



Issue No 5 – June 2015

# GRADUATE CENTRE FOR EUROPE

## Newsletter



### Editorial

*By Zainab Naqvi*

As this academic year draws to a close, we bring you a newsletter packed with recent GCfE news, events and activities. Commencing with news, it is with great sadness that we announce the departure of the Centre's Director and founder, Dr. Nicholas Martin. We would like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt thanks to Nick for his invaluable support and guidance and we wish him all the best with his new endeavours.

We are pleased to reveal that Nick's position will be taken over by Dr. Isabelle Hertner who is currently Acting Director for the University's Institute for German Studies. We look forward to working with Isabelle who has contributed an account of the keynote speech from this year's annual conference to this edition of the newsletter.

In terms of events, we have had several events including the annual conference, several Postgraduate afternoons and a film screening among others. We have provided selected highlights below relating first to our 9th Annual PG Conference entitled 'Dissident Voices? Europe Past, Present and Future' on the 25th and 26th March which brought researchers together from a range of disciplines to discuss the idea of Voices in Europe.

In addition, we have a report from the GCfE's own Events Co-Chair, Emma Gardner who attended the city's local Europe Day to step outside of the University and interact with the local community.

This final newsletter concludes with our first press release regarding the publication of the Birmingham Journal for Europe's first conference proceedings book. After a long and educational editing process, we are delighted that the book titled *Travelling Europe: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Place and Space* (CSP 2015) has been published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing and is available on the publisher's website (and Amazon!).

We hope you enjoy reading this edition of the newsletter and wish everyone a happy and restful summer break.

## FAREWELL GCfE!

All good things must come to an end. After 3,590 days as Academic Director of the Graduate Centre for Europe, I've decided the time has come to hang up my hat.

In October 2005 I was asked by the University to set up the Graduate Centre for Europe (GCfE) as the postgraduate arm of the sadly now defunct European Research Institute. GCfE began life as a two-(wo)man band – myself and the indefatigably energetic Nicola Corkin, the first postgraduate Chair of GCfE – and it was initially overseen by a steering committee of academics. By 2007 we had managed to transfer control of GCfE into the hands of a committee of postgraduate volunteers, which has run GCfE ever more efficiently and skilfully year on year ever since.

The Graduate Centre for Europe's central purpose is to enable exchanges of ideas on Europe among postgraduates and staff. Too often 'Europe' is equated with the EU and vice versa. GCfE's understanding of 'Europe' naturally includes the European Union, but is by no means limited to it. GCfE is committed to understanding Europe in all its diversity – cultural, scientific, historical and geographical as well as political and economic. Students of all disciplines are welcome.

My role has been confined to creating a framework for the Graduate Centre for Europe to grow into the unique, thriving, student-led body it is today. GCfE's success over the past ten years is entirely down to the magnificent energy, dedication and imagination of its successive postgraduate Chairs and committee members, drawn from three Colleges in the University (Arts and Law, Life and Environmental Sciences, and Social Sciences). I am extraordinarily proud of the Graduate Centre for Europe, which is the only postgraduate-led entity on this scale in the University, and indeed in the UK, that combines postgraduate skills training and leadership experience with the bringing together – in a relaxed, informal atmosphere – of diverse disciplinary perspectives on Europe, past and present.

Highlights of the past ten years have included: lectures by leading public figures such as Douglas Hurd, Neil Kinnock, and foreign ambassadors; seminars led by distinguished academics; the establishment of GCfE's own academic journal – the Birmingham Journal for Europe – as well as this Newsletter; and, of course, the nine Conferences organised annually by the GCfE Committee since 2007.

It's time for someone with fresh ideas – and a different disciplinary perspective – to take over the stewardship of GCfE in these interesting times for Europe (and the UK's role in it). I'm therefore delighted that Dr Isabelle Hertner of the University's Institute for German Studies has agreed to be the Director of the Graduate Centre for Europe from August. Many of you know Isabelle and will already be aware of her commitment both to supporting the postgraduate community and to promoting the study and understanding of Europe and the European Union. The future direction and intellectual prosperity of the Graduate Centre for Europe could not be in better hands!

Dr Nick Martin

Academic Director of GCfE, 2005–2015

## **The Graduate Centre for Europe: Ninth Annual Conference**

25<sup>th</sup> March 2015 and 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015

### **Dissident Voices? Europe Past, Present and Future**

Looking back over 2014, it can be said that it was a remarkable year for the United Kingdom. With Scotland's referendum on independence and as the centenary of World War One, it was a year in which the British public contemplated huge future change, while remembering the events of many decades ago. In Europe, tensions and transitions in Ukraine dominated the headlines and elections to the European Parliament took centre stage.

Against this backdrop, our 9th Annual Postgraduate Conference took place on the 25th and 26th March 2015 bringing researchers together from a variety of disciplines. The conference comprised an icebreaker poster competition, five plenary panels, two roundtable events on Getting the Most from your PhD and Publishing and Editing, a Keynote Address and a conference dinner at the city's Red Peppers restaurant.

Researchers and academics gathered in Muirhead Tower to discuss interdisciplinary perspectives on Dissident Voices in Europe. The five plenary panels addressed this theme through discussions on a wide array of subjects grouped into the categories of: Citizenship and European Identity; Conspiracy and Control in Europe; EU Commercial Relations and Discontent; Dialogue and Dispute on the written word; and European Capitalism and Consumerism. The Keynote Address was given by Professor Jolyon Howorth of Yale University entitled 'Wake up Europe: The Dawning of a New Global Order' and the GCfE's incoming Academic Director, Isabelle Hertner discusses this in more detail below.

On the second day of the conference, two roundtables took place on Publishing and Editing and Getting the Most from your PhD. During the first session on Publishing and Editing, participants included GCfE Committee Members Gail Mobley and Zainab Naqvi who are also the former and current Chief Editor for the Birmingham Journal for Europe respectively, as well as Dr. Stephen Forcer (University of Birmingham) who engaged in a discussion on publishing in academia as authors and reviewers. For the second session, we were joined by Jim Bell (Events and Marketing Director of the University Graduate School), Dr Holly Prescott (Careers Network Postgraduate Liaison) and Dr Isabelle Hertner (Lecturer in German and European Politics and Society) who shared their experiences and advice on how to get the most out of your PhD experience. For further information on these two skills roundtables, please see our blog which is available via the following link: <http://gcfebham.wordpress.com/>.

We would like to express our gratitude to all Committee Members and Events Co-Chair, Emma Gardner for their hard work in putting such a well-organised event together as well as our wonderful presenters and participants for their engaging contributions. Final thanks are owed to our amazing Plenary Panel Chairs: Dr. Nick Martin, Dr. Catherine Durose, Dr. Panagiotis Fouskas, Dr. Clodagh Brook and Dr Doga Istanbuluoglu for their support and admirable panel chairing.

**We hope to see many of you at the 10th Annual PG Conference in 2016!**

## Presenters for the 9th Annual GCfE PG Conference

### **Panel 1: "Citizenship and the European Identity"**

*Chair: Dr Nicholas Martin (University of Birmingham)*

Francis Mohan (University of Birmingham) - *Plato's Finger: Can Transcendence Still Talk to Europe?*

Lorenzo Piccoli (European University Institute) - *Multilevel Citizenship: Regional Polities, Civil Rights and Dissident Voices?*

### **Panel 2: "Europe: A Continent of Conspiracy and Control?"**

*Chair: Dr Catherine Durose (University of Birmingham)*

Ann Shapiro (University of Birmingham) - *Teatr Ósmego Dnia: Performing Dissidence 1971-2015*

Aleksandra Ziober (University of Wroclaw) - *Janusz Radziwill – Dissident and Traitor?*



### **Panel 3: "Europe and Globalization: EU Commercial Relations and Discontent"**

*Chair: Dr. Panagiotis Fouskas (University of Birmingham)*

Cansu Unver (University of Birmingham) - *The Impact of Immigration on Productivity: Industry-Level Evidence for Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and the UK*

Saadet Deger (University of Birmingham) - *Did the Initial 2005 Accession Talks with the EU have an Impact on Turkey's Trade Flows?*

I-Ju Chen (University of Birmingham) - *Rethinking the EU's Common Commercial Policy: In the Context of the EU's Anti-Dumping Policy in Relation to China*



**Panel 4: "Voices on the Page: Dialogue and Dispute"**

Chair: Dr Clodagh Brook (University of Birmingham)

Gabriele Ottaviani (University of Rome Tor Vergata) - *Dissident and Peripheral Voices: Arbasino, Bassani, Carlo D'Alba*

Gail Mobley (University of Birmingham) - *Criticism in the Early Modern English Literary Canon: A Product of Dissenting Ideas in the Classical and European Context*

Roberto Rolandone (University of Lisbon) - *Bellum sine bello: The Myth of the Empire in Fernando Pessoa and Julius Evola*



**Panel 5: "Contrasting Voices: Debating European Capitalism and Consumerism"**

Chair: Dr Doga Istanbuluoglu (University of Birmingham)

Enrico Vanino (University of Birmingham) – *Anti-dumping measures on Chinese products: a curse or a blessing for European firms?*

Fabio Bulfone (European University Institute) - *Varieties of Insider Capitalism: Liberal Reforms and Informal Institutions in France, Italy and Spain*





**GCfE 9th Annual Conference 2015: Keynote Speech Report**

**‘Wake Up Europe: The Dawning of a New Global Order’**

**Professor Jolyon Howorth, Yale University**

This year’s keynote speaker at the GCfE’s annual conference was Professor Jolyon Howorth (Yale University). Professor Howorth gave a highly engaging and illuminating lecture entitled ‘Wake Up Europe: The Dawning of a New Global Order’.

In his lecture, Professor Howorth first set out the changing global shift from a unipolar, US-dominated world, to an increasingly multipolar setting in which the European Union (EU) still has to find its voice. Professor Howorth explained how the United States’ interest in Europe had been declining over the past decade, which was due to financial constraints but also the rise of new powers, the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa).

In this unstable environment, Professor Howorth argued, the European Union will have to wake up, grow up, rise to the challenge, and take more global responsibility. Whilst the United States and China have global security strategies, the European Union lacks a long-term vision of what kind of actor it will want to (and have to) become. There is no time to lose.

The EU has failed states and countries torn apart by civil wars in its neighbourhood. Not to mention the refugee crisis in the Mediterranean, which requires an urgent common European response. So far the EU has been unable to formulate a strong, united, forward looking strategy on how to deal with these major challenges in its backyard.

Whilst Professor Howorth painted a rather bleak picture of the EU’s status as a global actor, he was nevertheless hopeful that the EU’s new high representative for foreign affairs and security policy Federica Mogherini, might pull rank and get agreement amongst the member states to work together and formulate a grand strategy for the EU.

Dr. Isabelle Hertner

Graduate Centre for Europe, Incoming Academic Director

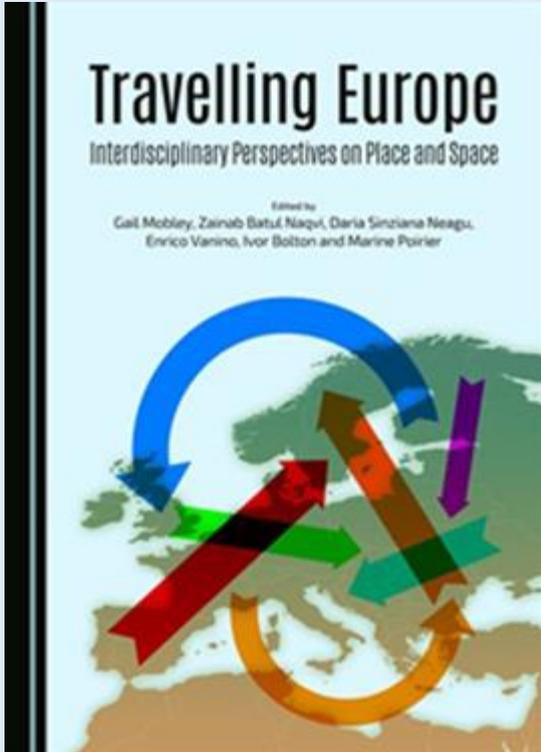
## Other News: Book Publication

### *Travelling Europe:*

#### *Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Place and Space*

In conjunction with the 8th GCfE conference in 2014 the publications committee was excited to put together a collection of conference proceedings published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing in 2015. The book contains 14 papers written by postgraduate researchers from across Europe whose papers were selected for presentation at the annual conference. With contributions ranging from literature and music to politics and geography this collection sheds light on a myriad of new ways to think about what it means to travel in and around Europe.

The publication was edited by members of the GCfE publications committee which included the primary editor Gail E. Mobley, our former GCfE Publications Co-Chair in 2013/14, and the secondary editor Zainab Naqvi, the Publications Co-Chair for 2014/15. Enrico Vanino, Ivor Bolton, Daria Neagu and



Marine Poirier also participated in the initial review and content editing. This was an incredible opportunity for the GCfE Publications committee who has previously worked on online publications including our very own Birmingham Journal for Europe, the GCfE committee blog and this newsletter. The committee is always looking to expand its outreach into the wider research community and hopes to undertake other similar projects in the future.

The committee was excited to present the hard copy version of the text at this year's 9th annual conference. The GCfE would once again like to extend its congratulations to our hard working editors, Cambridge Scholars Publishing for publishing this collection and of course all of our contributors without whom this project would not have been possible.

For more information about the collection or to order your own copy of the book please visit the publisher's website available here: <http://www.cambridgescholars.com/travelling-europe>

Gail Mobley

Publications Co-Chair (GCfE) & Chief Editor (BJfE) 2013-2014



## Other Events: Europe Day

On the 5th May the GCfE headed down to the Library of Birmingham to take part in Europe Day which was hosted by the Europe Direct Information Centre.

There are two separate designations of Europe Day: 5 May for the Council of Europe, the day on which the institution was founded, and 9 May for the European Union, in commemoration of the Schumann declaration which proposed a new form of organization of European states and led to the formation of the European Coal and Steel Community.

This year, Birmingham's events consisted of a MEPs debate entitled 'What are we doing for you?' which was attended by MEPs Anthea McIntyre and Neena Gill as well as Ex MEP Phil Bennion, and was followed in the afternoon by a Business Masterclass hosted by Simon Topman MBE, CEO of J. Hudson & Co who was able to share his success story to inspire and motivate those who already own a business or who are looking to start one up.

The GCfE was also on hand to provide information about Europe (and Polish chocolate!), engage with the local community and foster European unity alongside other partner organisations such as "BSEEN" and "Distinctly Birmingham".

We hope to see you there next year!

Emma Gardner

Graduate Centre for Europe, Co-Chair (Events)

### Stay up-to-date with our plans and events...

Website: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/gcfe](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/gcfe)

Blog: <http://gcfebham.wordpress.com/>

Email: [gcfe@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:gcfe@contacts.bham.ac.uk)



[twitter.com/gcfe\\_bham](https://twitter.com/gcfe_bham)



[facebook.com/graduatecentreforeurope](https://facebook.com/graduatecentreforeurope)

