



EUSA BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Boston, March 5-7, 2015

Call for Papers and Panels

The EU After the Crisis: Phoenix or Albatross?

The European Union Studies Association invites scholars and practitioners to submit panel and paper proposals on this broad theme for its 2015 conference in Boston, Massachusetts, from March 5-7. The EUSA 2015 keynote speaker will be Thomas Piketty, professor at the Paris School of Economics and author of *Capital in the 21st Century*. Piketty will speak on "Inequality in Europe and What the EU Could Do About It". A new format of short debates will also feature leading scholars discussing the future of Europe and the EU.

In the aftermath of the deep crisis that shook its Eurozone core, the European Union faces an uncertain future. The EU may once again rise like a phoenix from its ashes, as happened in the 1970s after a long period of "eurosclerosis." Yet the EU may also limp along for an indefinite period without being able to take off, like a wounded albatross. Europe's recovery remains timid, and such weak economic growth cannot turn into a tide that lifts all boats. Shadows still loom of debt, slow growth, rising inequalities, and aging societies. The EU has innovated institutionally in response to the debt crisis, but skeptics see recent steps as insufficient or misdirected and note many obstacles to major change. The crisis has also considerably tarnished the reputation of EU institutions. At best, EU officials now appear as ineffective. At worst, they are blamed for the social and political damages of austerity policies.

EU-level democracy is not a meaningful reality for the many European citizens who see the EU's promise of market integration as a threat, rather than a hope. Meanwhile, deep trends lure American attention in other directions than the EU. Though the transatlantic relationship has been somewhat reignited by the Crimean crisis and Transatlantic Partnership negotiations, future attention from American policy-makers in Europe may focus more on Berlin than on Brussels.

The study of the European Union also stands at a crossroads. A subfield once dominated by theorists of international relations interested in transformations of sovereignty has become one increasingly populated by comparativists researching governance within the EU or comparing it to federal states. Yet most comparativists are still reluctant to identify as EU specialists, since they do not want to be confined to the study of EU institutions and their arcane mechanisms. This is especially true of American scholars, who now make up only a minority of EUSA members, despite the fact that EUSA's constitutional mandate is to foster EU studies in the US.

EUSA 2015 aspires to three goals:

- to demonstrate that the field of EU studies addresses fundamental issues, beyond the study of EU institutions in a strict sense
- to make a case for the enduring relevance of EU studies to political science and other social sciences
- to explore transatlantic relations and exchanges at a time when the EU and the US are arguably more interdependent than ever before

We ask all participants to connect their research to implications for the future of the EU, of EU studies, and/or of transatlantic relations. We invite proposals under the following sections of the program:

1. Democracy and Mobilization in an Age of Euroskepticism
2. Political Economy After the EU's Long Crisis
3. The Evolution of Law, Regulation, and Governance
4. The EU in a Rapidly Changing World
5. Theorizing and Teaching the EU

On the basics of paper and panel proposals:

- We welcome both paper and panel proposals, particularly those that foster transatlantic dialogue.
- Panel proposals need to consist of three to four papers.
- Participants are limited to two appearances on the conference program (two papers or one paper and one discussant role; chair roles do not count toward the appearance limit). Participants should therefore submit no more than two proposals.
- Please indicate for which section you would like to be considered. Note that there is no fixed number of panels for each section. Choosing one section rather than another does not enhance or diminish your chances of having your paper or panel accepted.
- The Program Committee reserves the right to make changes to organized panel proposals, including their composition.
- You do not need to be a EUSA member to submit a proposal, but all those appearing on the conference program must be current EUSA members.
- We cannot honor individual scheduling requests; by submitting a proposal you agree to be available from 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 5 through 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 7.

The firm **deadline** for receipt of proposals is **October 3, 2014**. You will be notified of the Program Committee's decision regarding your proposal by December 3, 2014.

To submit a paper or panel proposal: All proposals must be submitted via our online proposal submission forms, which will be located at www.eustudies.org beginning August 18, 2014. Proposals must be submitted via the website. We do not accept proposals by e-mail, regular mail or via facsimile. Address all questions about the proposal process to eusa@pitt.edu.