

Claremont-UC Undergraduate Research Conference on the European Union

Volume 2010 *Claremont-UC Undergraduate Research Conference on the European Union*

Article 2

March 2012

Foreword

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarship.claremont.edu/urceu>

Recommended Citation

(2010) "Foreword," *Claremont-UC Undergraduate Research Conference on the European Union*: Vol. 2010, Article 2. DOI: 10.5642/urceu.201001.02

Available at: <http://scholarship.claremont.edu/urceu/vol2010/iss1/2>

This Forward is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Claremont at Scholarship @ Claremont. It has been accepted for inclusion in Claremont-UC Undergraduate Research Conference on the European Union by an authorized administrator of Scholarship @ Claremont. For more information, please contact scholarship@cuc.claremont.edu.

FOREWORD

The European Union Center of California hosted the joint Claremont-University of California Undergraduate Research Conference on the European Union on April 8-9, 2010, at Scripps College in Claremont, California. A total of 46 students presented papers written on various topics related to the European Union. These students represented 23 different schools: Baylor University, Brigham Young University, Christopher Newport University, Claremont McKenna College, Dickinson College, George Washington University, the Georgia Institute of Technology, Pitzer College, Pomona College, Scripps College, Skidmore College, Troy University, UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, UC San Diego, UC Los Angeles, the University of Colorado at Boulder, the University of Florida, the University of Koblenz-Landau in Germany, the University of Oregon, the University of San Francisco, the University of Washington, and the US Naval Academy. This volume is a compilation of the top papers presented at the conference.

The student conference was modeled on professional academic conferences. Each student presented his or her own research to a panel moderated by a faculty discussant whose primary tasks included providing constructive feedback and stimulating discussion of the issues at hand. The conference was designed with specific goals in mind: to promote the visibility of European Union Studies and expose the participants to different intellectual and academic traditions within this field; to motivate student research and hone analytical, writing and presentation skills; and to strengthen the curriculum on European Union Studies at participating campuses by encouraging faculty interaction with students, not only with respect to their expertise in particular research areas but also by conveying general knowledge about contemporary Europe to students. Hence, the research presented in this volume reflects a collaborative effort to involve students in academic research and policy debates on issues involving the European Union.

The subject matter in the papers reflects the diversity of the student authors. **Neha Jaganathan** examines the question of the identity of EU member states through a framework that distinguishes between fluid “territories” and fixed “places.” **Colby Mangels** provides an analysis of the legislative and policy changes in the European Union arising out of the events of September 11th and questions the manner in which the security apparatus of the post-9/11 EU has expanded. **Ryan Merriman** challenges claims that European integration forces EU member states to trim their state welfare budgets.

Jessica Miltenberger examines the forces driving the EU member states' choice of Russia as their primary energy trading partner. Both **Spencer Pearce** and **Michaela Solo** tackle the issue of Turkish–EU membership: Spencer argues that geopolitical reasons offer the best explanation for Turkey's candidacy and possible accession to the EU, while Michaela questions the extent to which Turkish civil society has been a mechanism for democratization in conjunction with the country's bid for membership in the European Union. **Katelyn Walker** examines why some European treaties have initially failed and the factors that contributed to their eventual acceptance, using this template to understand the experience of the Lisbon Treaty. Finally, **Rebecca Westbrook** challenges the tendency to blame immigrants for increases in crime rates, using Catalonia, as a case study.

The conference was hosted by the European Union Center of California, and the administration of the conference by Center's staff, headed by Zaynah Rahman, was indispensable to its success. Zaynah's fine editing of this volume also allows us to share the results of the conference with a wider audience. In addition, we owe a debt of gratitude for the financial and administrative support provided by the European Union Center of Excellence at UC Berkeley; the Institute of European Studies at UC Berkeley; the Colorado European Union Center of Excellence at the University of Colorado at Boulder; the David M. Kenedy Center at Brigham Young University; the BYU Center for the Study of Europe; and the European Union Center of Excellence at the University of Washington.

We are grateful to our keynote speaker for sharing his expertise and knowledge regarding citizenship policies in the European Union. Dimitry Kochenov, Faculty of Law at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands, delivered a timely address on "EU Citizenship in the Wake of the Lisbon Treaty."

Special thanks are due as well to the faculty discussants who donated their time and expertise with the students, including Nigel Boyle, Pitzer College; Steven Casper, Keck Graduate Institute; Donald Crone, Scripps College; Patricia Dillon, Scripps College; Tom Ilgen, Pitzer College; Wade Jacoby, Brigham Young University; Hal Nelson, Claremont Graduate University; Siegmur Schmidt, University of Koblenz-Landau; Slavi Slavov, Pomona College; and Noga Wizansky, UC Berkeley. The participation of these individuals established a high standard for, and enriched the experience of, the students at the conference.

Ultimately, the success of the conference was due to the outstanding contributions of the student participants. As the selections in this volume make clear, their papers demonstrated both serious intellectual maturity and genuine research skills. The result was a conference that was both thoughtful and stimulating.

David M. Andrews, Director
European Union Center of California