

European Union Center, Texas A&M University

Past Events: 2012

Seminar: Economic Attitudes in Financial Crises - The Democratic Challenge

Date: November 30, 2012, 12:15 - 1:30 pm

Description: Dr. Raymond Duch, Professor at the University of Oxford Professor in Quantitative Political Science and Professorial Fellow at Nuffield College, presented a seminar on economic attitudes in financial crises. Professor Duch is widely recognized for his work on how the economy affects political behavior and public opinion. His most recent book, *Voting in Context: How Political and Economic Institutions Condition the Economic Vote* (published in 2009 as a part of the *Political Economy of Institutions and Decisions* series by Cambridge University Press), was awarded the American Political Science Association's Gregory Luebbert Book Award for the best book in Comparative Politics.

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Seminar: Delivering the Message: Parties, Rebels, and the Politics of Parliamentary Debate

Date: November 28, 2012 - 12:00pm to November 28, 2012 - 1:30pm

Description: Dr. Jonathan Slapin, Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science, University of Houston, and author of *Veto Power: Institutional Design in the European Union*, University of Michigan Press, gave a department seminar.

Cosponsors: European Union Center, and Project for Equity, Representation and Governance (PERG), Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University

Scholarly Conference: New Developments in the Cross-National Study of Political Economy and Public Policy

Dates: November 1, 2012 - November 2, 2012

Description: In collaboration with the Project for Equity, Representation, and Governance (PERG), the European Union Center hosted a mini-conference that brought together experts on political economy and public policy to discuss the dynamic nature of various relationships between these two fields. The focus was on projects that highlight the multiple ways that economics affects the actions of governments, organizations, and individuals through various types of policies. Paper topics included current research on foreign aid delivery, patronage relationships, and popular support for welfare policies.

Cosponsors: European Union Center, and Project for Equity, Representation and Governance (PERG), Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University

Scholarly Conference: Informal Politics in Multilateral Institutions

Dates: October 26, 2012 - October 27, 2012

European Union Center, Texas A&M University

Description: International relations scholars have become increasingly interested in the politics that takes place within and around multilateral institutions. Previous research focused primarily on formal rules that govern state interactions within institutions and serve as constraints on state behavior. Recently, the focus has shifted to informal strategies, through which states seek to increase their utility from international cooperation above what would be possible under institutional rules. The goal of this conference was to bring together international relations scholars who study a variety of multilateral institutions and utilize different theoretical and/or empirical approaches, but share the emphasis on informal politics in and around multilateral institutions.

Agenda:

Speakers and titles:

“Informal Governance of International Organizations” Randall Stone (University of Rochester)

“Cooperation in Hard Times: Self-restraint in Trade Protection” Christina Davis (Princeton University)

“Policy Slippage and Multilateral Aid Portfolios” Jennifer L. Tobin (Georgetown University)

“How do International Organizations Grow? A Political-Economic Analysis of the UNFCCC” Katharina Michaelowa and Axel Michaelowa (both University of Zurich)

“Partisan Heterogeneity and International Cooperation: The Case of the European Development Fund” Christina Schneider (University of California, San Diego)

Informal Influence in the Inter-American Development Bank Christopher Kilby (Villanova University)

“Multilateral Aid and Domestic Economic Interests” Elena McLean (Texas A&M University)

Cosponsors: European Union Center and The Program on International Conflict and Cooperation, Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University

Seminar: Mixed Signals - Crisis Lending and Capital Markets

Date: October 26, 2012, 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Description: Dr. Randall Stone, is a professor of Political Science at Rutgers University and an expert in the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, international political economy, international relations, and Russian and East European politics. He presented his recent paper with Songying Fang and Terry Chapman called Mixed Signals: Crisis Lending and Capital Markets, which combines a formal model and statistical tests, incorporating geopolitics into the catalytic lending literature.

Sponsor: European Union Center, Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University

Guest Speaker: Comparative Political Economy Class

Date: October 16, 2012, 3:00 - 6:00 pm

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Description: Dr. François Gélinau, Université Laval, Québec, participated in the Department's Comparative Political Economy course for a discussion on the subject of Mass Political Economy.

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Seminar: Economic Voting in the Developing World

Date: October 15, 2012, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Description: Dr. François Gélinau, Université Laval, Québec, gave a department seminar.

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Seminar: Democratic Representation and Accountability

Date: October 2, 2012, 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Description: Dr. Laron Williams from the University of Missouri presented a paper about the use of spatial econometric models to study party competition titled It's All Relative: Democratic Representation and Accountability.

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Seminar: Recent Events in the European Union

Date: September 24, 2012, 12:15 pm - 1:30 pm

Description: Journalists representing the leading German public and private broadcasting stations presented an up-to-date assessment of Germany's perspective on recent key European Union issues that are impacting both Europe and the world.

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Symposium: U.S. 2012 Elections – A View from Europe

Dates: September 23, 2012 - September 26, 2012

Description: The European Union Center lead top German journalists in a program that examined the impact of the U.S. and global financial crises, energy issues, and homeland security on the upcoming elections. Speakers from Texas A&M University provided scholarly briefings, followed by discussions with politicians, government officials and professionals from the business sector.

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Seminar: European Union Center Department Research Talk

Date: September 5, 2012, 11:30 - 1:00 pm

Description: Dr. Iñaki Sagarzazu, Research Officer at Nuffield College, University of Oxford presented a department research seminar titled The Political Conditioning of Subjective Economic Evaluations: The Role of Party Discourse. In addition, he served a guest course lecturer for Course # 322, Western European Politics.

Sponsors: European Union Center and the Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University

Scholarly Meeting: Reexamining the Second Image Reversed: A Conference Linking International and Domestic Politics Focusing on Europe and the West

Dates: June 8, 2012 - June 10, 2012

Description: This conference reexamined how external forces shape democratic politics and improve our understanding of how both aspects of international conflict and international political economy shape politics within states. Of particular interest were how these large, sometimes global events, shape the attitudes and behaviors of individuals within the context of democratic governments

Agenda:

Morning Session – Chair, Randy Stevenson (Rice University)

“Multinational Corporations and the Political Economy of Trade” Erica Owen (Texas A&M University)

“Lawyers, Goods and Money: Exchange Rates Regime Choice and WTO Commitment” Jon Pevehouse (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

“The Sword and the Coffers: the Domestic Fiscal Foundations of International Dispute Initiation” Terry Chapman (The University of Texas at Austin)

“Foreign Aid as a Counterterrorism Tool: Aid Delivery Channels, State Capacity, and NGO’s” Jude Hays (University of Pittsburgh)

Afternoon Session – Chair, Ben Tkach (Texas A&M University)

“Not In My Backyard: The Effects of Neighboring Conflict on Democratic Behavior and Attitudes” Marc Hutchison (University of Rhode Island)

“The Evolution of State Capacity in Colombia” Jennifer Holmes (University of Texas at Dallas)

“Audience Costs: Domestic, International, and Across the Pond” Tom Scotto (University of Essex) and Jason Reifler (Georgia State University)

“Mobilizing the Public in the Wake of War: Casualties and Voter Turnout- a Cross National Analysis” Mike Koch (Texas A&M University)

Sponsors: European Union Center and the Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University

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Seminar: Forecasting the Locational Dynamics of Transnational Terrorism - A Network Analytic Approach

Date: April 6, 2012, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Description: As part of the department's Seminar Speaker Series, Dr. Skyler Cranmer, Department of Political Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, presented a lecture titled Forecasting the Locational Dynamics of Transnational Terrorism: A Network Analytic Approach. Dr. Cranmer also met individually with students for one-on-one discussions. Dr. Cranmer's research focus lies in political methodology and the application of quantitative methods to the study of international politics.

Cosponsors: The Program on International Conflict and Cooperation and the European Union Center, Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University

Visiting Scholar Guest Lecturer: Professor Dr. Hans de Groot

Date: March 8, 2012

Description: Professor Hans de Groot, University of Twente, The Netherlands, served as a guest lecturer for the course The Politics of the European Union

Sponsor: European Union Center, Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University

Visiting Scholar Seminar: Professor Dr. Hans de Groot

Date: March 7, 2012

Description: Professor Hans de Groot, University of Twente, The Netherlands, gave a department seminar summarizing the results of his collaborative research with Dr. Ken Meier, Program in Equity, Representation & Governance, Department of Political Science

Sponsor: European Union Center and Program in Equity, Representation & Governance, Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University

Scholarly Meeting: Network of Regional European Scholars Conference Valence Politics and the Continuing Economic Crisis in Comparative Perspective

Dates: March 1, 2012 - March 3, 2012

Description: A broad range of studies have demonstrated the explanatory power of valence models of politics. These models of electoral fortunes are based on voters' evaluations of the relative competence of competing political elites. The continuing global economic crisis has provided a unique combination of opportunities and challenges for political economy scholars to evaluate valence politics relationships. Given the length and depth of the economic decline together with substantial evidence that powerful economic forces flow across national borders, how well do valence models of politics work? On March 1-3, 2012, leading scholars from the US and Europe were brought together at Texas A&M University to showcase their latest research addressing these issues.

Agenda:

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3/2/12 Morning Session, Chaired by Paul Kellstedt (Texas A&M University)

“Electoral Impact of the Economic Crisis in Europe” Lawrence LeDuc (University of Toronto) and Jon H. Pammett (Carleton University)

“Patrimony, Position, and Performance: Three-Dimensional Economic Voting in Denmark” Rune Stubager (Aarhus University), Michael Lewis-Beck (University of Iowa), and Richard Nadeau (University of Montreal)

We Will, We Will Sack You! (And Cut Your Benefits Too!): Modeling British Attitudes

“Towards Public Sector Spending Cuts” Walt Borges, Harold Clarke (University of Texas at Dallas), and Marianne Stewart (University of Texas at Dallas)

3/2/12 Afternoon Session Chaired by Randy Stevenson (Rice University)

“The Buck Stops over There? Benchmarking Elections in the Open Economy” Mark Kayser (Hertie School of Governance, Berlin) and Michael Peress (University of Rochester)

“Increasingly short-term? An Age, Period Cohort Analysis on Preferences to Vote in The Netherlands, 1986-2006” Ruth Dassonneville (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)

“Trust in Government Dynamics” Eva Coffey (University of Houston), Jim Granato (University of Houston), M.C. Sunny Wong (University of San Francisco)

“The dynamics of the economy and preferences for government activism in the U.S.: A reconsideration” Grant Ferguson (Texas A&M University), Paul Kellstedt (Texas A&M University), Suzanna Linn (Penn State University)

3/3/12 Morning Session Chaired by Marianne Stewart (University of Texas at Dallas)

“Voter Perceptions and Incumbent Vote Loss” David Fortunato (Rice University)

“The Global Economic Crisis and Domestic Political Agendas” Matthew Singer (University of Connecticut)

“Same Game, Different Stakes: How Clarity of Responsibility Conditions Economic Evaluations” Evan Parker-Stephen (Texas A&M University)

3/3/12 Afternoon Session Chaired by Alex Pacek (Texas A&M University)

“Presents of Wankers: Pocketbook vs. Sociotropic Corruption Voting” Marko Klasnja (New York University), Joshua A. Tucker (New York University), and Kevin Deegan-Krause (Wayne State University)

“Valence Voting in Taiwan” Karl Ho (The University of Texas at Dallas) and Dennis Weng (The University of Texas at Dallas)

“The Kramer Problem: Micro-Macro Resolution with a Danish Pool” Michael Lewis-Beck (University of Iowa), Rune Stubager (Aarhus University), and Richard Nadeau (University of Montreal)

“Group Dynamics and Valence Voting” Harvey D. Palmer (University at Buffalo, SUNY), Laron K. Williams (University of Missouri), Guy D. Whitten (Texas A&M University)

Cosponsors: This conference, sponsored by the European Union Center, was organized by Harold Clarke (University of Texas at Dallas), Michael Lewis-Beck (University of Iowa), Marianne Stewart (University of Texas at Dallas), and Guy D. Whitten (Texas A&M University). A related Shambaugh Conference on Economic Voting organized by Michael Lewis-Beck took place at the University of Iowa on March 22-24, 2012. Papers from these two conferences were published as a special edition of *Electoral Studies*.

European Union Center, Texas A&M University

Scholarly Meeting: Identity, Gender and Representation: Empirical Analysis of Representation of Women's Interests

Dates: February 24, 2012 - February 25, 2012

Description: Panelists participating in this conference included a wide array of scholars studying the U.S. as well as Europe, Africa, and Latin America. Papers examined questions of intersectionality as well as how representation occurs through many different types of institutions.

Agenda:

Panel A: Intersectionality and Representation of Women's Interests

"The Historical Construction of 'Women's Interests' – Scandinavian Experiences"

"Intersectional Representation or Representing Intersectionality? Reshaping Empirical Analyses of Intersectionality"

"Political Inclusion and Representation of Afrodescendant Women in Latin America"

Panel B: Other Venues for Representing Women's Interests: Do they help or hurt?

"High Courts and Women's Interests: Gender and Equal Pay"

"Who Represents? The Influence of Women's Rights Activists in Africa"

"The Interaction of Political Parties and Electoral Systems: Interpreting the Effects of Preferential Voting on Women's Representation"

Panel C: Representing Women's Interests in Social Welfare Policy

"Representing Women's Interests and Intersections of Gender, Race, and Ethnicity in U.S. State Legislatures"

"Representing Women's Interests: Empirical Insights from Cabinets and Legislatures in Latin America"

"Unpacking women's Issues: The Impact of Gender on Policymaking on Health Care and Education in the U.S. Senate"

Cosponsors: Program in Equity, Representation & Governance and European Union Center, Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University

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Visiting Scholar: Professor Drude Dahlerup

Dates: February 22, 2012 - February 25, 2012

Description: On February 23, 2012, Professor Drude Dahlerup, Stockholm University, Sweden, served as a guest lecturer for the Spring 2012 course, Politics of the European Union. On February 24-25, 2012, Dahlerup participated in the Identity, Gender and Representation: Empirical Analysis of Representation of Women's Interests conference and book project lead by Drs. Michelle Taylor-Robinson and Maria Escobar-Lemmon from the Department of Political Science. Dahlerup will contribute a book chapter on The Historical Construction of 'Women's Interests' – Scandinavian Experiences.

Cosponsors: European Union Center and Cross-National Study of Politics Program, Political Science Department, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University

Seminar: Critical Issues Facing the European Union

Date: February 15, 2012, 11:45 am-1:30 pm

Description: In commemoration of Denmark's 2012 Term for Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the European Union Center cosponsored a seminar on Critical Issues Facing the European Union given by Mr. Claus Grube, Permanent Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark. The seminar was attended by Texas A&M University students, faculty, and staff as well as Houston-based European Consular Corps officials. Consular officials also attended a meeting lead by university President, Dr. R. Bowen Loftin and Dr. Pam Matthews, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, where they learned about international goals and initiatives at Texas A&M University. Secretary Grube concluded the day by meeting with graduate students studying in The Bush School of Government and Public Service who are working on a Capstone Project researching the Danish Government's approach to terrorism.

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Distinguished European Scholar in Residence: Professor Dr. Hans de Groot

Dates: January 22, 2012 - March 18, 2012

Description: Hans de Groot, Professor of Public Management at the University of Twente, The Netherlands, visited Texas A&M University from January through March 2012. During his stay, he worked with Dr. Kenneth Meier, Distinguished Professor & Charles H. Gregory Chair in Department of Political Science. The focus of his visit was to conduct research on determinants of cost-effectiveness of Texas school districts. He will also serve as a guest lecturer in the department both giving a Department Seminar on his current research and serving as a guest lecturer for the Spring 2012 course, Politics of the European Union. A full Professor at the University of Twente, de Groot serves as coordinator of and contributor to the specialization of Public Management in the MSc of Public Administration program in the School of Management and Governance. Previously, he served as Board Member of the International Board of Auditors for NATO, Managing Director at the Netherlands Court of Audit and Director of the Institute for

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Research on Public Expenditure, associate professor of public finance at Erasmus University Rotterdam and researcher at the Social and Cultural Planning Office. His main research interest lies in the effectiveness of management tools employed by the public and non-profit sector, often copied from the private sector.

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