

The fellows and their theories: BISA-ISA Conference Edinburgh

Leonhard den Hertog



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One indispensable part of academic training is to attend large conferences where hundreds of academics present their work. It is enriching to experience a wide variety of approaches and view points, ranging from North Korea's nuclear programme to Europe's sovereign debt crisis. The best however is to present your own work, get valuable feedback and meet interesting people with common interests.

The BISA-ISA ((British) International Studies Association) Conference in Edinburgh (20-22 June) provided just that opportunity to the EXACT fellows. Now that PhD thesis writing should seriously get going in this phase of the programme, the conference also provided a good 'external' deadline for the fellows as they agreed to present theory-oriented papers feeding into the theoretical underpinnings of their theses. The comments received and contacts made were very helpful for the PhD progress, something that may not always be the case with conferences.

Dana presented her paper on different theoretical approaches (neo-realism, Normative Power Europe and liberal intergovernmentalism) to the Eastern Partnership, taking different EU Member States as case studies. She received comments by Prof. Christina Boswell (Edinburgh University). Marco presented his paper on 'European foreign policy towards Russia: a constructivist perspective'.

Simon, Niklas and Leonhard shared a panel with Tomáš Weiss, Ph.D. (Prague University) and chaired by Prof. Peterson (Edinburgh University). Their panel had a somewhat neo-institutionalist focus and specifically addressed question of legitimacy, coherence and the environment of organisations and leaders. Marlene acted as a commentator for this panel and gave some helpful feedback.

So, despite the dark, grey and rainy days in Edinburgh during the conference, the event was of huge help to illuminate the fellows' theoretical PhD work.

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EXACT builds bridges - not just between practice and academia, but also between different academic cultures, traditions and institutions.

As 'our' two EXACT fellows have arrived at the

Charles University in Prague and taken up the last phase of their work towards their Ph.D., the results of the sometimes challenging efforts to negotiate a bi-national and truly European doctoral programme that we undertook together with the Universities of Cologne and Edinburgh have now become more tangible. Through their experiences in Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and now in the Czech Republic, our two EXACT fellows contribute to making the European Research Area not just a goal but a lived experience. As European integration itself shows, bridges once built create opportunities that should be taken up also in the future. It is from this perspective that we understand Exact as an important step for the future of EU-wide post-graduate research.

Prof. Lenka Rovná

Head of the Department of West European Studies, Charles University Prague

„The European Union in International Affairs III“

Simon Stroß

Between the 5th and 7th May 2012, two EXACT fellows presented their research at the conference „The European Union in International Affairs“ in Brussels

The multidisciplinary conference, organised by the Institute for European Studies at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and its partners, represented a premium venue at which international studies scholars and policy practitioners debated the role of the EU in the turbulent realm of international affairs. Keynote speakers such as Herman Van Rompuy and Pierre Vimont contributed to the event.

EXACT fellow Niklas Helwig presented his paper titled 'The High Representative as the new Presidency in the CFSP: "The king is dead, long live the king!'. Revealing the logics behind the establishment of working practices between the High Representative,

the member states, the Commission and the European Parliament, he analysed how the recent institutional changes impact on the development of new procedures of inter-institutional co-operation.

Presenting his research on 'Programming financial instruments post-Lisbon - The EEAS and the new institutional architecture of EU external action', Simon Stroß showed how the new EU programming structures change the content and conduction of EU development cooperation and other external policy fields and the way they influence issues such as a securitisation of aid and the mainstreaming of thematic policies in geographic programmes.

In each issue the newsletter presents one of the nine EXACT partner institutions. The institution presented, CEPS, is based in Brussels and hosted already five EXACT fellows between March and October 2011. EXACT fellow Dana Depo joined the team between November 2011 and March 2012.

Experience with CEPS – never to forget

Dana Depo

CEPS - Centre for European Policy Studies - is an inspiring and exciting place to be – this is an answer of all CEPS researchers. Gladly, based on my own experience I can share the same enthusiasm of young researchers. My stay with CEPS coincided with the period of the economic crisis when the the ESM was revised and the negotiations on the Fiscal Compact took place. CEPS was one of the epicentres on commenting and advising on the mentioned hot topics, with Daniel Gros (CEPS Director) at the centre of attention for national and international media. The comments and analyses of Gros were published on an almost daily basis in leading newspapers.

What I have learnt about CEPS experts is that they are human beings (not Gods) who work hard daily on their area of expertise. They write, rewrite, reedit, redraft, until it is perfect. And their quality of work sets the standard towards which every young researcher should strive.



What I have learnt from my supervisor, Piotr Maciej Kaczyński, is that it's also important to be a good networker who constantly updates him/her-self with the newest information and developments. Information was, is and will be power and the main asset for policy advisors.

Experiencing working with CEPS is also an opportunity to be within the European mainstream of the research and political developments. Having participated in the events organised by and at CEPS, I had the possibility to talk to the politicians and leading experts in my field. The coffee break talks with some of the policy-makers and -shapers made important turns in my view on the PhD subject that I am researching.

Nicole Koenig

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Who? Before joining EXACT, I studied politics and management at the University of Constance and EU International Relations and Diplomacy at the College of Europe in Bruges. I then worked as a researcher in a project on early warning and conflict prevention at King's College in London, and at the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies in Potsdam.



What? Having a particular interest in the links between diplomacy, development and security,

my research focuses on the EU's holistic approach to crisis management and the causes of its recurrent incoherence.

Where? After five months at the University of Cologne, eight months at the Istituto Affari Internazionali in Rome, and another five months at TEPSA in Brussels, I am now at the University of Edinburgh.

Why? The combination of working in different think tanks across Europe, of getting to know different academic cultures, and of being part of a team of motivated, interesting, and dynamic researchers from all over the world makes EXACT truly unique.

EXACT Thesis Workshop in Brussels

Andrew Byrne

In June, the EXACT researchers gathered in Brussels for a 2-day long intensive thesis workshop. The focus was on developing a piece of text – generally a draft chapter – from our theses, by sharing advice and comments. The event was kindly hosted by CEPS and we are grateful for their support.

While the twelve researchers have been split up over three university locations, the transnational EXACT research network remains a very integrated group. The idea behind this workshop was to ensure that geography

was not an obstacle to the 12 fellows sharing advice and support on their doctoral theses.

Events such as these allow for open and constructive development of draft chapters among a close group of scholars working on EU External Action and the event also acts as a collective accountability tool, so that each participant must make concrete progress on their thesis in advance of the workshop.

Questions on methodology, theory, as well as overall research design were discussed and worked

through with substantial time allocated for a thoroughgoing discussion of each participant's work.

After two days, all participants confirmed that the workshop had benefited their project and there was unanimous agreement that the exercise should be repeated on a bi-annual basis. Plans are underway for a workshop in Dublin in November/December to coincide with the TEP-SA Pre-Presidency Conference and a final workshop in Austria in 2013.



New EXACT Researcher: Peter Valant

The EXACT Consortium is glad to announce that a new research fellow, Peter Valant, could be recruited to the project for one year. He will work as EXACT Experienced Researcher in Cologne starting in October 2012. Peter will contribute to the network by finalizing his Ph.D. project on „The United Nations and the EU for a better world - New Foreign Policy Concepts in a New Emerging Global World Order“, participate in conferences and publish articles. Furthermore, he will give lectures at the University of Cologne and engage in additional teaching and research projects.

Mail from Prague

Miguel Haubrich Seco

Well-known as a cross-road of cultures, languages, architectural styles and historical heritage, Prague welcomes foreigners with diversity and a rich offer of impressions.

But unexpected came the Mediterranean flair inherent to the Prague way of life. At least as long as the warm summer lasts, locals enjoy spending their spare time in terraces and outdoor cafés and in the many parks and green areas in and around the city. Newcomers find a ready welcome and the absurd utterances one produces when trying to speak Czech are taken with patience.

A certain dose of Mediterranean pragmatism can also be seen in

the way how problems are solved or in the reaction to the political struggles that fill the headlines of local newspapers.



In between its cobblestone alleys and backyards, this city hides many surprises, cellar pubs and a vibrant cultural life ranging from jazz cafés to a modern art scene that laughs away some of the more contradictory matters of Czech everyday life. Life in Prague never risks becoming tedious.

Despite some remaining incompatibilities such as the Czech fondness for (preferably big) dogs, there is no doubt that living in Prague is a rewarding and enriching chance.

Upcoming Events

6th - 10th August 2012
ECPR Training School on Methods in Ljubljana, Slovenia; Andrew Byrne, Niklas Helwig and Leonhard den Hertog.

3rd - 5th September 2012
UACES Annual Conference in Passau; Leonhard den Hertog participates in the panel 'EU Home Affairs Agencies at New Frontiers'.

15th - 29th September 2012
EXACT Network Seminar on Academic Research Skills; all fellows.

26th - 28th November 2012
Regions of Memory. A Comparative Perspective on Eastern Europe (Warsaw); Marco Siddi.

Combined expertise: EXACT meets INCOOP

Andreas Raspotnik

On Tuesday, the 26th of June 2012 several EXACT research fellows met their intellectual counterparts of the multi-disciplinary Marie Curie Initial Training Network on Inter-institutional Cooperation in the EU (INCOOP) at Maastricht University's Campus in Brussels.

The doctoral and post-doctoral INCOOP research fellows examine different dimensions of inter-level, intra- and inter-institutional cooperation in the European Union. Similar to EXACT, the INCOOP researchers are spread over Europe,

making use of the opportunities a Marie Curie fellowship provides. Organised by Jan Frederik Braun (INCOOP) and Leonhard den Hertog (EXACT), the meeting served to exchange our professional and academic experiences during the respective projects, scrutinise our efforts and achievements and discuss potential fields of cooperation.



Although both projects are different in their structure, which comes with several advantages and disadvantages, best practices were exchanged and participants agreed that both of the projects provide for excellent opportunities and they expressed clear interest to further collaborate on a professional and academic level.

The participating EXACT Research Fellows would like to thank co-organiser Jan Frederik Braun for the efforts and the successful event.

Selected Publications



Gottwald, Marlene together with Dari, Elisa/ Price, Megan/ Van der Wal, Jense (Clingendael Institute of International Relations, The Netherlands) and Koenig, Nicole (2012): „CSDP Missions and Operations: Lessons Learned Processes“, Study, Directorate-General for External Policies, Policy Department, European Parliament.

Gottwald, Marlene: „Humanizing Security? The EU's responsibility to protect in the Libyan crisis“, FIIA Working Paper, No. 75, May 2012.

Den Hertog, Leonhard: „Two Boats in the Mediterranean and their Unfortunate Encounters with Europe's Policies towards People on the Move“, CEPS Papers in Liberty and Security in Europe, No. 48, July 2012.

Koenig, Nicole (2012 - forthcoming): „EU Conflict Prevention and Crisis Management: Looking Back to Look Ahead“, Review of: EU conflict prevention and crisis management: roles, institutions, and policies, edited by Eva Gross and Ana E. Juncos, The International Spectator, vol. 47, no. 3.

Raspotnik, Andreas: Paper presented: „The Future of Arctic Shipping along the Transpolar Sea Route“ at the 3rd Annual „Geopolitics in the High North“ Conference, 23 – 25 May 2012, at Stiftung für Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP) Berlin.

Siddi, Marco: „Bystander in its neighbourhood? The European Union's involvement in protracted conflicts in the post-Soviet space“, IEP Policy Papers on Eastern Europe and Central Asia, No. 1/2012, Institut für Europäische Politik Berlin.

Siddi, Marco: „No settlement without a proactive policy: the European Union and the secessionist conflicts in the post-Soviet space“, IEP Policy Briefs on Enlargement and Neighbourhood, No. 5/2012, Institut für Europäische Politik Berlin.

Siddi, Marco (2012): „The Russian, other'. The impact of national identity construction on EU-Russia relations“, in: Ratka, Edmund/ Spaiser, Olga (Eds): The European Union and Its Neighbourhoods: Concepts, Constructions and Strategies of European Foreign Policy, Münchner Beiträge zur europäischen Einigung, Volume 22, NOMOS Publishers.

Vanessa Boas

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18 months down the line, it is now my turn to introduce myself.



I am working on the EU's relations with Central Asia. While my topic has evolved over time, I have stayed true to the original theme.

However, my encounters with Central Asians as well as close collaboration with other scholars have pushed me to dig a little deeper and change the angle of my research. I now hope to add an anthropological layer to my analysis in order to account for developments in the aforementioned sphere of international relations.

I have been one of the most active travellers in the EXACT team and have attended conferences around the globe. These trips have left me refreshed and inspired as I have been able to exchange ideas with others working in my field. However, given that my PhD clock is ticking, it is time to develop a bond with my desk in Cologne and start some serious writing! Before that, I have scheduled a short stay in Central Asia for interviews this summer!

EXACT Network Seminar on Academic Research Skills

The second EXACT Network Seminar will be held in Cologne in September 2012. Dr. Geoffrey Edwards and Dr. Robert Kissack will lead the seminar as scientific directors focusing on academic research skills and higher education qualification. The group is comprised of the twelve EXACT fellows and eight additional candidates external to EXACT. The seminar shall contribute to the finalisation of the Ph.D. theses of the fellows and provide them with substantial knowledge on higher education to intensify their lecture skills.

Dr. Geoffrey Edwards is Reader in European Studies in the Centre for International Studies and holds a Jean Monnet chair in Political Science.



Dr. Robert Kissack is Assistant Professor and MA Programme Coordinator at the Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (IBEI).



EU-Africa Simulation Game, University of Cologne

James Nyomakwa-Obimpeh

EXACT Fellows James Nyomakwa-Obimpeh and Leonhard den Hertog have been teaching a seminar at the University of Cologne on "European Union external relations: the case of the EU-Africa Partnership" during the 2012 summer semester.

The aim of the course has been to introduce students to the basic institutional configurations and policy fields of EU external relations with special attention to EU-Africa relations in the fields of development, trade, or migration.



Course participants and EXACT Fellows

One of the course examination elements (next to an academic paper) was a simulation game during which students took the role of European and African policy makers negotiating a new strategy for an EU-African partnership.



It all began with the presentation of the position papers prepared over several weeks by the students. In the following plenary, the students debated various proposals on trade policies, development cooperation, agriculture, human rights and good governance conditionality, migration and asylum relations among others.

After a long controversial debate on the content and nature of a new agreement, the simulation game proceeded with concluding statements after which a discussion and acceptance of the final text of the agreement followed. The student leaders then held a press conference to announce what the negotiations had achieved for their two continents.



Cross section of the simulation game, 13 June 2012

The students generally saw the simulation as an interesting and informative exercise that enhanced their understanding of the relations between the EU and Africa as well as the increasing tension on achieving a mutually beneficially cooperation between the two long allies.



EXACT is a Marie Curie Initial Training Network on EU External Action. It consists 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, Research Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences.