

EXACT Fellows across the Atlantic



University of Pittsburgh Jamey Nyomakwa-Obimpeh

On the 5th of April, I set off from Maastricht, The Netherlands, towards the other side of the Atlantic, having been accepted to present a paper during the 6th Annual Graduate Conference, organised by the European Union Centre of Excellence, European Studies Centre, University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania.

Being my maiden trip to the United States, I was full of expectations both of the conference and of the country. In the past 3 years, I have been living and moving across some European cities. This time round, I was heading the 'new world' with American Airline Flight 100. The theme of the conference was "Taking the European Union into the 21st Century: History, Challenges, and Debates" with diverse speakers selected from Canada, Europe and the US, speaking on different topical issues.

I was the only one representing Africa and presented a paper on "European Union's Economic Partnership Agreements with Africa, Caribbean, and Pacific Countries: A Case of Market

Power Europe?" This paper interrogates the ongoing EU-ACP negotiations of Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) to ascertain whether or not, it represents an evidence of EU engagement in externalisation of its internal market and trade policies to the ACP regions. This conference has provided a good platform to debate EU Policies with researchers in the field of European studies and reflect on the challenges of the Union in the 21st Century. I am also having memorable experiences in beautiful and gigantic New York City during my stay in the States. Overall, the impressions from this trip to the US have broadened my perspective of the world especially on the many challenges confronting policy makers and indeed researchers who are obligated to contribute to appropriate policy responses to our world of unprecedented challenges.

Research interviews in Washington D.C

Andrew Byrne

After attending the EUSA Conference in Boston in March, I travelled to Washington D.C. to conduct interviews for my research on perceptions of the EU

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Editorial Staff:

Leonhard den Hertog, Miguel Haubrich Seco, Markus Krischer, Frederic Spohr Wulf Reiners



In March this year CEPS welcomed four EXACT researchers. They all have actively contributed to the think tank work: Leonhard Den Hertog has co-written a study commissioned by the European Parliament

on EU Justice and Home Affairs agencies and the Charter of Fundamental Rights. Andrew Byrne has co-written a policy paper on the General Affairs Council that has been downloaded over 350 times. Vanessa Boas actively contributes to EU-Central Asia Monitor and becomes one of the most informed persons in the EU about Central Asia. Last, but not least, Niklas Helwig is working on a report which later this year will most likely revolutionise the way Brussels perceives the European External Action Service. All have become full members of the CEPS staff. I am sure that most of the other EXACT researchers were able to fully integrate in their think tanks as well.

Piotr Maciej Kaczynski
(Research Fellow, CEPS)

among the US Foreign Policy Community. In a busy 5 days I interviewed twelve subjects; four from the State Department's Bureau of Policy Planning and its Europe Bureau, and the remainder consisting of senior fellows at leading think tanks including: The Brookings Institution, The CATO Institute, The Heritage Foundation, The Peterson Institute and others.

The interviews provided extremely useful information which helped shape and re-focus my research question as well as providing some of the crucial

data I am collecting to map out perceptions of Europe's role among this important collection of actors.

Conference in Montreal, Canada

Vanessa Boas

I attended the ISA Conference on "Global Governance: Political authority in Transition" from March 16-19th in Montreal, Canada.

Generally speaking, ISA confer-

ences cover a wide range of topics and have an extremely international character. This is very useful for PhD students working on research areas situated on the periphery of the Western academic focus. In my case as a researcher focusing on Central Asia, the presentations on Post Communist States in International Relations and social events proved most useful. It gave me the opportunity to meet others interested in Central Asia and to obtain new information on current developments in the region.

Madrid CEU Conference: EU as a Global Player

On the 7th and 8th of April three EXACT fellows (Simon Stroß, Niklas Helwig and Leonhard den Hertog) attended a conference at CEU San Pablo University in Madrid on the topic 'the EU as a Global Player'.

The conference covered a wide range of topics; from the role of the Euro in the world to institutional questions of EU external action. It brought together a set of excellent Spanish and international academics and policy-makers to discuss Europe's role in the 21st century. Simon Stroß and Leonhard den Hertog presented a pa-

per on 'Policy Coherence in the EU System – Concepts and legal rooting of an ambiguous term'. The paper critically assesses the political science literature on the meaning and implications of coherence and consistency in EU external action.

From a legal analysis the paper looks the extent to which the EU Treaties foster these different definitions of coherence and consistency. Overall, the conclusion was that the Treaties provide interesting incentives for coherence, but that much depends on actual implementation and future Treaty interpretation by the CJEU.

Together with Niklas Helwig, Simon Stroß also presented a paper in which they analysed the setup of the European External Action Service from the perspective of the two most influential theories of European integration: neo-functionalism and intergovernmentalism. They argued that these 'grand theories' still give fruitful insights to many features of the new service. However, parts of the new structures remain inexplicable when applying these concepts.

The well-organized conference provided also the possibility to get in touch with interesting practitioners and researchers in the field of EU external action as well as to experience the manifold cultural and gastronomical offers of the Spanish capital...



Inside EXACT: Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA)

In each issue we present one of the nine EXACT partner institutions. This time the featured institution is the FIIA where two fellows have their stages.



The Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA) is an independent research institute, located in Helsinki that produces high-level research to support political

decision-making and public debate both nationally and internationally. At present, FIIA – employing about 45 people – has three ongoing research programmes that will run until end of 2013.

The European Union research programme focuses on the EU's global and regional role. The main research themes are the EU's external action, economic policies and institutional development. The

EU's Eastern Neighbourhood and Russia research programme studies the EU's eastern environment with a special focus on Russia's domestic and foreign policy, while the Global Security research programme approaches global security challenges within the framework of broad security. The institute offers a broad range of publications, including the Finnish Journal of Foreign Affairs, as well as events tailored to specific target audiences.

ULKOPOLIITTINEN INSTITUUTTI

UTRIKESPOLITISKA INSTITUTET

THE FINNISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Upcoming Events

25th - 27th August

ECPR General Conference at the University of Iceland. With Andrew Byrne, Simon Stöß and Niklas Helwig.

7th - 8th September

EXACT Workshop at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA) and the European Studies Day at Helsinki University. With Niklas Helwig, James Nyomakwa, Leonhard den Hertog, Marco Siddi, Vanessa Boas, Andrew Byrne and Marlene Gottwald.

6th - 19th October

EXACT Network Seminar in Brussels including one day **MERCURY-Conference**.

Meeting VIPs in Warsaw

On Thursday 30 June and Friday 1 July 2011 EXACT researchers Bogdana Depo, Nicole Koenig, Marlene Gottwald, Vanessa Boas, Simon Stross and Marco Siddi attended the TEPSA Pre-Presidency Conference on "Priorities of the Polish presidency of the European Union". The fellows had the opportunity to meet well known researchers and politicians.

The event took place at the Natolin (Warsaw) campus of the College of Europe and was organized by the European Institute Łódź and the College of Europe in cooperation with TEPSA, under the auspices of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland. The conference analyzed the priorities of the Polish presidency and the recent and upcoming challenges for the EU

Members of the Polish government such as Radosław SIKORSKI, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Jacek ROSTOWSKI, Minister of Finance, also attended and contributed to the conference.



Publication

A new book, co-edited by EXACT co-ordinator Prof. Wolfgang Wessels and EXACT Project and Financial Director Wulf Reiners has been published: 'The Dynamics of Change in EU Governance' is part of the Edward Elgar series 'Studies in EU Reform and Enlargement'.

The panels focused on the EU Presidency under the Lisbon Treaty, EU security policy, the European Neighbourhood Policy and economic governance. Speakers included top EU officials, namely Herman VAN ROMPUY, President of the European Council, Jerzy BUZEK, President of the European Parliament and former Prime Minister of Poland and Janusz LEWANDOWSKI, EU Commissioner for Financial Programming and Budget.

Furthermore, scholars and practitioners from all over Europe made critical remarks on a broad range of issues, from energy security to the current developments of the "Arab Spring".

Marco Siddi

Study trip to Prague: MERCURY Conference

Between March 23 and 25 the EXACT fellows undertook a study trip to Prague to visit the EXACT member institution Charles University and attend the MERCURY conference “The EU in the World: Conflict Resolution, Development, and Cooperation”.

Visit to Charles University Prague

The study trip started on 23 March at the Department of West European Studies with a welcome speech by Doc. Ivo Šlosarcík, deputy-head of the Department of West European Studies, who introduced the EXACT fellows to the history, development and current state of affairs of the University. Subsequently, Prof. Lenka Rovná, head of the Department of West European Studies, outlined the research and projects that the Department is involved in. Moreover, the local researchers Tomas Weiss and Mitchell Young gave the EXACT fellows insights into PhD studies at the Charles University. Finally, Doc. Jirí Vykoukal, director of the Institute of International Studies, illustrated the structure of the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Institute of International Studies. During the whole day, the four EXACT fellows who are supervised by members of the University had the opportunity to discuss their PhD proposals in a face-to-face discussion with their supervisors.

MERCURY conference

The MERCURY conference started

March 24 with welcoming speeches by Jan Michal, EC Delegation in Prague, Ivo Šlosarcík, Charles University and Mark Aspinwall, University of Edinburgh. Chaired by Nathalie Tocci, Istituto Affari Internazionali, the first panel focused on conflict resolution and the neighbourhood. The aim of the panel was to assess the degree and effectiveness of the EU's multilateral engagement in conflict resolution and modernisation in its Eastern and Southern neighbourhood. The second panel analysed the topic development policy and climate change and was chaired by David Camroux, CERI - Sciences-Po.

The first day of the conference was concluded with a public speech by Jirí Šedivý, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic. As a former Assistant Secretary General to NATO, he laid a particular focus on EU-NATO cooperation within the broader framework of his speech on challenges for a Common European Security and Defence Policy. The second day of the conference focused mainly on the work and progress of the MERCURY working package III (“Multilateralism in Practice: Key Regions and Partners”). Presentations on papers covering, inter alia, China's identity and roles as a novel member of the WTO and prospects

for EU-Mediterranean relations on energy matters were discussed by the participants.

Simon Stroß



Marlene Gottwald

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Cologne, Helsinki, Brussels, Edinburgh – too much mobility?

My background in Latin America Studies explains why I got interested in international relations and politics. Studying and working at Cologne University further triggered my curiosity about the European Union and its external relations. The aim of my Ph.D. project is to decipher the interrelations of human security, the responsibility to protect and the role of European Union in international crises.

Since the topic has recently produced lively **political and academic debates** on the European and the international scene, working at a policy-oriented think tank in Helsinki at the moment and being in contact with my Ph.D. colleagues at the other participating institutions across the EU ideally supports my research.

Thus, it is this mobility that offers the possibility of gaining international working experience while it facilitates the access to European research networks at the same time. Moreover it provides the opportunity to explore other countries and make new friends.



Marco Siddi

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I am a 26-year-old researcher focusing on Russian domestic and foreign policy and EU-Russia relations. Before joining EXACT, I earned a first class BA degree in Modern History and German Language from Oxford University and an MA in International Studies with honours from the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna.

During my MA studies and my stay at the Diplomatic Academy of Moscow in 2010, I developed a deep interest in Russia. I am currently focusing on present and historic perceptions of Russia in EU Member States, but my interests also include frozen conflicts in the post-Soviet space and the EU's and Russia's neighbourhood and security policies.

The EXACT programme provides me with the right academic, professional and financial tools to pursue my research. During my stay at the Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA) head office in Brussels I have acquired professional skills in the field of EU-related research. Thanks to EXACT, I'm also able to present research papers at international conferences.

New Fellow joins in October

Tatja Petrovic Rava who started in October 2010 as one of the first twelve EXACT fellows has left the programme. Her successor will join the programme presumably in October 2011.

EXACT Panel: EU and Africa

EU – Africa relations were the focus of the EXACT panel at the 12th UACES Student Forum Conference at the University of Surrey (UK). In line with the title of the conference the panel explored 'New Frontiers in European Studies' by analysing the EU's influence on Africa. Contributing to another panel of the conference, EXACT Fellow Andrew Byrne presented his research on the perception of the EU among the US foreign policy community.

Criticism of the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy for an alleged 'lack of leadership' is frequent. Niklas Helwig's paper contributed to put this discussion on a solid conceptual basis and assessed the HR's leadership during the Egyptian and Libyan crises. Leonhard den Hertog's contribution analysed the disparity between the EU's constitutional values of fundamental rights and rule of law and its reaction to the recent migration flows from North Africa.

Miguel Haubrich Seco examined the impact of the EU's efforts in strengthening the AU as an agent in conflict prevention and resolution and analysed whether the EU was contributing to boost 'symbolic regionalism'.

James Nyomakwa-Obimpeh highlighted the influence of the EU's market power on African and Caribbean subregional organisations. Finally, Andrew Byrne showed how the perceptions on the EU among US foreign policy makers and analysts picture a consistently negative view on the EU's role in world affairs – despite of its growing activity.

Attended by renowned academics, the conference provided an inspiring and enriching context to present first empirical results as well as an opportunity to test the theoretical and methodological approaches that will guide the further research of the EXACT Fellows.

Miguel Haubrich Seco

Mail from Rome

From: nicole.koenig@exact-training.net

Subject: Roman bus system and the ,dolce vita'



In late February, two of us arrived in the ,eternal city' in order to spend eight months working at the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI). The first adventure was to make our way through the Roman real estate jungle.

The flat search put our language and orientation skills to a first test. Misunderstandings like „the rent is €0.000 per month“ or getting lost in a rainstorm on the hills behind the Vatican were equally part of this experience.

Once this hurdle was taken, the ,dolce vita' could start. Rome is an experience for all the senses: Living in this city feels like being part of an outdoor museum.

After work, there is always something to see or to explore. Whether it is the caffè at the bar, the gelato on the piazza or the aperitivo after work, Rome is undoubtedly a culinary experience. And if you get tired of the buzzing city, picturesque lakes and beautiful beaches are waiting at the city's doorstep.

Of course, there are some things that we will never fully comprehend, like the logics of the Roman bus system, the procedural intricacies of the Italian administration, or why you should not drink cappuccino after 10am. Nonetheless, many beautiful experiences and interesting people make this stay truly unforgettable.

EXACT is a Marie Curie Initial Training Network on EU External Action. It comprises of the following partners:

University of Cologne, Charles University Prague, University of Edinburgh, Centre for European Policy Studies, Trans European Policy Studies Association, European Institute of Public Administration, Finnish Institute of International Affairs, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Institute for World Economics.

