

European Union Center, Texas A&M University

Past Events: 2015

Scholarly Conference: Political Budgeting Across Europe

Dates: December 10, 2015 - December 11, 2015

Description: This conference will lead to a special edition of the *Journal of European Public Policy* (JEPP). For this special edition, scholars brought together who study the intertwined relationships of politics and government budgeting presented their papers. This conference presented a unique opportunity, however, because their interests lie in differing aspects of politics and budgets and they do not regularly interact with each other. Government budgeting, in general, remains a key aspect of government behavior; one that affects many other areas of academic research. By focusing on budgeting from a variety of theoretical perspectives, this special edition will appeal to a broad audience with interests in government behavior, institutions, specific policy areas (such as education or welfare), political economy, and others.

Special Edition Guest Editors: Christian Breunig (University of Konstanz), Christine S. Lipsmeyer (Texas A&M University), and Guy D. Whitten (Texas A&M University)

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

Seminar: The Latent Dimensions that Structure Autocratic Rule

Date: October 16, 2015, 12:00pm - 1:30 pm

Seminar Title: The Latent Dimensions that Structure Autocratic Rule

Speaker: Joseph Wright, Associate Professor, Pennsylvania State University

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

Visiting Scholar: Petra van den Bekerom

Dates: August 29, 2015 - October 30, 2015

Description: Petra van den Bekerom, from Leiden University, The Netherlands, served as a visiting scholar sponsored by the Department of Political Science at Texas A&M University and the European Union Center, from August 29, 2015 through October 30, 2015. During her stay, she will be strengthening the ties between the public management research groups at Leiden University and the Department of Political Science at Texas A&M. She is interested in learning how and to what extent variations in environmental constraints affect the public management-performance linkage. Van den Bekerom plans to share knowledge about public management research in The Netherlands, write a research paper, and write a first draft of a postdoctoral research grant application. In addition, there will be many opportunities for her to interact with other Texas A&M University faculty members and graduate students informally and also in a classroom setting and workshops.

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

European Union Center, Texas A&M University

Workshop in Empirical Modeling of Theory

Dates: August 21, 2015 - August 23, 2015

Description: A workshop in the specification, estimation, and interpretation of empirical models appropriate for the context-conditionality, the over-time and cross-unit (inter-) dependence, and the ubiquitous endogeneity that characterizes modern, sophisticated social-science theory was offered to faculty and graduate students in the Department of Political Science. The workshop was lead by Dr. Robert J. Franzese, Jr., Professor and Associate Chair of Political Science, Director, Program in International and Comparative Studies, University of Michigan, and Fellow, The Society for Political Methodology. The workshop emphasized how best to specify empirical models that reflect complex substantive-theoretical understandings, and then how to estimate, interpret, and present the results of such models. Participants were encouraged to bring their own ideas, data, and projects for workshopping. Models and methods covered to were adapted to student interests and projects. Participants learned how to specify, estimate, interpret, and present empirical models that reflect the (1) interaction effects and context conditionality, (2) the temporal, spatial, and spatiotemporal dynamics and interdependence, and (3) the ubiquitous joint endogeneity of modern theories of domestic, comparative, and international political and social science. Class/lab time was included for instruction and practice aimed toward the furthering of these projects, and the last session is dedicated to workshop participants' projects. The specific empirical models and methods covered over 5 sessions spanned a sampling from these three broad areas, plus an introductory framing and a concluding workshopping session.

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

Conference on Politics, Economics and the Media in Germany and Europe

Dates: June 15, 2015 - June 27, 2015

Description: Eleven U.S. journalists and university professionals participated in this program, which was lead by the RIAS Berlin Commission Commission*, based in Berlin, Germany. During the two-week program, participants engaged in meetings and presentations on current European political, economic, and media issues in Germany and at NATO in Brussels, Belgium.

(* The RIAS Berlin Commission is a binational organization for the promotion of German-American understanding in the field of broadcasting.)

Cosponsors: RIAS Berlin Commission, Berlin, Germany and European Union Center, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University

European Union Center, Texas A&M University

RIAS Energy Program

Dates: April 27, 2015 - May 2, 2015

Description: In collaboration with the German RIAS Berlin Commission*, the European Union Center cosponsored a one-week program focusing on Energy for European journalists who work in radio, television, and the internet. The program explored historical and current trends in U.S. energy production and how U.S. activities and related politics impact national and international politics and opinions. The program began in Houston, Texas, and ended at Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas. The journalists met with scholars, professionals in the energy field, business people, and journalists and received briefings on related topics. During their time at Texas A&M, the group met with key faculty experts from the Department of Political Science (College of Liberal Arts), Mays Business School, Bush School of Government and Public Service, and the Colleges of Engineering and Geosciences. The journalists returned to their home stations ready to produce articles and programs that included the information they gained during the program. (* The RIAS Berlin Commission is a binational organization for the promotion of German-American understanding in the field of broadcasting.)

