



ACELG ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2018

Narratives of Integration and Disintegration 9 November 2018, University of Amsterdam

**REC A, Nieuwe Achtergracht 166
Moot Court Room A 3.15**

For a long time, the European Union was perceived to travel on a linear journey toward deeper integration. However, at the latest since the financial crisis, economic divergence and political controversy have dominated the debate on Europe. Populist parties are on the rise. Several Member States are structurally in breach of fundamental EU values, such as the rule of law, democracy and human rights. The most drastic example of a political force pulling the EU apart is the Brexit vote in the UK in 2016. It is fair to conclude that there is no political consensus on deeper integration – if it ever existed.

The 2017 ACELG conference was directed into the future. We tried to re-imagine the EU and questioned the appropriate level of integration in core policy fields. At the 2018 ACELG annual conference we plan to look back. Our intention is to trace integration and disintegration dynamics and reflect on the narratives that are developed to explain them. What are these narratives? What leads their development? Who is writing these narratives? How do they frame the common image of European integration?

The conference traces the development of the narratives that shaped our image of the EU, such as 'Lasting Peace in Europe', 'A European Community', 'An Ever Closer Union', 'Multilevel Governance', 'A Voice in the Globalised World'. It addresses the role of law formalising and in supporting the narratives, discussing issues and effects of legal phenomena, such as 'integration through law', 'competence creep', and 'judicial activism'.

Preliminary Programme

09:00-09:15 – Registration and Coffee

09:15-10:45 – Session 1: Institutional Narratives

Chair: Marc de Wilde (University of Amsterdam)

Katja Seidel (University of Westminster, London): *The Quest for Ever Closer Union: Institutional and Academic Narratives Since the 1950s*

Siniša Rodin (Court of Justice of the European Union, University of Zagreb): *Constructing a Narrative of European Integration - Text, Context, Purpose and l'économie générale at the Court of Justice of the European Union*

10:45-11:00 – Coffee Break

11:00-12:30 – Session 2: Legal Narratives

Chair: Deirdre Curtin (European University Institute, Florence)

Sacha Garben (College of Europe, Bruges): *Effet Utile Above All Else (Including Conferral) - The Cross-Cutting Nature of EU Law*

Thomas Horsley (University of Liverpool)

12:30-13:15 – Lunch

13:15-14:45 – Session 3: Crisis Narratives

Chair: Anne Thies (University of Reading)

Mark Dawson (Hertie School of Governance, Berlin): *What happens when the crisis is over?*

Sara Iglesias Sánchez (Court of Justice of the European Union): *Economic and social crisis and the role of fundamental rights in the EU: the glue that binds us together?*

14:45 – Closing (Anniek de Ruijter)

16:00 – