

## European Union Center, Texas A&M University

### Past Events: 2014

#### **Speaker Series: Comparative Political Economy - Dr. Cathie Jo Martin**

**Date:** November 17, 2014, 12:00 - 1:30 pm

**Description:** Cathie Jo Martin, Professor, Department of Political Science, Boston University, presented a seminar titled The Political Construction of Business Interests: Coordination, Growth, and Equality

**Cosponsors:** Program in the Cross-National Study of Politics, European Union Center, and Project for Equity, Representation, & Governance, Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University

#### **25th Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall and the Liberation of Eastern Europe**

**Date:** November 10, 2014, 9:15 am - 7:00 pm

**Description:** This full-day conference began with an opening plenary talk by Elmar Brok, Member of European Parliament and Current Head of the Foreign Affairs Committee. Three panel sessions followed: two featuring European and U.S. practitioners who discussed their roles in and their views of the legacy of the events 25 years ago, and one providing a scholarly perspective. See list of speakers below.) Each session was followed by a question and answer session lead by German journalists who served as panel moderators. The lunch session was lead by Ryan Crocker, Dean and Former Ambassador, who interviewed James Baker, Former Secretary of State, and Brent Scowcroft, Former National Security Advisor. The conference concluded with a keynote address by Dr. Jeff Engle, Director, Presidential History Projects, Southern Methodist University.

**Cosponsors:** European Union Center, Department of Political Science; Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs, The Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University

#### **Seminar: Berlin Palace - Memory & Urban Space In Germany**

**Date:** November 6, 2014, 12:15 - 1:30 pm

**Description:** Speakers discussed the reconstruction of the Berlin Palace and the concept of the Humboldt Forum, and addressed historical and modern perspectives of historic building transformation. Seminar speakers were Consul General Ricarda Redeker, German Consulate General in Houston; Adam Seipp, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Department of History, College of Liberal Arts; and Andre Thomas, Lecturer, Department of Visualization, College of Architecture

**Cosponsors:** Seminar organized by European Union Center, Department of Political Science, with collaboration from History and International Studies Departments, College of Liberal Arts; College of Architecture; and the Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University

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### **Exhibit: What a Palace! Berlin Palace–Humboldt Forum**

**Dates:** October 31, 2014 - November 11, 2014

**Exhibit Description:** The free public exhibition What a Palace! Berlin Palace–Humboldt Forum highlighted the transformation of Germany’s Berlin Palace into the Humboldt Forum — a new cultural center of national and international focus in Berlin. The construction of the new Humboldt Forum is based on the Berlin Palace building complex that was badly damaged in the World War II and demolished in 1950 by order of the ruling East German communist party. The exhibit highlighted the cultural undertaking to create a new internationally recognized cultural center and provided information on the architectural plans and highlights what will be housed in the Humboldt Forum inside the old palace grounds. The Humboldt Forum is Germany’s most important cultural project of the early 21st century because of the size, political significance and historical complexity of the project; and of equal importance its aim and aspiration to create specifically innovative content, formats and methods of developing work of a cultural nature.

**Cosponsors:** Berlin Palace-Humboldtforum Foundation, and Texas A&M University’s European Union Center, The George Bush Library Foundation, Policy Sciences and Economics Library, Bush School of Government and Public Service, and the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center

### **Visiting Scholar: Ulrich Thy Jenson**

**Dates:** August 29, 2014 - December 15, 2014

**Description:** Ulrich Jenson, from the Department of Political Science and Government at Aarhus University, Denmark, served as a visiting scholar sponsored by the Department of Political Science at Texas A&M University from August through December 2014. During his stay, Jenson conducted collaborative research on transformational leadership and performance in public service organizations. In addition, he consulted with faculty and graduate students in the Departments of Economics and Political Science, and the Bush School of Government and Public service about possible joint research projects.

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

### **Scholarly Conference - Public Management and Performance: The Role of Context in Europe and Beyond**

**Dates:** May 16, 2014 - May 17, 2014

**Description:** This conference brought together an international collection of the top scholars in public management to talk about the role of context in shaping performance. The participants published chapters for a book manuscript that is intended to be published by Oxford University Press. The conference also served as a platform for graduate and undergraduate students studying with Dr. Meier to present papers that will be reviewed by the listed scholars.

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### **Speaker Series: Comparative Public Policy - Dr. Lorena Barberia**

**Date:** April 1, 2014, 9:30 - 11:00 am

**Description:** As part of the Comparative Public Policy Speaker Series, Prof. Lorena Barberia, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of São Paulo, Brazil, gave a talk titled Fiscal and Social Policies During Elections in Transition Democracies to faculty and students in the Department of Political Science. During her visit, she will also meet individually with department faculty.

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### **Speaker Series: Comparative Public Policy - Dr. Chris Adolph**

**Date:** March 24, 2014, 12:00 - 1:30 pm

**Description:** As part of the Comparative Public Policy Speaker Series, Prof. Chris Adolph, Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science and Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences at the University of Washington, gave a lunch-time talk titled Modeling Bureaucratic Careers: Advancement, Policy, and Performance to faculty and students in the Department of Political Science.

**Cosponsors:** Program in the Cross-National Study of Politics, European Union Center, and Project for Equity, Representation, & Governance, Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University

### **Scholarly Conference: Methodological Innovations in the Study of Elections in Europe and Beyond**

**Dates:** February 20, 2014 - February 21, 2014

**Description:** This conference brought together a diverse collection of scholars to present their research on methodological innovations in the study of elections and political support. Participants included cutting edge researchers doing work in survey research, causal modeling, experiments, dynamic analyses, and other areas. Conference participants presented their works in progress; after the conference, the papers will be revised and submitted for review as a special edition of Electoral Studies.

**Cosponsors:** European Union Center, Program in Scientific Political Methodology, and the Department of Political Science, Texas A&M University.

### **Seminar: The Euro Crisis and the Current Political Situation in Europe**

**Date:** February 13, 2014, 12:15pm - 1:30 pm

**Description:** Prof. Dr. Georg Milbradt, professor of economics and public finance at Technical University of Dresden, Germany, presented a seminar that focused on the status of the ongoing Euro crisis and provided an update on the current political situation in Europe. Professor Milbradt is an expert in finance and economics, and

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specializes in transatlantic economic/financial issues throughout Central and Eastern European countries. He served as Minister-President of Saxony, Germany (former East Germany) from 2002–2008; Minister of Finance of Saxony from 1990–2001; and Head of the Finance Department of the City of Münster, Germany from 1983–1990. Previously he was a professor at the University of Mainz.

**Cosponsors:** European Union Center; The Scrowcroft Institute of International Affairs, Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University; and The George Bush Presidential Library and Museum

### **Speaker Series: Comparative Public Policy - Dr. Sona Golder**

**Date:** February 3, 2014, 12:00 - 1:30 pm

**Description:** As part of the Comparative Public Policy Speaker Series, Prof. Sona Golder gave a lunch-time talk titled Government Characteristics and Policy Outcomes: Delayed Commitment to International Human Rights Law in Europe to faculty and students in the Department of Political Science. Dr. Golder is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at Pennsylvania State University, and author of Principles of Comparative Politics. During her visit, she also met individually with department faculty.

**Cosponsors:** Program in the Cross-National Study of Politics, European Union Center, and Project for Equity, Representation, & Governance, Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University

### **Visiting Scholars: Professor Anne Mette Kjeldsen and Morten Hjortskov Larsen**

**Dates:** January 4, 2014 - June 30, 2014

**Description:** Professor Anne Mette Kjeldsen and Morten Hjortskov Larsen, both from Business and Social Sciences in the Department of Political Science and Government at Aarhus University, Denmark, served as visiting scholars at Texas A&M University from January through May 2014. During their stay, Kjeldsen conducted research on public management with special emphasis on the role of public service motivation using Danish data, and Larsen conducted research on coproduction and citizen participation. In addition, both consulted with faculty and graduate students at Texas A&M University about possible joint research projects in the area of public management. The visit also provided opportunities to generate comparative studies of management in the U.S. and Denmark for scholarly journals.

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