



Discussing & Understanding Europe
The Institute of European Studies

Regional European Debate Centre
Krakow Branch of the Polish Association of European Studies

Have the pleasure of inviting you to the international conference entitled

***European Narratives – Europe and the European Union
in the 21st Century
as Political, Social and Cultural Constructions***

which will take place between the 24-26 September 2015 in Krakow

The conference is being organised by the JU Institute of European Studies and is interdisciplinary in nature, just as others before it. We will be describing and interpreting the processes stemming from Europe as, amongst others, sociologists, political scientists, social anthropologists, historians, lawyers, linguists and cultural studies scholars. We warmly welcome diverse perspectives and methodologies to the conference.

The main subject of our annual conferences are the **social, cultural and political processes amidst the changing the face of Europe**, which itself has to face many more challenges in the second decade of the 21st century than before. A scenario in which the European Union disintegrates is becoming increasingly realistic. As a result, this has given rise to a series of questions which require careful consideration. Amongst the most important of these are: Can a United Europe in its present shape work effectively? Are the future plans for further integration both realistic and sensible – or merely doomed to remain on paper? If a United Europe is something more than a project on paper, where can it be found and what could stem from its future development?

The “European Narratives” conference will be an opportunity to exchange opinions on the subject of the multidimensional transformation process at play in Europe and the European Union. We are interested not only in analysing the current reality, but also how typical answers and scenarios are constructed depending on which narrative they find themselves in. We believe that every public representation of a “European Narrative” contains a particular aspect of reality, open to interpretation but also forming the basis for the construction of discourse which may bring genuine results.

The conference will begin on Thursday (24.09.2015) at 2 pm in the Michał Bobrzyński Hall of the Jagiellonian University, the oldest part of the university. All those interested may visit the university museum beforehand. The first day will be devoted to two plenary sessions and the evening will see the gala dinner. The second day has been set aside for panel discussions and themed presentations, this time in the home of the Institute of European Studies at Przegorzały. The third day will hold further plenary sessions and the closing of the conference. After the final meal, all those interested are invited to join us on a tour of the historic attractions of Krakow’s Old Town.

The conference will host invited experts from European universities (as key note speakers during the plenary sessions) and those who wish to register individually. The division into thematic panels will take place after the registration of all participants. Languages to be used in the conference are English and Polish. Thus far the following scholars have confirmed their participation: Thomas Faist (University of Bielefeld), Chris Hann (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology), Jan Kubik (School of Slavonic & East European Studies, UCL), Parick Lehnese (Interpret Europe), Maciej Szpunar (Court of Justice of the European Union), Jan Zielonka (Oxford University).



Conference subjects and discussion topics

- (1) Narratives and rhetoric types for the integration/disintegration of Europe in the context of the political and economic crisis – the discourse of the past and future of the European Union (including Eurosceptic, Eurorealist, Euroenthusiast, crisis and post-crisis, political-institutional, social dynamics and change, nation-centric, federalist, post and transnational, cosmopolitan, normative, axiological, futuristic, civic);
- (2) The process of political, social and cultural change in Europe (Europeanization, its contexts and representations);
- (3) Central Europe – the construction in reality, the imagined construction;
- (4) European heritage, its cultural transmission and construction;
- (5) The architecture and discourse of security in Europe (common security policy in the context of contemporary threats);
- (6) The European legal space – directions for development, current debates and controversies;
- (7) European identity at the crossroads: migration and the crisis of multiculturalism;
- (8) European democracy, its actors and imaginations – at the level of civic associations, urban movements and local, regional, national and European federal government;
- (9) The crisis of social trust and the crisis of the political legitimacy of integration;
- (10) The evolution and devolution of European institutions.

Abstracts

Abstracts must be no more than 200 words and should contain the following: name and surname, academic title, academic discipline, title of presentation, summary of basic points and conclusions and a description of the methodology employed. Please submit abstracts no later than the **15th of May 2015** to the address europaistyka.konferencja@gmail.com

Basis of the selection of entries

All proposals will be assessed by the Organising Committee and in some cases they may ask for more details concerning the content or expanding/reducing the proposal. Participants will be informed of the selection by the 1st of June 2015. Please remember that your participation will only be confirmed in the conference programme if registration payment is made by the **31th of July 2015**.

Conference fees

Conference fees, amounting to 400 PLN per person, will be used to pay for the meals, drinks, snacks, gala dinner and conference materials. A lower rate (300 PLN) is available for members of the Polish Association of European Studies and members of The Academic Association for Contemporary European Studies. Conference participants will receive a list of accommodation options suitable for different tastes and budgets.

The conference account number:

Uniwersytet Jagielloński

Instytut Europeistyki / Wydział Studiów Międzynarodowych i Politycznych

Bank Pekao SA O/Kraków

IBAN number: **PL 98 1240 4722 1111 0000 4858 6669**

SWIFT: PKOPPLPW

Please add the following conference code: First name, family name, „Europejskie narracje”

Publication of conference papers

We invite you to submit full papers by the 31st of October 2015. They will be collected after the conference with a view to publishing a volume of reviewed articles in English and Polish.