



***European Political Identity at the Crossroads:***

***Advancing European Integration***

***EuCA Summer School – 6th edition***

*Newnham College, University of Cambridge  
01 -16 September 2015*

**Context**

Today more than ever Europe is at the crossroads.

Internally, Eurosceptic parties from far sides of both right and left have received a vast consensus from many Europeans, and major debates are carried out on the “Grexit” and “Brexit” options. As far as foreign policy is concerned, the situation in Ukraine, the instability in the Near East and North Africa demand decisions from Europe, regardless of the moment of economic and internal division.

Can new theoretical patterns, changes of perspective or in-depth analysis give a deeper understanding of nowadays actions, reactions and opinions towards the EU and its role in the region and why not, in the world?

How many *Europes* are there and how does this shape our identity and worldview? Does the much hoped European identity give ground to mutual understanding between Irish, French, Polish, Greek, Hungarian, Germans and so forth? And what about Ukrainians, Kosovars, Albanians or Russians, just to name a few of non-EU citizens? Don't they have a claim to European identity? The complexity and the ensuing debate becomes more interesting when we add to the discussions the relationship with Islam, the desire for justice, integration or unity in diversity.

A deep rethinking and investigation of the political, economical and geopolitical challenges that Europe faces today are needed now more than ever and Cambridge is one of the most fascinating and thought provoking settings that can inspire them.



## **Euca Cambridge Summer School**

We offer the chance to 20 University students to spend two weeks in Newnham College of the University of Cambridge, learning from and living with Cambridge scholars and lecturers from international universities exploring relevant contemporary issues through a highly stimulating debate.

The faculty will give three seminars per day, but the debate will continue informally during meals and networking receptions. All the students will be accommodated in Newnham College, in single rooms; all the meals will be taken in the College canteen.

Part of the programme are several non formal activities, such as a British Parliamentary Debate, simulations of EU decision making-process or current international negotiations, aimed to develop soft skills such as public speaking, team-working, presentation skills, time management, just to name a few. The non-formal activities require engagement and intellectual curiosity. The programme includes also recreational activities such as touring Cambridge, punting on the river Cam, and, for those who wish, a trip to London.

There will be a Diploma Ceremony on the last day in Cambridge after a Formal Dinner in Newnham's Victorian Dining Hall.

### **Faculty and seminar topics**

**Dr. Thomas D'Andrea**, University of Cambridge. *The European Social Democratic Project: Philosophical and Theological Foundations.*

**Prof. Andreas Kinneging**, University of Leiden. *United We Stand, Divided We Fall: A Case for the United States of Europe.*

**Prof. Harald Wydra**, University of Cambridge. *Two Or More Europes? Memory, Identity and History.*

**Dr. Mustafa Cenap Aydin**, Director of Tevere Institute, Rome. *Muslim Integration in Europe: Can a Muslim be a European Citizen?*

**Ms. Naema Tahir**, British-Dutch-Pakistani Human rights lawyer, author, broadcaster and expert in Islamic affairs. *Muslim Integration in Europe: Muslim Women and Interreligious Relationships.*

**Mr. Riccardo Ribera d'Alcalá**, Director-General for Internal Policies of the Union European



Parliament. *Dynamics of the European Integration Process – Insights from the European Parliament*

**Sir Anthony Brenton**, Former UK Ambassador to the Russian Federation.  
*How the European Union Should Relate to Putin's Russia*

*More speakers to be confirmed.*

Participation in all seminars and the extra-curricular activities is mandatory.

## Venue

The Summer School will take place at the Newnham College, one of the 31 Colleges of the University of Cambridge. Students will be accommodated in single rooms. Newnham College was established in 1871 as a house in which young women could reside while attending lectures in Cambridge. For more information please visit [www.newn.cam.ac.uk](http://www.newn.cam.ac.uk)

## Who can participate?

The EucA Summer School is open to 20 students from EucA Colleges and partner countries. Students' pre-selection will be based on their application containing the following documents that **must be submitted in English and .pdf format**:

**1. Curriculum vitae;**

**2. Letter of motivation** where the applicants are required to explain their interest in the topics of the Summer School, previous knowledge (if any), and what do they hope to achieve by participating (between 200/600 words);

**3. Essay** on one of the topics proposed by EucA (between 800/1600 words). You can find the topics at the end of this document.

Preselected candidates will be interviewed via Skype by the EucA staff to know better their academic record, personal interests, motivation and linguistic competences. The best applications will be sent to the Director of the Summer School, Dr. Thomas D'Andrea, for the final selection.

**Applications should be sent to [info@euca.eu](mailto:info@euca.eu)**

**The deadline to send the applications is April 13th 2015.**



## Participation Fee

Students are required to contribute to the costs of the Summer School by paying a quota of 800,00 euros if they come from Western European countries or 400 euros if they come from Eastern European countries and from countries that are not members of the European Union. The expense that EucA sustains for each student for the whole Summer School is 3,500 euros. The difference between the student quota and the real cost is covered by grants, EucA members' contributions and scholarships from private sponsors.

To students who may experience some hardship in financing their quota, EucA can provide a letter that will help them in their fundraising.

The fee covers tuition, accommodation, all meals, insurance, but also the cultural events and the music concert.

The costs of trips and other week-end activities (trip to London, punting on the river Cam etc) are not included in the participation fee and they are not mandatory for students. EucA will offer advice and assistance in organising them.

Participants are expected to arrange by themselves the travel to/from Cambridge; the participation fee does not include these travel costs (or visa costs) and therefore students should cover the costs independently from EucA.

## Contact information

For any additional request for information please contact:

EucA Brussels Office

- contact people: Mirela Mazalu, Elena Turci
- email: [info@euca.eu](mailto:info@euca.eu)
- Skype: euca\_1
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## ESSAY TOPICS

1. Since November 2013, Ukraine has faced a civil war that degenerated in a tense international situation and in an armed conflict in its Eastern regions. Although the latest peace talks in Minsk brought together the main actors, Ukraine, the EU member states, USA and the Russian Federation, an effective peace in Ukraine and the normalisation of the relations with Russia still seem far away. The candidate is asked to consider the whole situation from at least two perspectives (chosen among Ukraine, EU, Russia, USA, Ukrainian Eastern regions), and to identify the major sources of the conflict and feasible way-outs.
2. Europe often presents itself as an ambassador of universal values. Article 2 of the Treaty of the European Union states: "The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail". These principles are generally indisputable and often the legitimacy of an institution is based on how much it adheres to them. However, there is a rising wave of radicalization of Muslim young people in the EU and a negative depiction of these values in Russian media or public opinion. How does the candidate explain these two types of refusals of the European project? Should we say that it is not a refusal of the European project but a refusal of the idea of Modernity proposed by Europe? Is it a conflict between traditionalism and modernity, or could it be called a clash of civilizations? Are there any other ways to interpret these conflicts? Can be that the conflicts started not because of principles but because of failed implementation and missed promises, especially in the past? The candidate is asked to reflect and argument on at least two of the questions mentioned.
3. The effects of the present economic crisis have not yet been fully dealt with. Considering the present 'zero growth' situation and the risk of deflation, which would be the first reform(s) to be implemented and why? Would small adjustments be enough, or is it necessary a deep rethinking of the European economic governance? Or is this approach wrong, and politics cannot put on any effective measure? If that is the case, the candidate is requested to defend his/her position.
4. Imagine you are heading the delegation that negotiates your country's application for EU membership. You are required to explain the relations between EU and your country and the country's progress or achievements in at least one of the 3 membership criteria (political, economic or the ability to take on obligations).
5. The economic crisis has had heavy social consequences. The rise of Eurosceptic parties (from left and right) could be considered a symptom of that. Will this rise and the wave of



nationalism that seems to gain ground disappear with the improvement of the economic situation? Or should these phenomena be interpreted as the result of an internal crisis of the European project? The candidate is asked to motivate his/her answer and, according to the interpretation preferred (alternatives are accepted), to suggest how the situation should be tackled.

6. You are one of the recipients of the following letter (<http://www.cepolicy.org/publications/central-europe-new-eu-agenda>). Your essay will be a reply addressing at least two of the issues mentioned in the open letter. When drafting the reply, please take into consideration the competencies and capabilities of the institution you preside (based on your preferred choice of recipient).

7. How much European integration relies or has relied on the integration of infrastructure between Member states? How much does the possibility to travel easily across Europe has influenced the process of European integration?

8. Europe is poor in natural resources; making the European Union dependent on other countries from an energetic point of view. The candidate is asked to suggest how the EU should secure its energetic needs or to propose a roadmap for an energetic policy.

9. Europe is not only a geographical notion or an economic space, since for centuries it has been a cultural whole, made by its history, literature and arts. The candidate is asked to focus on a writer, a composer, a painter, a philosopher, a scientist etc., who, in the candidate's opinion, constitutes a common cultural reference all across Europe or contributed decisively to the shaping of the European project ideas.

10. 2014 marked the 100<sup>th</sup> year since the start of the First World War. 2015 will be the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The European Union, at those times, was considered by most people a futile idea or an utopia. The candidate is asked to reflect on the causes and the reasons that made the European project possible after those terrible wars and make a comparison with the some of the present cleavages in the European Union.

11. 25 years ago the Berlin Wall fell and with it the international order that lasted for nearly 50 years fell down as well. The candidate is asked to reflect on the consequences of this event on the European Union, and on Europe at large.

**As regard the essays:** They must be written according to copyright and intellectual property rights. Thus, if students use a bibliography or they are quoting someone else's work, the bibliographic reference must be mentioned. For quoting, the best is to use the quotation





marks (“”, «...») and footnotes. Please follow the following rules:

A final bibliography will be highly appreciated, if used. Evaluators are fully able to detect plagiarism.