Related Articles:

Why Texas Fracking is Perfectly Normal (Warum Texas Fracking völlig normal findet), Deutsche Bundestag, heute.de, by D. Rzepka, 7 May 2015, <http://www.heute.de/oel-boom-in-texas-und-wenig-verstaendnis-fuer-fracking-auflagen-in-deutschland-38319884.html>

The party goes on (Die Party geht weiter), Deutsche Welle TV, by Jens Thureau, 30 April 2015, <http://www.dw.de/die-party-geht-weiter/a-18422463>

Cosponsors: European Union Center and the RIAS Berlin Commission, Berlin, Germany

Conference: Hannah Arendt Circle

Dates: April 23, 2015 - April 25, 2015

Description: The Department of Philosophy at Texas A&M University hosted the Ninth Annual Conference of the Hannah Arendt Circle and related workshops and public seminars. This interdisciplinary conference for scholars and students focused on the legacy of the German-Jewish philosopher Hannah Arendt. Particular attention was paid to the recent films on Hannah Arendt by Michael Prazan and Margarethe von Trotta. The Hannah Arendt Circle is an international, interdisciplinary learned society that meets annually to discuss the philosophical and political writings of Hannah Arendt, the German-born Jewish political theorist who lived from 1906-1975. A leading European intellectual of the twentieth century, Arendt is perhaps best known as the author of *The Origins of Totalitarianism* (1951), *The Human Condition* (1958), and *Eichmann in Jerusalem* (1963).

Host: Department of Philosophy, College of Liberal Arts

Cosponsors: Funding provided by the Department of Philosophy, the Melburn G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research, the Women's & Gender Studies Program, the European Union Center at Texas A&M University, the Department of International Studies, Consulate General of Israel to the Southwest, and Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany (Houston)

European Union Center, Texas A&M University

Scholarly Conference: Innovations in Comparative Political Methodology

Dates: March 26, 2015 - March 27, 2015

Description: This conference, brought together leading scholars in comparative politics and/or political methodology to present their latest work on what they consider to be innovations in comparative political methodology. The conference goal was to gather a broad group of scholars who would not regularly interact with each other for an open exchange of ideas. Given the heightened interest in the topic of comparative politics and areas of innovation in political methodology among scholars, the conference led to a special edition of *Political Science Research and Methods* on Innovations in Comparative Political Methodology that will include papers from the conference.

Cosponsors: European Union Center, Program in Scientific Political Methodology, and the Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University
This conference supported the Texas A&M University Grand Challenges Strengthening Democracy Initiative

Speaker Series: Comparative Political Economy - Dr. Joseph Wright

Date: March 9, 2015 - 12:00 - 12:30 pm

Description: Joseph Wright, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Pennsylvania State University, presented a seminar titled The Structure of Autocratic Rule

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

Speaker Series: Comparative Political Economy - Dr. David Carter

Date: February 23, 2015, 12:00pm - 1:30 pm

Description: David Carter, Assistant Professor, Department of Politics, Princeton University, presented a seminar titled Historical Boundaries and the Origins of Contemporary European Territorial Disputes

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

Speaker Series: European Politics and Democracy - Dr. Harold Clarke

Date: February 17, 2015, 10:45 am - 1:30 pm

Description: Harold Clarke, Professor, School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences, University of Texas at Dallas, and Adjunct Professor, Department of Government, University of Essex, United Kingdom, presented a seminar titled A Tea Party in the Pub: Britain's UK Independence Party and the New Right-Wing Populism

This seminar was part of the European Politics and Democracy Seminar Series, supporting the Texas A&M University Grand Challenges Strengthening Democracy Initiative.

European Union Center, Texas A&M University

Cosponsors: European Union Center, Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts; Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs, Bush School of Government and Public Service; George Bush Presidential Library and Museum, Texas A&M University

Speaker Series: Comparative Political Economy - Dr. Philipp Rehm

Date: February 2, 2015, 12:00 - 12:30 pm

Description: Philipp Rehm, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, The Ohio State University presented a seminar titled Social Policy in Hard Times

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

Speaker Series: European Politics and Democracy - Dr. Martial Foucault

Date: January 28, 2015, 11:45 am - 1:30 pm

Description: Martial Foucault, Professor of Political Science, Sciences Po Paris, France presented a seminar titled The State of French Democracy

This seminar was part of the European Politics and Democracy Seminar Series, supporting the Texas A&M University Grand Challenges Strengthening Democracy Initiative.

Cosponsors: European Union Center, Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts; Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs, Bush School of Government and Public Service; George Bush Presidential Library and Museum, Texas A&M University

Speaker Series: Comparative Political Economy - Dr. René Lindstädt

Date: January 21, 2015, 12:00 - 1:30 pm

Description: René Lindstädt, Associate Professor, Department of Government, University of Essex presented a seminar titled Assessing the Measurement of Policy Positions in Expert Surveys

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

Sponsor: European Union Center of Excellence, Texas A&M University