



# EU Political Economy Newsletter



Newsletter of the EUSA EU Political Economy Interest Section

<http://www.eustudies.org/pesection.html>

*The EU Political Economy Interest Section is an official section of the European Union Studies Association.*

Section co-chairs: Erik Jones and Amy Verdun

Managing editor: Alasdair Young

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## Letter from the Section Chairs

Dear Section Members,

The deadline for conference proposals is fast approaching and we really want as many of you as possible to be there – if for no other reason, then because there is so much to talk about! Newsworthy subjects include the reform of the stability and growth pact, the progress of the Doha Round, the crisis (or not) in the transatlantic relationship, the negotiation of the new financial perspective, the mid-term review of the Lisbon strategy, and the coming demographic crisis. At a more cerebral level you might want to address the rise of neo-Gramscian transnational historical materialism, the progress of the various institutionalisms, or the continuation (or demise) of the neo-classical synthesis. Then, of course, there are the hardy perennials, such as decision-making, institutional reform, diversity, deepening, and future enlargement – not to mention the reform of the European welfare state and the recasting of relations with Turkey. Put another way, failure to come up with a good idea is not an excuse. If anything, the problem is that there is too much to discuss.

Of course submitting a paper or organizing a panel takes an element of courage. If you do not know anyone available who is

working in your area, you might have to resort to the blanket list-serve email: "is anyone interested to participate in a panel on . . . ?" If you do so, however, you are likely to find yourself spoiled for choice. We have done a number of paper calls through the EU Political Economy Interest Section and each time we have been overwhelmed (and not underwhelmed) by the response. As the conference deadline approaches – and people finally begin to focus attention on attending – that is sure to be the case with other open panel calls as well.

There is always the risk of rejection. We don't have any input as section chairs on the conference selection process; that is handled by the conference program committee. Therefore, we cannot guarantee even that our own proposals will be accepted, but, in an odd sort of way, that is better for everyone (except perhaps us). All paper and panel proposals start on (continued overleaf)

### Also in this issue

Data resources	2
Members' news	4
Members' publications	5
Calls for papers	6

much the same level playing field. Therefore, rather than worry about rejection, we advise you to focus on the requirements for the proposal and make sure to meet the deadlines. Beyond that, what matters is only that you do your best work.

We are not trying to get too preachy in this regard. But we are interested to see you in Austin. We have a lot to celebrate and a lot to talk about. The EU Political Economy Interest Section will have its second major publication – our edited volume on the political economy of European integration (Routledge, 2005) – to display and debate. Section members are sure to bring along their own publications, proposals, and research ideas as well. And we plan to hold elections for a new

leadership. So coming to Austin will make it easier for you to see what we have done, to get involved in what the group is doing, and to play a role in mapping the future of the interest section as a whole.

There are certainly a lot of interesting possibilities to explore – including new articles, new special issues, new volumes, and even new relations with the European Political Economy Review. But first things come first. For most of us, going to Austin means getting on the program. Getting on the program means putting in a proposal. And putting in a proposal means getting organized. Now. Because the deadline for submissions is fast approaching.

Best,

Amy and Erik

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## Data Resources Review

### infoBASE EUROPE

Tal Sadeh

infoBASE EUROPE is a UK-based commercial specialist news agency covering developments and legislation in European social, regional, employment, education, environmental and enterprise policy. It also covers European Union (EU) funding opportunities. infoBASE EUROPE provides a comprehensive news service and access to a database of background information with a user-friendly interface, available at [www.ibeuropa.com](http://www.ibeuropa.com).

infoBASE focuses on five key policy areas. The first is Employment and Social Policy, which includes information on trade unions, industrial relations, gender equality and discrimination. The second key policy area is Regional and Environmental Policy, which covers urban and rural development, the structural

funds, and transport policy, among other topics. The third policy area – Economic and Enterprise Policy – encompasses economic statistics, industry policy, the internal market, and competition policy. The fourth and fifth areas are Education, Culture and Research Policy, and Institutional Developments and Enlargement. The latter areas includes topics such as the budget, migration and asylum. Information on calls for proposals and tenders is provided in the infoBASE web site as a sixth subject area.

The infoBASE Europe service supplies information in four basic formats. The main format is the Database Record. Each Database Record provides a summary of specific policy developments (roughly 400 words) and is color-coded in accordance with the key policy area. The other three

information formats are Factsheets, Guides and Resource Documents, each a few pages long. Factsheets provide background information on a specific policy issue or EU program. Guides provide introductions to major EU developments such as the 2003 Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) and the Constitutional Treaty. Resource Documents provide reprints from important official documents and extracts from key statistical series. Relevant Database Records, Factsheets, Guides and Resource Documents are all linked to each other, as well as to source documents and external web sites.

