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Call for papers: dead-line for abstracts March 1, 2007

New Approaches to European Studies:

Social Capital, European Elites, Constructivism...

Exploratory Conference and Ph.D. Workshop, Copenhagen, April 27-28, 2007

Objectives

Although sociological approaches have always been part of mainstream research on European integration, it is fair to say that sociological research when compared to political science, legal or economical approaches have been much less dominant. There is however a growing interest in European integration and more generally in processes of Europeanisation among social scientists, especially with regard to elaborating new conceptual tools importing sociological approaches. In focus of such studies are among others various forms of social capital, elite theories and constructivism. This conference seeks to gather this emergent community of social scientific scholars pursuing such approaches and bring them in dialogue with other, and more established, currents of European integration studies. The overall goal of the conference is thus to discuss and examine what might be potential new alleys for the social scientific exploration of European integration. The conference therefore also serves as a way of examining the possibility of establishing a more permanent network, working on new approaches to European studies.

The growing interest in new approaches might be seen as a reflection of the continuous challenge of defining – methodologically and theoretically – *Europe* as an object of study. The gathering will particularly dissect the possible contributions of using *social capital*, *elite theory*, and *constructivist* approaches in order to further our understanding of Europe. *Social capital* is exchanged, renewed or deflated at many sites: at the nation-states in particular but also increasingly at the European level, where it is exchanged anew back into the national/local. *Social elites*, both old and new ones, (re)emerge and assume new local/cosmopolitan forms, a process which is fuelled by European integration processes. These processes, we suggest, are concomitant with a Europe which remains very much *in-the-making*; regardless of its imposing institutions and architecture, Europe is still a site of construction. The goal of the conference is to elaborate further on the contributions of such

ways of rethinking European integration both as new sub-fields of European integration studies and as auxiliary approaches to existing research traditions.

Organisation of the Conference

To assure a varied set of presentations, we have organised three key note addresses representing new trends, as well as a number of paper sessions which tackle the question of understanding Europe through elite theories, social capital approaches and constructivism. One paper session will be reserved for Ph.D. students.

The conference is organised as a two-day event April 27-28, 2007.

The conference venue is the University of Copenhagen.

The registration fee is 100 Euros.

Ph.D. students are exempted from paying the registration fee. We will also be able to help a limited number of Ph.D. students with the costs of accommodation in Copenhagen.

Dead-line for abstracts is March 1, 2007.

Abstracts should be no longer than one page and can be written in English, French or German.

All presentations will be in English.

Please send abstracts to mikael.madsen@jur.ku.dk or margareta.bertilsson@sociology.ku.dk

The Conference is organised by Dr. Margareta Bertilsson, Professor of Sociology University of Copenhagen, Institute of Sociology, Dr. Didier Georgakakis, Director of the Groupe de Sociologie Politique Européenne, Université Robert Schuman, Strasbourg, and Dr. Mikael Rask Madsen, post-doc at the University of Copenhagen, Faculty of Law and associate researcher, Centre de Sociologie Européenne, Paris.

Preliminary Programme

New Approaches to European Studies: Social Capital, European Elites, Constructivism...

Exploratory Conference and Ph.D. Workshop

Friday April 27, 2007

9.30-10.00: Welcome/Opening Session: New Approaches to European Studies?
Margareta Bertilsson, University of Copenhagen
Mikael Rask Madsen, University of Copenhagen & Centre de sociologie européenne, Paris

10.15-11.45: Plenary I: Europe and (Re)Emergence of Elites
Keynote Speaker: Yves Dezalay, C.N.R.S, Paris

Chair: Morten Kelstrup, University of Copenhagen
Discussant: Thomas Christensen, European Institute of Public Administration, Maastricht

11.45-13.00: Light Lunch

13.00-14.45: Paper Session I
Chair: Didier Georgakakis, Université Robert Schuman, Strasbourg

15.00-15.15: Refreshments

15.15-16.45: Plenary II: (De)Constructing Europe
Keynote Speaker Niilo Kauppi, C.N.R.S & Groupe de Sociologie Politique Européenne, Strasbourg

Chair: Margareta Bertilsson, University of Copenhagen
Discussant: Didier Bigo, Sciences-Po, Paris & King's College London

19.00 Conference dinner for all registered participants.

Saturday April 28, 2007

9.00-10.30: Paper Session II – Special Paper Session for Ph.D. Students.

Chair: Mikael Rask Madsen, University of Copenhagen & CSE, Paris

10.30-10.45: Refreshments

11.00-12.30: Paper Session III

Chair: Ramona Samson, Copenhagen Business School

12.30-13.30: Light Lunch

13.30-15.00: Plenary III: Social Capitals: Bridging and Bonding in Europe

Keynote Speaker Gert Tinggaard Svendsen, University of Aarhus

Chair: Michael Herslund, Copenhagen Business School

Discussant: Delphine Dulong, Université Paris 1 - Panthéon-Sorbonne, Paris

15.15-15.30: Refreshments

15.30-16.30: Closing Session: New Viable Approaches to European Studies?

Margareta Bertilsson & Mikael Rask Madsen

Panel of Keynote Speakers: Yves Dezalay, Niilo Kauppi & Gert Tinggaard Svendsen

Special Guest: Henrik Stampe Lund, University of Copenhagen