great strengths is our multicultural background, and our impressively diverse academic preparations. This diversity raises problems that, by and large, national universities do not face. How to communicate with each other? How to forge a common ground from which to express our often divergent views? At its core, this is a linguistic problem. Theoretically, at the EUI, every language of the European Community offers an acceptable medium of communication. In reality, English has become the preferred means of scholarly conversation. But not everyone's English in HEC is sufficiently good to allow for the exchange of difficult, complex, and subtle ideas. History is not a social science in the sense that economics, or even political science is. An array of sophisticated statistics or an elegant graph or two are insufficient for presenting an analytically convincing historical argument. Rhetoric and style are hugely important in historical work.

**“One of HEC's great strengths is our multicultural background, and our impressively diverse academic preparations”**

How to bridge the gap between imperfect English and our profession's rhetorical conventions? Some (but not much) written work in HEC is submitted in languages other than English. Everyone is nonetheless aware that, today, you have a better chance of being read by members of the international scholarly community if you write in English than if you do in other language. So, it is understandable that many researchers and professors rely on English to communicate (in writing and orally) with their colleagues. The alternative, favoured in the past by several of us, that every researcher must possess an active and fluent knowledge of two or more European languages, and a passive knowledge of at least a couple more, simply is unrealistic. The world today—not only at the EUI—has made of English an almost universal language of communication. Personally, I find this is a sad turn of events. But there it is! Historians at the EUI are trying, with uneven success, to adjust to this reality.

HEC's language problem strikes me as one of the most interesting if intractable challenges that departments of history in national universities simply do not face. In short, if as some scholars have suggested language is the cement that holds together a community, in HEC (and at the EUI, more generally) we are struggling to

establish a strong, and integrated sense of community. Everyone here is keenly aware of this problem, and it is perhaps this awareness that generates a sense of solidarity and common purpose among us.

I shall only dwell on one other problem, which, it seems to me, is peculiar to the EUI and to HEC. In all other universities where I have taught, the customary ritual was for students to stay for a short period of time, while professors would spend long stretches of their careers there. Succeeding generations of students would bring new energy, new questions, new ideas, while professors would be the repositories of the institution's collective memory. In a famous confrontation back in the early 1950s between the Columbia University Faculty and Dwight Eisenhower who was then the University's President, a senior professor pointedly reminded the retired general-turned-academic-administrator that “we, the faculty, are the University.” Such a statement could hardly be made at the EUI.

Our ritual here calls for a constant renewal of students and professors. Most professors stay a little more than half a dozen years and then move on. From one perspective, this is a very good practice, as the teaching staff is constantly being renewed with the arrival of historians who bring to HEC new ideas, fresh energy, and who enrich our discussions with the perspectives of their own academic cultures. But there is also a drawback. No university with which I have been associated had such a fragile sense of collective memory. Rules have constantly to be reinvented, procedures established only a few years before have to be explained time and again for no one quite seems to remember what was decided and why. Faculty forge a bond with the institution not because of their long tenure here, but, probably because of their commitment to their students and to the multicultural nature of the Institute.

If this is a problem (it, too, comes with a silver lining). The need to explain and justify rules and procedures; the repeated scratching of the head when faced with a researcher who wants to know what s/he is expected to do in the June Paper; or if HEC rules allow for an absence to another university in the second or third year of study—all this and much more contribute to a state of constant interrogation, even vigilance. Even so, the labile sense of collective memory strikes me as a problem, as difficult to resolve as that of the dominance of one language, English, in our scholarly exchanges.

In the end, my grandmother would probably chuckle in satisfaction if she heard me talk about HEC. “What an interesting place”, she would say. And, I would add, a place that gives one a sense of being involved in a new endeavour, of being, in some respects, a pioneer. What better could any other Hell offer a historian—old or young historian—today? ■

# The Angels Smile

Professor of European Intellectual History | **Martin van Gelderen**

The summer of 1985 felt hot. In fact no summer has, ever since, felt quite as hot as my first summer at the Badia Fiesolana. From the end of March temperatures seemed to jump upwards every week, with no end in sight. Writing a June Paper in the heat of May was a particular, unforgettable experience, as was the whole academic year. The move from the isles of Holland to the hills of Tuscany opened up a wide range of new intellectual vistas. The EUI, back then, was a place of a still somewhat tender age. Its unique character was already manifest, as it blended scholars from all over Europe in one, marvelous building, the Badia Fiesolana, which we shared with some of the San Domenico priests and monks.

The intellectual effect was startling. In each of the four EUI disciplines scholars were struggling to bring together an impressive variety of languages, national traditions and research cultures and to grasp what cooperation and integration should mean for European culture in general and for our own intellectual lives in particular. The nation-state was at the centre of much research, in law, in economics, in politics and sociology and of course in history.

In the first decade of the EUI many historians excelled in the popular fields of economic and social history. Others were pioneering new fields. Alan Milward was one of the first EUI professors to bring together a distinct research team of young researchers to study European integration in a series of seminars—and in endless sessions in the Bar Fiasco. Gisela Bock opened up the field of women's history, with great feminist verve. Daniel Roche brought a new French approach to the study of culture—and helped to set up a select club of cigar smokers. It was a multidisciplinary club and, if only because all disciplines were in one abbey, many activities in the EUI acquired almost spontaneously bits and pieces of interdisciplinarity. As *ricercatore* it was only a short walk from a fabulous seminar by Louis Marin on the visual representation of early modern princes and courtiers to the seminars of Hans-Georg Gadamer, who, at the age of 86, spent a month at the Badia, teaching on Plato, Aristotle and philosophical hermeneutics. The summer ended with a summer school on media, culture and society in the *teatro*, bringing long moments of reflection on the splendid ceiling painting. There, that summer, the angels smiled.

Not all, of course, was sunshine and angelic delight. Whilst, by the mid-1980s, writing a PhD had already



become quintessential in the humanities and social sciences, pivotal issues such as research design, management, planning, training and supervision were still very much in development—to put it mildly. Some of us faltered, others succeeded. Often the difference was not due to intellectual reasons. For many *ricercatori* Florence has been the beginning of an academic career. Some have taken up lectureships in their home countries, others have moved on to pursue their academic career in third and fourth countries, bringing the EUI's European touch to a wide range of history departments across Europe. For a third group of historians the PhD-thesis has opened up doors to other career paths. Some friends have become diplomats, eurocrats and politicians; others have gone into publishing, journalism, or business.

The summer of 2003 was hot. The move in August from the green meadows of Sussex to the yellow hills of Tuscany was not without problems, as the removal van broke down twice, first on the way to the ferry in Newhaven under the unexpected weight of history books and then, under the power of glaring sunshine in the South of France. The virtue of *pazienza* was ►►

► in demand—at least in one sense life in Italy had not changed. The EUI has changed. Physically it has at least quadrupled in size, spreading its wings over a sprawling range of villas and convents; it seems fair to guess that over the last decades the EUI president has been the dominant player on the San Domenico real estate market. Intellectually the EUI has grown with similar dynamics. Over the past decades it has become one of the most important institutes for doctoral and post-doctoral studies in each of its four disciplines and now issues such as research design, planning, training and supervision are at the very forefront of our concerns. Each discipline has sought to develop its own profile—in its own villa or convent. Perhaps our increasing professionalisation along disciplinary lines and our physical separation across the San Domenico hills means that there is less room for spontaneous multidisciplinaryity. It is an uphill battle to relate our disciplines along distinct interdisciplinary lines. Somehow it is difficult for us to find the way to Fiesole.

“The EUI has changed. Physically it has at least quadrupled in size, spreading its wings over a sprawling range of villas and convents”

The Department of History and Civilization has also changed. Whilst the study of fields and subjects such as European integration, gender history and economic and social history has of course continued, new fields such as my own, intellectual history, have been opened up—and that was why the summer of 2003 brought an unexpected return to the Villa Schifanoia, where I had defended my thesis in November 1988.

Moreover in all fields EUI historians are seeking to overcome the national vistas that still dominate so much of historical study. For an intellectual historian it means studying intellectual exchange and focusing on debates on political, religious and social issues that were and are European in scope and range. For sure EUI historians are not alone in these attempts and the Department is one of many in Europe bringing together doctoral and post-doctoral scholars from a variety of academic backgrounds. But in its intellectual chemistry the history department is still very unique. Working in (West) Berlin meant adapting to the practices of German academic life in general and of German historical study in particular; working in Sussex required adapting to the fine peculiarities of English scholarship and its long-standing oddities and traditions. At the EUI, these—and many other—oddities and traditions come together and clash, creating an environment that intellectually is an outstanding microcosm of European pluralism and integration, of our attempts to

understand each other and to live together, of our small steps forwards and of our blunders and failures. But after centuries dominated by war, turning Europe into what my former Sussex colleague Mark Mazower has called ‘The Dark Continent’, the attempt to construct distinctly European perspectives on the history of this old continent means contributing to Europe’s culture. It is a modest contribution perhaps—but often historians are too modest in asserting the significance of their discipline.

In so many ways the EUI is a highly privileged centre of European studies, living in an embarrassment of riches that brings, as did the Dutch Golden Age, its specific temptations, including the anxiety of affluence. But sometimes, high on the ceiling of the *teatro*, the angels still smile upon us. ■

Martin van Gelderen was a Ph.D. student at the EUI from 1984 until 1988; since 2003 he is Professor of European Intellectual History at the Institute.

## Births

Congratulations to **Annika Zorn** and **Paolo Lorenzini** on the birth of their daughter **Lara**, on 29 January 2008.





# The Department of History and Civilization







A seminar in the Department of History and Civilization

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Carlo Ginzburg, Scuola Normale di Pisa - Max Weber Lecturer





The courtyard at Villa Salviati, future home of the Historical Archives of the European Union

# EUI Recollections

DBE Emeritus Fellow Merton College, Oxford | Dame Olwen Hufton



The exercise of looking back is always personal and eclectic. I joined the European University Institute in 1991. The Institute was then largely concentrated in the Badia but there was a small overspill to the cells of San Domenico, a perilous journey given that the Via Roccettini was not yet one-way. Though the refurbishment of Schifanoia was on the horizon, it had yet to be done. Gloomy and dark and approached from the Badia by perilously uneven steps, it was largely used before the big conversion as conference space until the major works of 1993-4. Even the Badia whose intrinsic beauty viewed from outside is unchanging, was then from the inside a very different spectacle to an observer than the building of today. The cloister, very properly, remains eternal along with the Church itself. Otherwise, overall with its many additions the Institute has become larger, more distributed, its beauty and grandeur more manicured, with more sculptures and potted plants, more nationalities, more programs, more initiatives and the presence of daily information screens as well as more elegant dining arrangements. My art historian daughter when she first saw the neglected gardens of Schifanoia was virtually tearful about the permitted disintegration of a fountain in the manner of Verrocchio but of recent times major rescue has very properly occurred.

All this reflects no doubt the growth in the numbers of the Member States and with that burgeoning an increasing complexity of focus. It perhaps also bears witness to the perceived overarching importance of more comparative understanding both as between the states and the relationship of the expanded Union itself with the wider world. In 1991 a united Germany was but newly born: globalisation had yet to emerge as a buzz word and if global warming was obvious to a few scientists it did not make headlines. Nor, perhaps, did Europe feel its commitments to the third world so nearly. Indeed, the socio-economic preoccupations of the day were unemployment and, as between the sexes, lack of equal opportunities in the workplace. Out there too were many states seeking membership which would have distinctive agendas and distinctive needs once admitted.

Thus in 1991, having visited the Institute, examined doctorates there and attended a few conferences over the preceding years, I left Harvard where I had taught comparative European socio-economic history and women's history and was appointed to the EUI history department. At that time I was one of two full-time women faculty, myself as historian replacing Gisela ►►

► Bock who had returned to Bielefeld and the other new figure a Greek lawyer, Yota Kravaritou from Thessaloniki but with a wide European experience including working for the European Commission. She was deeply concerned with focussing on women's issues and in particular with affective relationships and the law and came perhaps very much out of the French feminist tradition. We became close friends and recent news of her terminal illness has caused me great sorrow. It was hoped that among other considerations we would address the missing presence of women scholars through conferences and a cross-faculty gender group as well as making available knowledge of the impact of a gender factor on our individual disciplines. Certainly through discussion groups and conferences we did our best and the gender constituency of Institute faculty began to diversify if slowly. By the time I left in 1997 there were enough visible women to lend greater conviction to greater parity of opportunity.

Physical expansion was constantly with us given the huge competition for room space. One of the main concerns I had in the second year when I was Head of Department was to persuade the members to move as a group to the Villa Schifanoia. Most were strangely reluctant to go, apparently feeling a sense of severance. Moreover it was the period of *tangenti* and work could stop mysteriously so that the prospect seemed rather distantly academic and perhaps unlikely to happen until the moving began. Even so, with nothing more than a coffee bar *in situ* severance was far from total for several years.

How was the Department of History and Civilization? I did not know quite what to expect on arrival. At that time history students were expected over their three year presence at the EUI to attend two weekly seminars but *ab initio* concentrate on their theses. Many arrived with several years work already behind them, albeit done under piecemeal circumstances. The Italians, of whom only three were admitted annually to the Department under the quota system, had often published a couple of articles before arrival and competition as to whom we should admit was intense. The French students were already endowed with a sequence of degrees. There was a strong tradition of the kind of *Annales*-based history that had progressively become directed towards cultural issues such as consumption patterns and the growth of literacy. Daniel Roche had made a considerable impact upon the department in the years before my arrival and I had contact with a lot of his students thereafter. He had a very distinguished successor in Dominique Julia, who opened up all kinds of contacts with the Ecole Francaise de Rome and from whom I learnt a great deal.

Overall, however, history was quite heterogenous. That said, my first office hours at the EUI were

marked by the separate arrivals—though they had just met—of three young women all intent on studying an aspect of female religious life in the 17th century. They became known among the research cohort as 'the nuns' group'. One was Italian, Silvia Evangelisti, whose widely applauded book *Nuns* (Oxford 2007) appeared recently. She proposed to address Italian convent litigation—forget religion let's argue about money—and is now teaching at the University of East Anglia: a second, Elisa Sampson (now Department of Latin American Studies, King's College, London) Anglo Peruvian and the Vasco da Gama student of that year, addressed in what became her book *Colonial Angels* (Austin, 2000) the transference of convent literary forms from Spain and Europe to Mexico: the third Concha Torres from Salamanca now working for the European Commission addressed the Carmelite expansion into the Southern Netherlands and author of a work on Ana de Jesus who led the expedition. The three were to prove remarkably interactive and proactive in associating with Italian women scholars in the field. Nowhere perhaps is religious history more seriously studied than in Italy.

Other fields whose practitioners I remember clearly from those early days were those who worked on poverty and institutional relief and those on the history of criminality, areas of research which had been my concern over the years. Amongst them were Vinzia Fiorino (now teaching at the University of Pisa) who produced a magisterial study on Santa Maria della Pietà, the women's asylum in Rome, to which were consigned desperately poor women who could not cope with the mechanics of everyday life (now published as *Matti, indemoniate e vagabondi. Dinamiche di manicomiale tra Otto e Novocento* (Marsilio 2002)). I came very much to appreciate the Italian practice of the book presentation and the most dramatic example I have of this genre as event was the presentation of Simona Trombetta's book on the genesis of the women's prison in Italy which took place in Venice in the unusual location of the women's prison on the Giudecca in front of an audience of women prisoners, the governor of the prison, warders and other officers and a group of aged nuns who still performed services as well as academics. The governor of the prison gave a moving speech I shall always remember of the changes in her lifetime from a service devoted to reconciling offenders to some kind of spiritual equilibrium under a largely religious regime to the current one concerned to readjust them to functioning economically and without friction in contemporary society. The prisoners present were no longer of overwhelmingly Italian origin. Drama came at the exit when a developing *acqua alta* meant we had to wade back to the hotel under several centimetres of water. ►►



► As an academic I found my years at the EUI a very important learning process in comparative history. I was in process of completing a large and widely translated history of Western European women in the early modern period and the EUI experience exposed me to historiographies with which I was much less familiar and rock-face research on issues such as women's work and community relations in Spanish and German contexts (Carmen Sarasua, Lina Galvez Munoz and Monika Mommertz). I also found myself in the midst of vibrant research in women's history undertaken in both local Italian Universities and in the American programmes in Florence so that the works and good counsels of scholars such as Sara Matthews Grieco who held Jean Monnet fellowships and Giulia Calvi now here at the Institute or Lucia Fellici at Florence University were immensely important to me in the compilation of the final work, my own intellectual growth and the profit of my students.

But by far the most unusual undertaking I have ever made in my academic lifetime was when under the umbrella of the European Forum in 1993 in the form of a multidisciplinary programme headed by two faculty from different disciplines—myself and the law professor Yota Kravaritou in this case under the uniting theme of Gender and the Use of Time. We were allowed a number of visiting fellows, some for the year and some for shorter periods to approach the issue from different disciplines and some for four major conferences. We were funded from Brussels and at the end of the academic year the closing conference was attended by four women members of the European Parliament. We also enjoyed the presence of certain members of the European Commission including from Agnes Hubert and had some very warm encouragement from Laura Balbo the distinguished Italian politician and pioneer academic feminist at Ferrara and many others. Centred in Florence we also attracted a range of scholars and journalists.

Essentially we concentrated on the complex differences in time use measured in many different ways as between the sexes in the different Member States in the closing decade the 20th century. Specifically we asked how gender and class determined how much time was spent in paid work in the market and how much in caring work in the home? How greatly did this division impact upon pensions and benefits? How much time can either sex devote to leisure or political activity. How much change occurred in different countries over the previous decade? The early 1990s saw an economic down turn and therefore unemployment, part time or intermittent work and outsourcing of work to the developing world had gender specific consequences? The Mediterranean contributors to the initiative were much taxed by the dramatic down-turn

in family size and sought to relate this to economic factors. Taken overall we were able to unite demographers, sociologists, social policy experts, jurists and contemporary historians and examine the premises on which assumptions were made in, for example, the directives of the European Commission. The volume we produced—which still sells for 80\$ on AbeBooks—caught a particular period in time and was a quite pioneering exercise unusually broad in its scope. Recent full employment, immigration patterns priming the domestic labour market (guess who cares for the working professional women's children?) but rising costs for housing and in some states like Britain higher education fees have rendered yet more common the phenomenon of late motherhood. In short the world has changed again since 1994. *Travailler moins pour travailler tous* was a slogan of the early 1990s but as a headline in *Le Monde* recently commented, for the generality of workers it has been replaced by *travailler plus pour gagner moins*.

“We were able to unite demographers, sociologists, social policy experts, jurists and contemporary historians and examine the premises on which assumptions were made in, for example, the directives of the European Commission”

Our lives move on but good memories remain. I have no doubt that for some years yet books will continue to come through the post I recently received Joseph Clarke's *Commemorating the Dead in Revolutionary France* (Cambridge 2007). And I know that someone will hail me in London, Dublin, Paris, Seville and remind me of shared experiences at the Institute. ■

Dame Olwen Hufton was Professor of Social and Cultural History at the EUI from 1991 until 1997.

# Redefining Captivity in World War I

Max Weber Fellow | Heather Jones

“The turn to cultural history in the 1990s has opened up forgotten aspects of the war for study, revealing a conflict that is both more complex and disturbing than the familiar trench war of popular memory”

Ninety years ago this year, Florence was at war. Like many European cities it was caught up in the conflagration of the *grande guerre* or Great War, which saw Austria-Hungary and Italy fight each other along one of the toughest front-line terrains in Europe. Memorials to the conflict remain in the city and since arriving at the EUI as a Max Weber Fellow last August I have been able to visit some of them and to reflect upon the many different ways in which the history of the war has been remembered. Given my research specialisation, prisoners of war 1914–1918, any shift in their historical portrayal is especially relevant.

During the past fifteen years, the historiography of World War I has undergone a dramatic shift in focus. The turn to cultural history in the 1990s has opened up forgotten aspects of the war for study, revealing a conflict that is both more complex and disturbing than the familiar trench war of popular memory. Themes such as occupation, deportation, refugees and civilian mobilization have emerged as central dynamic processes; historians now recognise that the violence of the conflict reached far beyond the front. World War I is now frequently described as the *Urcatastrophe* of the 20th century; some historians even see the two world wars as a ‘Second Thirty Years War.’

One of the outcomes of this paradigmatic shift has been a renewed interest in the history of long a forgotten category of men—prisoners of war, 1914–1918. Prisoners were ignored by historians and the general public alike not because captivity was unusual—by 1918 some 8.5 million soldiers had been taken prisoner, a figure only slightly below the estimated 9–10 million soldiers killed in battle—but because the historiography was dominated by the combatant experience and the origins of the war until the 1990s.

Two pioneering studies, in particular, revived historical interest in prisoners of war: Annette Becker’s *Oubliés de la Grande Guerre, humanitaire et culture de guerre 1914-1918. Populations occupées, déportés civils, prisonniers de guerre* (Paris, Éditions Noësis, 1998), and Uta Hinz’s book *Gefangen im Großen Krieg. Kriegsgefangenschaft in Deutschland, 1914-1921* (Essen, Klartext, 2006). However, neither of these studies adopted a transnational comparative approach and they came to diametrically opposed conclusions: Becker argued that prisoners were badly treated in Germany, while Hinz found that overall the German authorities tried to fulfill their humanitarian obligations under international law: the 1864 and 1906 Geneva Conventions and the 1907 Hague Convention.

Against this background, it was important to carry out further archival research into the treatment of prisoners of war. My own interest in the subject dates back to October 2001, when, as a doctoral student at Trinity College Dublin, I realized that there was no historical consensus regarding Western-front captivity and the levels of violence experienced by prisoners. This was partly due to the overall lack of historical research into the subject—there was no transnational comparative study of prisoners based on archival sources. For this reason, I opted to research violence against western-front prisoners of war in Britain, France and Germany. This was the first study to look specifically at violence against captives and the first to compare prisoner treatment in the three main Western-front belligerent states. The key objective was to incorporate the question of reciprocity into the study: by looking at belligerents on different sides of the conflict one can see how each state copied or reacted to the enemy’s perceived treatment of their own captives.

What emerged from this research was that there was not one prisoner of war system in the main belligerent states during World War I, but two. The archives revealed that by 1916, Britain, France, Germany and Austria-Hungary had dual captivity networks. The first, and best known, was the network of home-front camps and working units where prisoners spent the war years within the borders of the captor state. The second, system, which has received no historical attention, was the emergence of a network of army-run prisoner of war labour companies in the zone of operations, providing a permanent forced labour resource for the main belligerent armies. Prisoners of war in ►►



► army labour companies were treated far worse than their counterparts in the home-front network. The labour company system was enormous: in 1916 over 250,000 prisoners were working for the German army at or near the western front. Prisoners in the labour company system were subjected to much more violent treatment, and, in the German army in particular, malnutrition and severe physical reprisals.

During my Max Weber Fellowship year I am preparing a monograph based on this research which should significantly enhance our knowledge of how captivity changed between 1914 and 1918 and the sort of multiple ‘violences’ experienced by prisoners. An integral part of this work in cultural history is the link between the practice, representation and way of remembering violence during and after the war. It emerged that there was often a connection between the process of representation and actual prisoner mistreatment; representations of violence against captives were a means to engage civilians in the war effort.

In addition to this work on prisoners, I am also involved in two other projects: a new study of the cultural depiction of the Allied blockade of Germany during World War I; and a co-edited book on new aspects of the history of the war—Heather Jones, Jennifer O’Brien and Christoph Schmidt-Supprian (eds), *Untold War: New Perspectives in First World War Studies* (Boston/Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers, summer 2008).

In an increasingly competitive university environment, research time is precious making postdoctoral

programmes invaluable. This is particularly true for historians whose work depends on long periods of archival research—the Max Weber Programme offers historians a rare opportunity to carry out research and to write up the results.

It has been a privilege to share ideas with other Fellows from all over the world and from different disciplines here at the EUI: their intellectual energy continues to inspire, while the elegiac splendour and history of Villa La Fonte and the surrounding Tuscan hills are a daily reminder of our good fortune. Fiesole and World War I may seem an incongruous juxtaposition but in my case, it is one that has yielded valuable results. ■

<sup>1</sup> See H.-U. Wehler, *Deutsche Gesellschaftsgeschichte* (Munich, 1995) vol. 3, *Von der ‘Deutschen Doppelrevolution’ bis zum Beginn des Ersten Weltkriegs, 1849–1914*, p. 1168, cited in A. Kramer, *Dynamic of Destruction* (Oxford, 2007), p. 328.

<sup>2</sup> Alon Rachamimov, ‘The Disruptive Comforts of Drag: (Trans)Gender Performances among Prisoners of War in Russia, 1914–1920’, *The American Historical Review*, Vol. III, No. 2, April 2006, pp.1–4.

<sup>3</sup> A. Prost and J. Winter, *The Great War in History*. (Cambridge, 2005).

<sup>4</sup> ‘Encountering the “Enemy”’: Prisoner of War Transport and the Development of War Cultures in 1914’ in P. Purseigle (ed.), *Warfare and Belligerence: Perspectives in First World War Studies* (Boston/Leiden, Brill Academic Publishers, 2005), pp. 133–62.



# When Free Trade was Fair

Fernand Braudel Fellow | **Frank Trentmann**

First it was the bananas, then the coffee. In the UK Fair Trade goods, bags, and meetings have become part of our everyday life. Entire towns, like Bristol, are now Fair Trade cities. Fair Trade is cool, the pet cause of film and rock stars.

Free Trade, by contrast, is a conspiracy of rich multinationals and international organizations like the WTO, even as the modern successor to the slave trade. At the violent battles in Seattle and Genoa it was in the first line of attack.

A century ago, the battle over globalization looked very different. Then, it was Free Trade which was popular and good. Britons rallied to its defence, in mass meetings, dramatic stage shows, and even at the seaside. In High Wycombe, Free Traders were even read the Riot Act in 1910 after smashing their opponent's offices, setting their exhibits on fire, and fighting street battles with the police.

*Free Trade Nation* tells the story of how Free Trade became a defining part of British identity and politics, and how it lost its moral high ground after the First World War. It offers a fresh look at a critical chapter in British and world history. At the same time, it provides a historical perspective on today's debate about globalization, challenging the ways we think about trade, justice and democracy.

The EUI is a good place to finish a book that travels from past to present, connecting history to current debates about globalization, governance and ethics. It is small enough for a visiting historian to meet and talk to experts in neighbouring disciplines, like law, economics, and sociology and politics—a meeting point that is much rarer in larger research universities in metropolitan cities.

In writing the book I have been keen to put my hand on the pulse of Free Trade culture and to capture its heartbeat for readers. Liberal writers make much of the superiority of Free Trade as an economic theory.

“Political and economic writers are wrong to presume that, given the choice, people naturally flock to Free Trade. History shows the opposite”



But for people in late Victorian and Edwardian Britain it was much more than that. Free Trade stood for peace, civil society and democracy. It was Britain's civilizing mission. In 1904 Bertrand Russell declared that he felt inclined to cut his throat if protectionism won. What nationalism and socialism were on the continent, Free Trade was in Britain: a national ideology and mass movement.

Before the First World War, Free Trade mobilized millions of people across all classes and parts of the country, from working-class housewives to millionaires, from Winston Churchill to the anarchist prince Peter Kropotkin.

One of the delights of the research was to find tucked away in Churchill's voluminous papers detailed reports of what one of the many Free Trade groups was up to. In 1910 alone, it organized over 5,000 mass meetings, masterminded by Churchill with characteristic military zeal. It even invaded sea-side resorts, ▶▶

▶ pulling tourists away from ice-cream vendors and minstrel shows to debate political economy on the beaches. This political circus drove home one key message: Free Trade meant civilization and democracy as well as cheap goods. Supporters held up the cheap white loaf to show that Free Trade guaranteed freedom from hunger and oppression while in countries like Germany, they claimed, tariffs reduced people to eating black bread, horsemeat, and even dogs. Children and grown men paraded the streets dressed up as the 'big loaf'. The book also sheds new light on the general relationship between citizenship and consumption. We tend to take it for granted that consumer culture undermines civic spirit. In the words of Andrew Marr in his engaging history of contemporary Britain: 'Britons started shopping and stopped voting.'

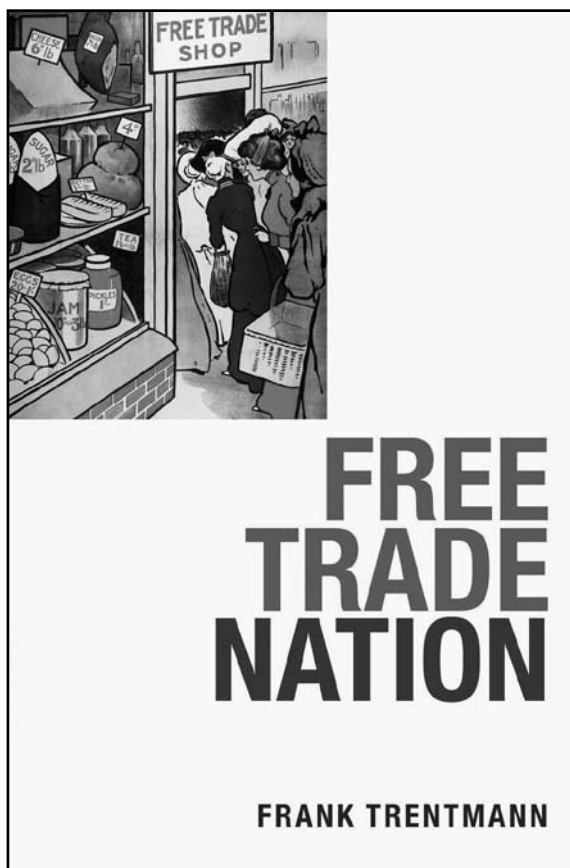
*Free Trade Nation* offers an alternative story. The defence of Free Trade came after a generation of unprecedented affluence. Britain was the richest place in Europe at the time. Music halls and department stores were multiplying. The people flocked to sea-side resorts, early cinemas, and the race course.

Yet politics was not crowded out by shopping and entertainment. Far from it. Turnout shot up to 87% at the January 1910 election. Free Traders and Tariff Reformers feverishly adapted modern advertising, entertainment, and new technologies like film for their own use. In the process, they transformed politics, making it trendier, even sensationalist, but also enabling it to communicate big questions of politics and economy to a mass electorate.

During and after the First World War, Free Trade culture disintegrated. It has been fashionable to blame its defeat on the world depression of 1929-31. This killed it off, but as I show, Free Trade was already fading. Consumers felt it left them helpless against big multinationals and economic cycles. 'Shopping for the Empire' became the mantra of Conservative housewives. Free Trade increasingly became the preserve of libertarians and economists, and even here it suffered a huge loss when John Maynard Keynes turned towards trade regulation.

This story has interesting lessons for the present. Free Trade was not just steamrolled by bad economic times and foreign nationalism. A new world view was emerging that would shape the rest of the 20th century. Economic globalization, former Free Traders now argued, had outpaced political globalization. Markets had become more integrated, while politics was lagging behind, stuck in a model of the nation-state.

What was needed instead were international organizations, like the League of Nations, and later the United-



Nations. These could defuse explosive trade rivalries, especially over oil and food. They would also give a political expression to the global concerns of the people, rather than just leaving things to merchants and markets. Here are the precursors of an idea that has recently received international attention through the best-selling writings of Joseph Stiglitz, the Noble Prize Winner for Economics.

The book spells out the implications for today's debate over globalization. Political and economic writers are wrong to presume that, given the choice, people naturally flock to Free Trade. History shows the opposite. Britain was a unique case. Other democracies, like the United States, were deeply protectionist. Free Trade won in the past because it went out to win the hearts and minds of the people. And here entertainment and ethics were as important as sound economics. But it also has a lesson for the majority of people who today instinctively look to Fair Trade as a solution to global problems. Fair Trade does not have a monopoly on morals. Nor are consumers just passive victims of globalization. In an earlier era of globalization, it was consumers who empowered Free Trade, laying some of the foundations of the world we still live in. ■

Frank Trentmann, *Free Trade Nation: Commerce, Consumption, and Civil Society in Modern Britain*, Oxford University Press (2008). See [www.oup.com](http://www.oup.com).

# From Idea to Institution: The European Commission Turns Fifty

Researcher, HEC Dept., 3rd year | **Michael Geary**



“Far from giving the European Commission more power, it should have less. [...] It should become an administrative body, not initiating policy but carrying it out.”

Margaret Thatcher, *The Path to Power*.

The former British Prime Minister was one of the institution's biggest critics during her time in office. But she was not the only one; two former French leaders come to mind, Presidents de Gaulle and Chirac. Their criticisms of the European institution centred on the perception that Brussels was taking too much power away from the Member States and reducing the role of the nation state.

Fifty years since the Commission first met, it is an opportune time to look back, albeit briefly, at the highs and lows of an institution that has attracted the ire of intergovernmentalists and the praise of supranationalists in almost equal measure.

On 16 January 1958, the European Commission held its first meeting in Brussels, under the chairmanship of Walter Hallstein, the institution's first president. He asked his fellow Commissioners to put aside all specific interests—national, economic, professional or personal—and become servants of ‘the great ideal of European unity.’ One of most important common characteristics of the

Hallstein Commission was that they were all considered good Europeans. Some were even involved in the Messina negotiations that led to the creation of the EEC. In his memoirs, recounting his decade as one of the French Commissioners, Robert Marjolin, refers to the period 1958-62 as the EEC's ‘honeymoon years’, a period of harmony between the Six and the institutions. This was despite Britain's efforts to derail the Community by launching its own Free Trade Area, only for this to be rejected by the French in the late 1950s. At first hostile to enlargement of the EEC in 1961, to include Britain, Denmark, Ireland and Norway, it took almost a decade for the Commission to accept and embrace the idea. Despite three attempts at enlargement during the 1960s, two of which were spectacular failures at the hands of President Charles de Gaulle of France, the Commission refused to allow these developments slow down the integration process. Indeed, one of the most remarkable aspects of the Commission's first decade was its ability to press ahead with common policies, such as competition, fisheries and agriculture, despite the uncertain political climate in Western Europe *vis-à-vis* enlargement of the Community. Even though the Rey Commission (1967-1970) achieved a great deal less than its predecessor, the Brussels Executive continued to put flesh on ideas inherent in the Treaty of Rome.

The Malfatti and Mansholt Commissions had mixed results. The Malfatti Commission had a different mandate to the one it succeeded. It was responsible for relaunching the process of European integration, the completion of the Common Market as well as creating a financial framework for the Community. The two French Commissioners, Jean-François Deniau and Barre, were largely the public faces of the Commission at the enlargement conference in Brussels from 1970-1972. When Malfatti returned to national politics in Italy in 1972 he was succeeded by Mansholt, whose presidency lasted less than a year. The two most notable successes of the Mansholt Commission were enlargement of the EEC in January 1973 and the creation of the European Monetary Snake in April 1972. Of course most of the ground work for former was completed during Malfatti's term when enlargement negotiations had concluded by January 1972. Perhaps Mansholt's greatest contribution to the early days of the Commission, and indeed to the Community in general, was the CAP. The Malfatti and Mansholt Commissions, and to some degree the Rey Commission, played a far less public role than the first Commission. Without doubt Hallstein gained prestige for ▶▶



► an institution that very few outside the Community understood or knew existed. In Washington, Hallstein cultivated US support not only for further European integration but also for the Commission. But the 1965 'Empty-chair crisis' clipped the wings of the Hallstein Commission and in particular its president. The Luxembourg Compromise forced the Brussels Executive to retreat from initiating controversial policies and this partially explains why Hallstein's immediate successors played less prominent roles on the European and world stages.

The 1970s were a particularly difficult period for the Commission. Enlargement should have been greeted with applause but after a decade of indecision and rancour over the issue, a sense of pessimism pervaded in Brussels. Not only did the Ortolí Commission face increased sectarian violence in Northern Ireland but the British government, under Harold Wilson, wanted to renegotiate Britain's entry into the Community. This was perhaps the first sign of things to come regarding Britain's relations with Brussels: a member of a club that found the membership fee too high. What made matters more difficult was the international climate and its effects on Europe. The world's first oil crisis, the Yom Kippur War and the crisis in Cyprus added to François-Xavier Ortolí's problems.

The second half of the 1970s witnessed the appointment of the first British President of the Commission, Roy Jenkins, a former Labour Home Secretary and Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Jenkins Commission (1977-1981) also had mixed results. On the positive side, the Commission was deeply involved in the first steps at Economic and Monetary Union and the European Monetary System, the forerunner to the single currency in 2002. But despite these notable successes, the credit for which would be claimed by future Commissions, Jenkins and his colleagues were faced with high inflation and stagnant growth within the EEC. When Thatcher entered Downing Street after the 1979 British general election, the power of the nation state was once again pitted against an over-reaching Commission.

The first Luxembourger to become President of the Commission, Gaston Thorn was certainly a committed European. Prior to moving to Brussels in 1981, Thorn's curriculum vitae revealed a man convinced of the importance of international organisations in world affairs. The admission of new members, Greece, Portugal and Spain, to the EEC during the early 1980s as well as greater steps towards the Single European Act (SEA) (1986) should have been another cause for celebration. But the period of the Thorn Commission coincided with the British Budgetary Question (BBQ) or known locally in Brussels as the 'Bloody British Question.' At issue was Britain's demands for a greater rebate from its financial contribution

to the Community's budget, most of which was spent on the CAP and paying farmers for producing surplus food. Thatcher's particular brand of diplomacy won few supporters yet the issue dominated most European Council and Council of Ministers meetings during the early 1980s until a solution was eventually found.