Information in all four formats is accessible in two ways: The first is the infoBASE EUROPE Newslink weekly update service. A Newslink issue features six sections: Commentary, Feature, Database Records, Indexes, Guides and Newslink. Early 2004 Newslink Commentary (roughly 400-500 words) dealt with issues such as information technology's role in sustaining and strengthening democracy, the European Commission's Annual Policy Strategy, and Eurobarometer public opinion survey results. Feature sections provided focused information such as a detailed description of the Community Action Program to Promote Active European Citizenship, or Eurostat data on per capita gross domestic product, and human resources in member states' health sectors. The feature section of a month's first issue provides a timetable of EU institutions' meetings and sponsored conferences (also available from the homepage). The issue coinciding with a new presidency provides its six-month diary.

Newslink's Database Records section provides new records, sorted by the five key policy areas and calls for tenders. The Indexes section provides a list of all Subject Index Cards (SICs – see below), an index of Factsheets (between September 2000 and March 2004 there have been some 70 factsheets), and the Resources

index – a list of all items that appeared in previous Newslink Feature sections (since July 2002 there have been more than 100 featured items). The Guides section provides background information on the 2003 IGC, the Constitutional Treaty, a list of European acronyms (also available from the homepage) and a list of current calls for proposals and tenders. The Newslink section provides links to previous Newslink issues.

The second way to access infoBASE EUROPE's information is the SICs. More than 150 SICs allow users to focus on the particular subjects, such as employment, enlargement, regional policy, or the role of cooperatives in the European economy. A SIC provides a brief summary of the subject in question, links to key external web sites (mostly Commission sites, but also other official EU sites, as well as non-EU organizations), and a full list of, and access to, all relevant infoBASE EUROPE Database Records during the previous two years. Each Database Record provides a link to its SIC.

Newslink issues and SICs are fully integrated. Users can access a SIC from each issue of Newslink and access Newslink issues from each SIC. Access for non-subscribed users is limited to six-month old Newslink issues (access through the infoBASE EUROPE NEWSLINK SAMPLE COPY button in the homepage) and to parts of the current issue, which are posted on infoBASE EUROPE's homepage. Subscribers receive access to new issues of Newslink via e-mail each week, in addition to access to SICs and to their own homepage, which is regularly updated with all the latest news and links. Annual subscription rates for 2004 are €250 for individuals, €400 for organizations, but users are offered a one-month free trial. infoBASE EUROPE claims to receive over 120,000 visits per year to its homepage.

According to infoBASE EUROPE its material draws on a range of sources

including non-governmental organizations, but browsing through its web site pages it seems that the Commission dominates information and links. Commission sites are reliable sources of data, of course, but this dependency on otherwise publicly available sources is disappointing, as it diminishes infoBASE EUROPE's added value as a news agency. The Calls for Proposals and Tenders section includes Framework Program 6 (FP6) calls, but seems geared mostly to business or local community level funding opportunities. Academics would probably do better to search the FP6 web site directly. The advantage of infoBASE EUROPE for academics is mostly in the way the

information is organized. Information on infoBASE EUROPE's web site is indeed easily and conveniently accessed and covers a range of issues of interest to political economists. While using Commission sources, infoBASE EUROPE has its own agenda and (mostly liberal) priorities for sorting bits of information, and its commentary is written in journalistic and critical style. Rather than narrowly following legislative processes, information is supplied from a more public perspective. Its large pool of over 7,500 Database Records starting in January 1993 is a great asset. Try to get your librarian interested.

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### Members' News

**Rafael Leal-Arcas** is an Emile Noel fellow at the Jean Monnet Center for International and Regional Economic Law and Justice, New York University School of Law for the academic year 2004-05.

**Patrick Leblond** has been appointed assistant professor of international business at HEC Montreal, the University of Montreal's business school

### Deadline

for submissions to the next issue

**Monday 7 February 2005**

Please direct all correspondence concerning the Forum and the Data Resources Review to the appropriate editor. All other correspondence to the Managing editor.

Tal Sadeh (Data Resources Review): [talsadeh@post.tau.ac.il](mailto:talsadeh@post.tau.ac.il)

Mary Farrell (Forum Editor): [mfarrell@cris.unu.edu](mailto:mfarrell@cris.unu.edu)

Alasdair Young (Managing Editor): [a.young@socsci.gla.ac.uk](mailto:a.young@socsci.gla.ac.uk)

In particular we are looking for:

- ◇ Members' Recent publications (since this issue)
- ◇ Members' news (since this issue)
- ◇ Calls for papers (due dates prior to 31 March 2005)
- ◇ Notice of forthcoming events (taking place prior to 30 April 2005)

## Members' Recent and Forthcoming Publications

**Rafael Leal-Arcas**, 'The EC in GATT/WTO Negotiations: From Rome to Nice - Have EC Trade Policy Reforms Been Good Enough for a Coherent EC Trade Policy in the WTO?' European Integration online Papers, 23 March 2004.

**Rafael Leal-Arcas**, 'The EU Decision-Making Process in EC Trade Policy: The Three Internal Tensions,' in F. Astengo and N. Neuwahl, (eds.), *A Constitution for Europe? Governance and Policy-Making in the European Union*, Vol. II, Collection Etudes Europeennes, Chaire Jean Monnet, Universite de Montreal, 2004, pp.132-156.

**Patrick Leblond**, 'Completing the Maastricht Contract: Institutional Handicraft and the Transition to European Monetary Union,' *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 42/3, 2004, 553-70.

Nicolas Bacon and **Erik Jones** (eds), 'Industrial Relations Journal Annual Review of European Union Activities, 2003,' *Industrial Relations Journal*, 35/6, 2004.

**Erik Jones** (ed.), 'The Transatlantic Relationship,' *International Affairs*, 80/3, 2004.

**Erik Jones**, 'EU and Asia: Links and Lessons,' Michael Plummer and Erik Jones

(eds), *Journal of Asian Economics*, 14/6, 2004.

**Erik Jones** and **Amy Verdun** (eds), *The Political Economy of European Integration: Theory and Analysis*, London and New York: Routledge, 2005.

**George Pagoulatos**, *New Political Economy: State, Finance and Growth from Postwar to EMU*, London and New York: Palgrave, 2003.

**George Pagoulatos**, 'Believing in National Exceptionalism: Ideas and Economic Divergence in Southern Europe,' *West European Politics* 27/1, 2004, pp. 43-68.

**George Pagoulatos**, 'Financial Interventionism and Liberalization in Southern Europe: State, Bankers, and the Politics of Disinflation,' *Journal of Public Policy*, 23/2, 2003, pp. 171-199.

**Alasdair Young**, 'The Incidental Fortress: The Single European Market and World Trade' *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 42/2, 2004, 393-414.

**Alasdair Young**, 'The EU and World Trade: Doha and Beyond,' in Maria Green Cowles and Desmond Dinan (eds), *Developments in the European Union 2*, London and New York: Palgrave, 200-20.

## Calls for Papers

**European Unions Studies Association**  
Ninth Biennial International Conference  
31 March – 2 April 2005  
Austin, Texas

The European Union Studies Association invites scholars and practitioners engaged in the study of Europe and the European Union to submit panel and paper proposals for its 2005 Ninth Biennial International Conference. The Program Committee plans to promote the broadest possible exchange of theoretical approaches, disciplinary perspectives, and research agendas. The Committee would particularly welcome proposals that examine the impact of the EU's recent enlargement on the functioning of the Union and on the politics and societies of its new and existing member states, as well as proposals that address aspects of the EU's ongoing constitutional debate.

The firm deadline for *receipt* of paper and panel proposals in the EUSA office is **October 15, 2004**. All applicants will be notified of the Program Committee's decisions by December 15, 2004.

Questions about the proposal process may be addressed to EUSA by e-mail [eusa@pitt.edu](mailto:eusa@pitt.edu) or by telephone to 412 648 7625. Details of how to submit papers is available at [www.eustudies.org/CallForPapers2005.htm](http://www.eustudies.org/CallForPapers2005.htm).

**European Policy on Patents and Intellectual Property:  
What direction should it go?**  
EPIP International Conference  
10 – 11 March 2005  
Copenhagen, Denmark

This European Policy for Intellectual Property conference focuses on the challenges and opportunities related to the increasing efforts by the EU to harmonize and regulate intellectual property rights, the new trans-national dynamics emerging from this, and to the rapidly changing praxis and appropriation strategies of innovating firms in virtually all industrial sectors. Specific topics include: The organization of the patent system in Europe; Comparing the US, EU and Japanese patent systems; Litigation, Enforcement and other legal implementation issues in IPR; Industrial dynamics and IPR regulation in Europe University patents in Europe; Copyrights protection in Europe; Software patents in Europe; Database protection and innovation in Europe; and Trademark protection in Europe.

Full papers should be submitted no later than **1 December 2004** to Susana Borrás ([borras@ruc.dk](mailto:borras@ruc.dk)). Selections will be communicated on 10 January 2005. More information about the conference can be found at: [www.epip.ruc.dk](http://www.epip.ruc.dk).

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