The semi-crisis confirmed Thatcher's overall frustration with the role of the Commission as well as highlighting the general weaknesses of the Brussels Executive. It was not until after the SEA that the Commission found the courage to promote further attempts at European integration.

Perhaps it was as a result of his strong leadership skills or because of a weak Council, exhausted after dealing with Thatcher that makes Jacques Delors stick out as one of the more productive Commission presidents with an impressive record (1986-1994). Deepening, widening and enlarging, the buzz words from the late 1960s, reappeared during the Delors years. The Treaty of Maastricht was signed in 1992 and finalised EMU and three new members joined the Community (Austria, Finland and Sweden) in 1995.

**“The big winner from the Lisbon Treaty is undoubtedly the European Parliament while the Commission's size has been substantially reduced”**

While influential in negotiating the Amsterdam Treaty in 1997 and launching the Euro in 1998, the Santer Commission is perhaps best remembered for all the wrong reasons. In March 1999, the College of Commissioners resigned *en masse* over allegations of corruption, fraud and financial irregularities within the Commission. It was the first Commission to resign and was a significant blow to the Commission's reputation. It was up to Santer's successor, the former Italian Premier, Romano Prodi to restore moral authority to the Commission. His term as president saw the European Union increase to twenty-five members in 2004, with the EU's expansion into Central and Eastern Europe. A second notable feather in the Prodi Commission's cap was the introduction of the Euro in 2002.

After fifty years at the heart of the decision-making process in Brussels, the Commission's future will be as challenging as its past. The big winner from the Lisbon Treaty is undoubtedly the European Parliament while the Commission's size has been substantially reduced. One of the big tests for the Commission will be to ensure that its voice is heard within an every changing and highly competitive institutional system. ■

# History in the EUI Library: A Retrospective

History Information Specialist, EUI Library | **Serge Noiret**



Easter time 1979—the interviews for the history doctoral programme had just come to an end. My thesis would not be on Belgian history, but on the Italian liberal state, a country of dreams and holidays I had known since I was six. Discovering the EUI publicity in Brussels inspired me: only in Florence could I achieve my goal whilst being surrounded by the Florentine hills.

Jean Marie Palayret's book on the prehistory of the EUI mentioned Strasbourg as a candidate challenging Florence for the Institute. In my case—as for many researchers—the postgraduate institution's location in Florence was the main reason for applying. Although today Italy seems to have lost much of its attraction, along with the explosive intellectual and political creativity of the 1970s then carefully watched by many Europeans.

When I arrived at the EUI in August 1979, the History Department had only a few professors to deal with around thirty researchers. As a 22-year-old I was impressed: they were older and better trained to fluently speak in public. Among them I remember the greatly missed Viebeke Sørensen—and her colourful trousers. Peter Ludlow gave seminars in what is now the Law Library and home to Onofrio Pepe's impressive sculpture. The Library then contained two seminar rooms

furnished with only a white blackboard—no computers. Historians and economists shared the floor. When Carlo Cipolla taught in English, it was hard to follow his subtle sense of humour as he applied it to lectures on long-term trade between Italy and England. I felt more comfortable with René Girault teaching diplomatic history using my mother tongue.

In 1976 Italian history was not particularly developed in the fledgling EUI Library of about 10,000 volumes; today more than 800,000 volumes are owned and accessed in different formats. A thesis on Italian post-WWI history needed more than recent history monographs, but older books written in the post-war period or during the 1960s were absent. The EUI Library collections were developed from scratch starting in 1975. Document delivery was—and still is—an efficient service to fill the gap between research's needs and a collection that could not compete with more established university libraries in Europe.

They were books on fascism; Adrian Lyttleton had just published his outstanding work and Renzo De Felice was working on Mussolini. Stuart Woolf—a pioneer historian of comparative European fascism—was not yet here and I was assigned to Roberto Vivarelli in Florence. Later, I wrote to the President, Werner Maihofer, to work with Peter Hertner—then a young assistant in the department—as internal supervisor. I was his first EUI student. During these early years, the lack of books was connected to the lack of internal supervision.

The History collections in the EUI Library were not the best 'service' it could offer to its users but the Library was very responsive to researcher's needs. When requested, the Library purchased *Il movimento operaio italiano. Dizionario biografico 1853-1943*. The wish to help the small community of researchers to find material was and still is—I hope—Library policy. Thirty generations of researchers have since systematically suggested book purchases to the Library's part-time history assistant. It was first the early modern historian Ole Grell (*Austin Friars and the Puritan Revolution: the Dutch Church in London, 1603-1642*) and then, the historian of ideas, Daniela Coli (*La 'Casa Editrice di Benedetto Croce' e la cultura europea*) who built the history collections, until 1984.

To start a PhD in history, one first had to read the secondary literature. For this, the Library was highly innovative. I remember sitting with Michiel Tegelars ►►

► (reference librarian since 1976), to compile my bibliography. By 1977, Michiel already had installed a modem connection for accessing Dialog! in California. The phone—locked because of the high cost of international calls—rested near the now Vasco da Gama room. Accessing on-line bibliographical databases such as the Social Sciences Citations Index (SSCI) was an expensive and precious event. For more than ten years, researchers had to define their information strategy off-line before connecting. Interrogations were complicated compared to today's Internet. Nobody realized that using humanities computing was becoming a compulsory scientific tool for accessing information. For the first time, libraries offered remote digital information and not only printed books, as they had for the previous five centuries.

Such a technical revolution at the EUI Library was possible thanks to the Deputy Director of the Library, Michel Boisset, the inventor of the SBN, the Italian collective library catalogue. He created TRIBU (French acronym for processing interactive relations between data base and users) and loaded it on a MITRA server with double disk capacity: 50 megabytes, what we have in a USB pen today! The Library started to work without a printed catalogue. Researchers could look for information at any time from the terminal room, even when the Library was closed. At the time this was a real technological revolution. Furthermore, Boisset anticipated networked connections where computers installed in the National Library downtown could be used to view EUI library holdings.

The EUI was born fully automated and with outstanding in-house programmers. Because they were also top managers, they deeply influenced EUI choices and developments in that sector. The combination of administrative power and IT knowledge had been a virtuous coincidence and would place the Library in an advantageous position in the ICT revolution in the years to come. At the end of the 1970s, the EUI computational capacities (mainly word processing and data analysis) were offered to researchers with quality support from Computing Centre staff and Bob Danziger devoted hours in the terminal room to helping people find their way with almost all the available programmes.

In the period 1979-1985, Tim Berners-Lee had not yet invented the world wide web, computer screens were black and DOS characters were white when we used them to word process our theses. MUSE was the main software for such purposes. Researchers had access to six computers in the Badia (the EUI was only the Badia Fiesolana), next to the Library. You had to wake up early to get one and be careful not to lose it to another user at lunchtime.

“When Carlo Cipolla taught in English, it was hard to follow his subtle sense of humour as he applied it to lectures on long-term trade between Italy and England”

IT facilities and library collections developments during the years 1985-2005 were substantial. When, replacing Daniela Coli, as assistant for the History Department in the Library in 1985, I had to teach others how to use the computerized interfaces for accessing in-house and remote information and follow new technological developments. As a professional historian, my task should have been to help researchers and professors obtain books, fulfil their information needs and define their specialized bibliographies while another history assistant, Michael Goerke, was dealing with history computing. But here I was sitting next to the modem. Alan Milward, European integration history professor, was indeed surprised to discover the deep interest for his books in Brazilian academic journals. He contacted South American universities and, thanks to EUI library databases, discovered new academic and scientific networks there.

All this was done before the web took off in 1993... but that is another story. ■

## Births

Congratulations to **Wim Van Aken** and **Ann Cossement** on the birth of their son **Stan**, on 19 February 2008.





# Correspondence in the Salvemini *Fonds*

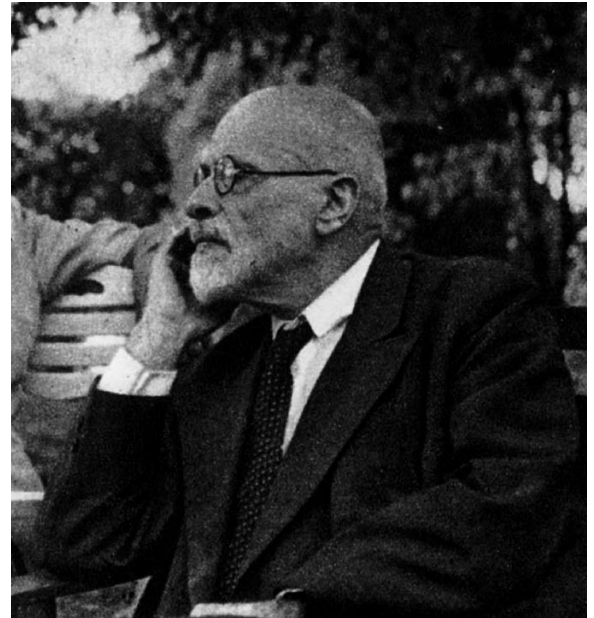
Archivist, Historical Archives of the EU | **Andrea Becherucci**

Gaetano Salvemini was one of the outstanding intellectual figures in Italian history in the first half of the twentieth century. He was born in Molfetta, Puglia in 1873 and died in Sorrento in 1957. His life's work, documented in his archival fonds, was extremely varied and included his academic work, involvement in reform of the school system, campaigns against Giolitti and protectionism, the campaign for agricultural reform in the Mezzogiorno, his journalistic activity, the anti-fascist movement, first in Italy and later in exile, mainly in the US, his return to Italy to support the move for a Republic, backing a democratic revival and taking a stand against clerical interference.

The documents which make up the Gaetano Salvemini fonds, have had a mixed custodial history. They were initially collected after the war by his student and friend Ernesto Rossi and they remained in his possession and later in that of Rossi's wife, Ada, until her death in 1993. From that date the papers were passed to her legal heir, her nephew Prof. Carlo Pucci, the mathematician, who before he passed away in 2003, created the Fondazione Rossi-Salvemini in order to guarantee the safety and accessibility of the Rossi and Salvemini fonds. After the death of Ernesto and Ada Rossi the Salvemini fonds were earmarked for permanent preservation in the Istituto Storico della Resistenza in Toscana. However there followed a long legal battle between the Fondazione and the Istituto for possession of the Salvemini papers. Fortunately a compromise was reached and the Gaetano Salvemini fonds are now preserved in paper form at the Istituto Storico della Resistenza in Toscana.

“European unification was one of the most frequently debated issues in the correspondence between Salvemini and Ernesto Rossi. The letters express Salvemini's scepticism in the face of Rossi's more favourable stance on the issue”

The *fonds* are in two sections. The first comprises his work manuscripts for which there is an analytic inventory drawn up by Stefano Vitali which was published in 1998. The second part is the correspondence



which remained uninventoried until now. In order to develop a summary inventory, listing the persons with whom Salvemini corresponded within each box of correspondence, an agreement was stipulated between the Istituto Storico della Resistenza in Toscana, the Fondazione Rossi-Salvemini and the Historical Archives of the European Union.

The part of the Salvemini fonds concerning his correspondence has been described in the volume *Guida agli archivi delle personalità della cultura in Toscana tra '800 e '900* as 'Correspondence, currently subdivided in the following sections, for a total of circa 70 folders: A) Letters from GS up until 1925, originals, 2 folders. B) Letters from GS up until 1925, photocopies, 4 folders. C) Letters from GS from 1926 to 1957, originals and photocopies, 3 folders. D) correspondence GS-Ernesto Rossi, 3 folders. E) Letters to GS up until 1925, 15 folders. H) Letters from unidentified sources and related material, 6 folders'.

There are 67 boxes of correspondence containing over 20,000 individual items, including letters, cards, memoranda and telegrams. The result of the inventory work was the publication in December 2007 of *Archivio Gaetano Salvemini: Inventario della corrispondenza* by Andrea Becherucci with Gherardo Bonini (Bologna, CLUEB, 2007, xvii-557).

Currently, a microfilm copy of the Salvemini correspondence is available for researchers at the Historical

- ▶ Archives of the European Union, and another micro-film copy will soon be available at the Istituto Storico della Resistenza in Toscana.

The correspondence covers the period 1894–1957 and consists of around 20,000 pieces, originally stored in folders in 67 separate boxes. Each of these folders is dedicated to a correspondent or in some rare cases to a set of correspondents (when dealing for example with a family unit). Some of these letters are photocopies (e.g. Salvemini's letters to Arcangelo Ghisleri, Guglielmo and Gina Ferrero, Giovan Battista Gifuni, Giuseppe Prezzolini and Roberto Bolaffio and Giustino Fortunato's letters to Salvemini).

The alphabetical sequence A–Z starts from boxes 64–69, and boxes 70–73, boxes 74–76 contain the correspondence between Ernesto Rossi and Salvemini, boxes 77–91 and boxes 92–109 the alphabetical sequence is once again applied; boxes 110–112 contain correspondence without signatures or with indecipherable signatures; once again the alphabetical sequence recommences from boxes 113–127. The last three boxes 128–130 contain copies of various correspondence (including letters from Salvemini to Ghisleri, letters from Salvemini to Zanotti Bianco, Giustino Fortunato, Piero Gobetti, Elsa Dall'Olio, Ugo Ojetti, Elio Conti, Bruno Caizzi, Franco Venturi and Camillo Berneri).

Among the most notable of Salvemini's correspondents were Francesco Ruffini, Piero Gobetti, Carlo Rosselli, Don Luigi Sturzo, Filippo Turati, Luigi Albertini, Giuseppe Prezzolini, Giovanni Amendola, Benedetto Croce, Luigi Einaudi, Ernesto Rossi, and Giovanni Gentile.

European unification was one of the most frequently debated issues in the correspondence between Salvemini and Ernesto Rossi. The letters express Salvemini's scepticism in the face of Rossi's more favourable stance on the issue.

The criteria adopted in the description of the letters is as follows: where possible the name of the sender, addressee, place, date are specified, accompanied by the specification of the type of correspondence (letter, note, card, telegramme), type of document (original, photocopy, photographic reproduction), the number of items and how they were written (typed, manuscript); where there were appendices or attachments (often newspaper clippings but also articles, deliberations, lists, motions, untitled typescripts, the characteristics of the document are described as completely as possible). Where the sender is not indicated or is unclear, question marks in square brackets are used. For non-

Italian locations, I tried to identify the place of departure specifying the state (for the US) or the country where necessary. The abbreviations *s.l.* and *s.d.* substitute place and date where these are not specified. The complete names of Salvemini's correspondents are given in full the first time they are cited in every group of letters, successively the person's initials are used. Original documents were only substituted when this was absolutely essential because of damage to the original folders where the letters were preserved, and their replacement in a new folder. ■

<sup>1</sup> Istituto Storico della Resistenza in Toscana, *Archivio Gaetano Salvemini, I: Manoscritti e Materiali di lavoro*, inventario a cura di Stefano Vitali, Roma, Ministero per i beni culturali e ambientali, Ufficio centrale per i beni archivistici, 1998 ('Pubblicazioni degli Archivi di Stato. Strumenti', CXXXII).

<sup>2</sup> Stefano Vitali, list of the Gaetano Salvemini fonds in *Guida agli archivi delle personalità della cultura in Toscana tra '8000 e '900*, Firenze, Olschki, 1996, p. 553.

## Births

Congratulations to **Fabian Breuer** and **Tijana Prokic** on the birth of their son **Nicolas Hubert**, on 15 February 2008.



# RAME: EUI Records and Archives Management

Electronic Records Manager | Prisca Giordani

When the records management programme of the European University Institute was launched in mid-2005, I had no idea how much material would be unearthed and how many unstable piles of boxes I would find scattered over the EUI sites and storage areas.

Today, two-and-a-half years later, whenever the umpteenth occasional batch of 'forgotten' material reappears, I am no longer surprised but simply acknowledge that this means the work is bearing fruit, and lots of it.

In my first year at the Historical Archives of the European Union I was also entrusted with the pilot project for managing the EUI's documentary resources.

The job involved procedures for recovering documents, implementing tools to manage documents more efficiently and effectively, and the adoption of an electronic records management system (ERMS). The work was carried out on several fronts.

“The established procedure had always been to box up surplus material—without assessing whether or not it should be kept or disposed of—and to send it to what was rather mysteriously known as ‘the static archives’ ”

## Recovery of documents in storage and management of office space needs

Given the huge quantity of material set aside in the past and spread over the EUI sites, this was a very urgent task. The boxes did not often identify the Service that had produced them, they never contained a list of the documents inside nor any indication as to why the documents were in storage (did they need to be thrown out or was it still 'useful' material that could no longer be kept for lack of office space?).

The established procedure had always been to box up surplus material—without assessing whether or not it should be kept or disposed of—and to send it to what was rather mysteriously known as 'the static archives'. If a document was needed again, there was no way to locate it and no topographical map of the various 'removals'.

Alongside recovering existing material, the need for space in the EUI offices led to problems regarding the management of future quantities of material which, unless handled methodically, would quickly lead to the production of even more unidentified boxes that no-one knew what to do with (disposal or preservation).

In the end the problem, besides the risk of losing documents vital to the operation of the EUI or their future consultation at the Historical Archives), was a serious problem of space and storage costs.

We needed to make an inventory of all the material in the various locations, decide whether to preserve or dispose of it and act accordingly.

We also needed to establish procedures to enable staff to administer the production of new documentation in a more rational manner: disposal procedure or transfer procedure if it could not be kept in the office where it was produced.

These procedures were drafted and published on the EUI intranet under the name of RAME (Records and Archives Management at the EUI).

From 2005 to the present RAME has identified a total of 639 boxes of documents no longer needed by the EUI which could be disposed of, and 447 to be preserved. Of these 447, a good percentage need be kept for a limited time after which they may be disposed of: indeed, for legal and fiscal reasons, certain types of documents have to be kept as long as required for any request to produce them for checking, after which they may be disposed of.

RAME allows us to keep track of those deadlines and dispose of boxes as soon as they are no longer needed, thereby avoiding the unnecessary logistical and administrative costs of keeping unwanted material.

## Creation of records management tools

RAME initially involved three services (the Offices of the Principal and Secretary-General and the Economics Department) in devising classification schemes integrated with selection tools to organise office documents rationally (filing) and to indicate deadlines for preserving documentation on the basis of the EUI's needs (office, legal, fiscal, historical). Given the nature of the EUI, the aim was to devise classification schemes that were a hybrid of those generally devised for universities and those devised for international organisations. ▶▶



- ▶ The Services analysed the types of documents produced or received during the course of work, identified the activities and devised a functional classification scheme (based on the functions analysed) consisting of rules for the disposal or preservation of the documentation concerned. The Services, carefully monitored and given full support at every stage, then tested the classification scheme and proposed any necessary alterations or adjustments. The results were published on the RAME intranet pages. As a further incentive the Services involved were assisted as a matter of priority with the disposal or transfer of the documentation that had accumulated in their offices over the years.

All the Services and Departments were progressively involved in the task of drafting the classification scheme and have now reached varying stages of progress with this work.

### RAME on the EUI website

In late 2006 I set up a web page to publicise the project's activities and provide useful tools for the colleagues involved. The training activity is now on the agenda and will be carried out in a targeted way. The pages were published on the intranet in the section entitled Records and Archives Management at the EUI.

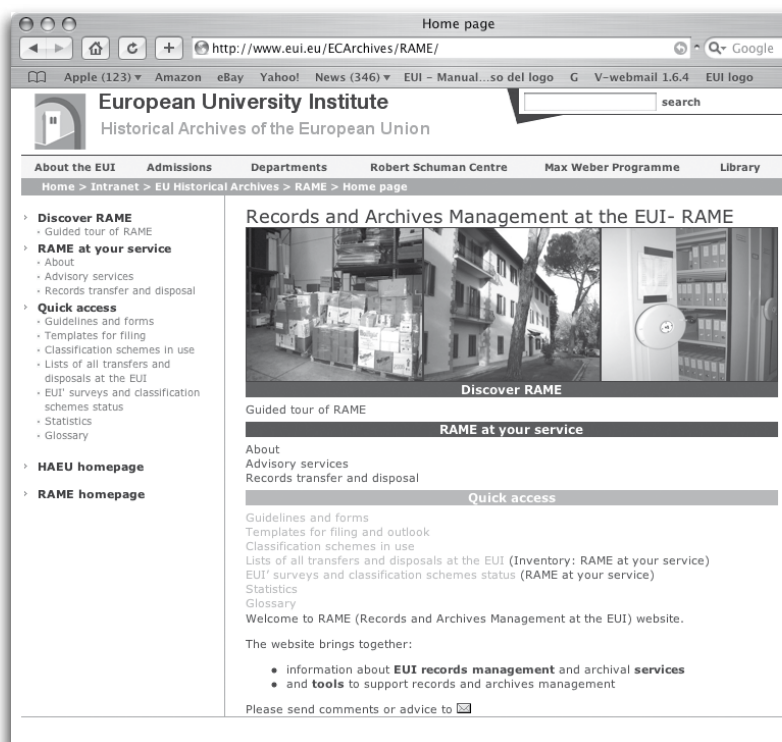
The pages are structured in three sections:

- Discover RAME
- RAME at your service
- Quick access

Discover RAME explains the objectives and benefits of the project for the EUI. It explains the tools available to staff and their responsibilities when managing documents owned by the EUI, and gives an outline of how things were done before RAME.

RAME at your Service presents the services available in an information section (About) and two specific sections: Advisory services, showing what is available (inventories of material, development of classification schemes including disposal deadlines, control of transfer and disposal operations), and Records transfer and disposal, giving practical information on each procedure (appropriate material, templates to fill in, etc.).

Quick access gives fast retrieval of the information needed to use a service (Guidelines and forms, Templates for filing, Classification schemes in use), and showcases RAME's activities (such as the status of the classification schemes in use, detailed information on each transfer or disposal procedure from 2005 to date, statistics on activities). It also contains a brief glossary of the more complex technical terms used.



### RAME goals in the future

- to complete and implement the classification schemes for the whole EUI for filing paper and electronic documents
  - to continue the work of transferring and eliminating material (when the classification schemes are fully operational it will be less complex than at present)
  - to organise staff training
  - to identify an IT system suited to the EUI requirements and to implement the decentralised protocol by means of a series of procedures and rules
- Involving any institution in a records management project implies a change in mentality and serious initial efforts in relation to a series of improvements that are not that visible initially, but which have far-reaching effects, such as:
- more efficient administration
  - more effective capability to respond to needs within and outside the EUI
  - reduced costs
  - institutional transparency & accountability
  - preserve historically relevant documents which will in time be merged into the Historical Archives of the EU.

Despite many initial difficulties, we are now beginning to see results as the project progresses. I also feel a personal satisfaction at the growing cooperation of colleagues involved, finally 'convinced' as they appreciate the everyday use and advantages of RAME. ■

# Alumni News

## Alumni Research Grant

Many alumni now contribute to the Alumni Research Grant and have Alumni Association (AA) membership cards and email accounts. With the help of these fees we transferred € 11,600.00 to the EUI-administered Alumni Research Grant in 2007, making the EUI Alumni net contributors to EUI activities. Many thanks to all!

## Elections for a new Executive Committee (EC)

The AA has moved on and now caters to an EUI which has grown in numbers, breadth and excellence. The AA now needs a renewed impetus and new people to come forward and contribute. Following up on recommendations by our General Assembly, we will broaden the elections by implementing e-voting, allowing candidates to present themselves on-line and voters with a valid AA card to vote electronically.

## E-voting for a new EC!

As announced in the previous EUI Review, valid AA membership cards automatically give alumni the right to vote electronically for a new Executive Committee. Alumni who do not make use of their e-vote in the voting period (15-22 Sept.) may still do so in the General Assembly of 3 October 2008 (tbc). If you do not have a valid AA membership card make sure you get one ASAP (you can do it on-line). The e-voting period will be 5-22 September 2008. Should there be fewer than 5 candidates for the Executive Committee, the Electoral Subcommittee may consider re-opening the electoral process at the General Assembly in order to fill in the vacant positions. The AA Electoral Subcommittee that will supervise the entire procedure with the help of the Academic Service comprises Donatella Della Porta, Peter Mair and Annette Bongardt.

## Prepare to run as a member of a new EC!

Candidates for the EC Committee must put their candidature forward by 1 September 2008 at the very latest. Candidates should send a one-page PDF document with their electoral programme to the Electoral Subcommittee (alumni email account, c/o Judith Przyrowski). By 8 September 2008 the list of properly identified candidates will be published on-line on the AA website, together with their electoral programme. Candidates should check the webpage and make sure their candidature is complete and confirmed by and/or talk to Judith Przyrowski, EUI Alumni Officer at the Academic Service. Candidates are expected to attend the General Assembly in October.

## 3rd edition Alumni Prize

Each EUI department chooses the best interdisciplinary thesis on European issues in their respective

field (for the period May 2006–May 2008) (Alumni Prize). The four pre-selected theses will be examined by a jury composed of: Jaime Reis (ICS, Lisbon), Ana Rute Cardoso (ECO, IZA, Bonn), Michelle Everson (LAW, Birkbeck College, London), Axel West Pedersen (SPS, NOVA, Oslo), Wolfgang Kaiser (HEC, Université de Paris I). The Alumni Prize chairman is a former HEC Department Professor and all four alumni are previous Rotary Prize winners

## AA chapters

Many alumni are taking an active part in local chapters and inaugural events to take place in Madrid and Edinburgh (at the time of the UACES/EUSA conferences and the city's festival).

## EUI Competition day

Following the success of the first edition in 2005, the Economics and the Law Departments, with the support of the EUI President and the Director of the RSCAS are organising the 2nd EUI Competition Day with the Alumni Association to take place at the EUI on 3-4 April 2008.

## Alumni weekend June 2008

On 20 June 2008 an interdisciplinary conference on 'EU Governance and Environmental Policy' will take place at the Badia (see details on-line). This interdisciplinary conference focuses on emerging trends in EU environmental policy and governance, including energy, and on interactions with EU economic competitiveness, in particular the goal of a competitive low-carbon economy. A visit to the Corridoio Vasariano is planned with the help of General Secretary, Marco Del Panta. We hope to have an 'Art History visit to Florence and surroundings' given by AA Secretary Valérie Hayaert and a dinner.

## Alumni E-journal on European Political Economy

A first issue of the journal will be on-line soon. Take a look at our website and submit your papers to the managing editors (alumni email account, c/o Judith Przyrowski).

## AA Subcommittees

Besides the Electoral Subcommittee, the E-journal Subcommittee and the conference subcommittees, we decided to create a Career Development Committee, made up of some of the participants in the last job event.

For information go to [www.eui.eu/Alumni](http://www.eui.eu/Alumni) or contact the EUI Alumni Officer, Judith Przyrowski. You can also register in the Alumni Association and get or renew your Electronic Alumni card for voting. The card gives you a permanent EUI email address and makes you a donor to the EUI since all revenues are devoted to the Alumni Research Grant, which is directly administered by the EUI.

A presto!

Francisco Torres, AA President

## La mensa, un luogo da ricordare

La mensa e il bar dell'IUE incorniciano una terrazza che offre una delle più belle viste su Firenze. Tra le tante situazioni memorabili vissute in quella cornice ricordo il quadretto divertente che mi si presentò davanti agli occhi il giorno della *Conferring Ceremony* 2007. Avevo lasciato mio padre, mia madre e mio fratello nella coda che si forma ogni giorno alla mensa. Avrebbero dovuto mangiare un boccone veloce prima dell'inizio della cerimonia. Al mio ritorno, me li ritrovai di fronte ad una tavola riccamente imbandita, per nulla consapevoli del fatto che fossimo in ritardo. Erano felici e sorpresi per esser stati amorevolmente accuditi da persone magnifiche che avevano servito loro un pranzo degno delle grandi occasioni. Non immaginavano che lo spettacolo di quel pranzo andasse in scena, in realtà, tutti i giorni dell'anno. Credo sia largamente condivisa la sensazione che la mensa e il bar della Badia Fiesolana siano luoghi cruciali per favorire lo scambio e la crescita interculturale all'interno della comunità, assai eterogenea, dell'IUE. Ingrediente fondamentale di questo luogo essenziale per la comunità dei ricercatori è di certo la cultura italiana, che in quei luoghi è protagonista assoluta e si riscatta con prepotenza da troppe disattenzioni istituzionali che tendono a internazionalizzare e a isolare forzatamente l'Istituto dalla città di Firenze e dall'ambiente circostante. La mensa è il luogo in cui tutti gli ospiti dell'Istituto, anche i più riottosi alla socializzazione e i più disinteressati alla scoperta della cultura italiana, sono costretti a cimentarsi con la nostra lingua, con il calore umano e il sorriso speciale di persone quali (tra le altre) Cinzia, Antonella, Fiamma e Loredana. È attraverso la paziente e amorevole mediazione di queste persone che, quotidianamente, studenti, professori, amici e familiari accedono con gioia alle prelibatezze e alla convivialità che rende il lavoro e il confronto accademico, a volte troppo crudo per i placidi animi mediterranei, più supportabile e piacevole. Magicamente, la mensa e il

bar sono in grado di trasformare per qualche istante l'italiano incerto o improbabile di molti avventori in espressioni e ordinazioni pronte e sicure quali “un caffè macchiato!” (meglio se “nel vetro”), “un cappuccino” (inspiegabilmente ordinato dopo pranzo) o “pappa al pomodoro, per favore!”. Infine, la certezza dell'impunità che molti associano all'Italia e agli italiani fa sì che inesausti bevitori di caffè o di tè abbandonino—felici—tazze e bicchieri vuoti in ogni dove, con ciò dimostrando di considerare le sante donne che poi li raccolgono alla stregua di vere e proprie mamme (è da notare che molti avventori italiani, tra cui il sottoscritto, hanno sempre cercato di riportare tutto al proprio posto).

Morale della favola: ad un giro in mensa o al bar proprio non si rinuncia, per il piacere di nuovi incontri (di quelli che magari ti cambiano la vita), per la scoperta di nuovi modi di vedere le cose, per riempirsi gli occhi della luce speciale del mattino o del tramonto e per riprendere contatto con la realtà staccandosi dai libri, per vedere al di là dell'orizzonte delle proprie conoscenze e dei propri limiti. Lo dimostra il quotidiano pellegrinaggio degli economisti, che escono dal proprio nido ai ritmi puntuali della navetta che li scarrozza su e giù tra Villa San Paolo e la Badia, rinunciando al “più efficiente” panino al bar del loro dipartimento; lo dimostra il continuo attraversamento della via di San Domenico di chi lavora dall'altro lato della collina, nel Convento oppure a Villa La Fonte; lo dimostra il ritorno regolare, immancabile, quasi necessario di coloro che, pur non vivendo più a Firenze, sulla terrazza con le magnolie ricompaiono ogni volta che possono, con immenso piacere, per confrontarsi con la vita che cambia, con il tempo che scorre inesorabile e con l'intensità e la forza di ricordi bellissimi che, fortunatamente, restano per sempre. ■

Giuseppe Mazziotti, EUI Alumnus





## In Memoriam - Boris Rotenberg



It was heart-breaking news that we received during the Christmas holidays: Boris (“Boriska”) Rotenberg had died. For his friends, this came as a profound shock: there was so much enthusiasm and joy for life, wisdom and intelligence, integrity and wit in him that it is difficult to believe that all this has gone.

Boris was curious about everything: Italian cooking, music, marathon running, philosophy, literature and so much more. He adored speaking foreign languages, many of which he mastered to an incredible degree. It was not without a reason that he appeared as Cipactli—the always hungry Aztec’s god-crocodile—in his Skype account. Boris used to say that this was just like him: hungry for new ideas and discoveries. His contact with people was legendary: he could talk to anybody, anywhere, any time. And talking to Boris was a feast: his argumentative character and his breath of interests could sometimes mean a ten-hour conversational marathon! He dedicated a lot of time to his friends. He cared about them and cherished these friendships.

Boris’ professional achievements were outstanding. He ventured into a new area of law—European media and communication law. Many of us would feel embarrassingly lost at times when he tried to explain his work, but he was so passionate about the subject! He loved to argue and tried to make as many ‘creative links’ as possible and had a wonderful ‘nonsense’ detector. He was never content to be a collector of legal facts and his approach was ambitiously interdisciplinary and provocative. His work

gained him an impressive early recognition and he was regarded as one of the very few legal experts in his field. Boris was full of plans for the future: a few months before the accident, he had been negotiating with Google and hoped to join their Barcelona office. He always used to say that he had a Mediterranean character; and, even with job-hunting, it was the location that counted the most—so, working for Google in the Silicon Valley would not have been a serious option.

Boris was always on a move: immediately after the June Paper and a stage at the BBC, he set out to travel with the Trans-Siberian and explored Russia, Mongolia and China for the rest of the summer. Back at the EUI, he applied for an exchange with Columbia. Asking a Professor of the Law Department whether he stood a chance in the competition—he thought it was too early to apply—he got a reply that captures his attitude to life: “All the lottery winners will always have participated in it!” In essence: if you don’t try you will lose out. Boris won the lottery and so, in spring 2001, he was already off to New York for a term. After New York, it was Rome, Brussels, New York again, Yale and then Seville. Boris loved travelling: last year he went down the Mekong River, to Cambodia and Viet Nam. Boris also loved roaming cities at night: as a true *mediterraneo* he wanted to be out as much as possible. Boris’s family thus paid him this last tribute in having his body cremated, his ashes dispersed and his organs donated according to his wishes.

Some of Boris’s friends expressed the idea of creating a memorial fund in Boris’s name. The details have to be worked out and we will be thankful for any idea in this regard. We thought establishing a scholarship or award in the area of media and communication law. We believe that this is a good way to remember our friend. ■

Robert Schütze & Galina Zukova, EUI Alumni

## In Memoriam - Wolfhard 'Wolfie' Brenner



Wolfie Brenner was a researcher in the Law Department from 1994 to 1998 and defended his doctorate in June, 2002. Of Austrian-Dutch origin, he was raised in the Netherlands and like many Dutch, loved to travel. Last fall, Wolfie became ill following one of his favourite trips retracing the silk road of Asia; he passed away on 3 November. During his time at the EUI, Wolfie was renowned for his intense debating style and his knowledge of films—he loved to quote one of his favourites, 'In the Name of the Rose'. Wolfie was also infamous for his love of billiards and sampling the world's beers; naturally, he was a beloved fixture and supporter of the Bar Fiasco! Here, researchers and friends recall their favourite memories of Wolfie:

Wolfhard had a car and he would drive people to various destinations and was always willing to go cruising around Tuscany and Umbria—our visit to Assisi is one of the fondest memories I have. Of course, one can never forget the infamous pool competition in which Wolfie was actively involved as a fierce competitor—with his own tactic, preventing the adversary from potting balls by (snookering) in order to increase his own chances!

Ad Tervoort – the Netherlands

One of my favourite memories is of Wolfie, a bemused expression on his face, eating his favourite meal of steak and potatoes at the kitchen table at our student house in Via Castelfidardo. Once Wolfie would sit down to eat, Cleopatra (the cat) knew

it was the signal to come sit on his lap and open her jaws so Wolfie could drop in bits of steak while he ate—they looked like the ancient Romans with their grapes! Sometimes, Cleo's kitten Samantha would climb up, too and she would nurse off Cleo while Wolfie handed her treats. They had him trained very well! A few years ago, Wolfie looked after the cats for me in Paris while I travelled; within a day of his arrival, he had found a nearby pool hall I didn't even know existed—and had befriended half the neighbourhood! But that was Wolfie.

Patricia Bailey – France / USA

I remember Wolfie as a kind and generous guy. He once invited me to visit Siena with him and some other people; he drove us with his car there and then he invited everybody for dinner. I would have liked to meet him again after all these years and I am sad that this will not happen.

Niraj Nathwani – Austria

Wolfie was a good friend. I've been casting my mind back over the years and my memories of time spent with him blend into eating, drinking and laughing (a lot of eating, drinking and laughing), often seated around huge wooden tables or smaller marble ones or the plastic version (with red checked tablecloths) in various parts of the Tuscan countryside. He was also a great source of British humour - what he didn't have on video (carefully coded) he knew off by heart. He even did a great version of Dame Edna Everage, with a passable Australian accent. Maybe that sums up Wolfie for me; I always think of him with a smile.

Nicki Hargreaves – Italy / New Zealand

When I think of Wolfie, I recall many a pleasurable evening in the Bar Fiasco, either playing pool (badly), or discussing anything from law to amateur psychology. Frequently during those sessions, Wolfie would demonstrate a quizzical expression, let loose a chuckle or burst out in his distinctive laughter. Memories of the delight he expressed in those moments makes me smile even today. ■

Rory O'Connell – Northern Ireland

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## EUI News

The Institute has recently purchased five electric bikes as part of its 'Green EUI' initiative. The aim is to encourage researchers to use environmentally-friendly modes of transport in moving around the EUI sites and Florence.

At the end of February a draw was held to allocate the first five bikes. Agnieszka Janczuk, Lukasz Gory-

woda, Paolo Aranha, Gizem Korkmaz and Matthieu Droumaguet have won the privilege of using the bikes for the next five months.

The next draw to allocate bikes will be in September 2008, and the bikes will be assigned for a period of six months or one year. ■



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Views expressed in articles published reflect the opinions of individual authors and not those of the Institute.



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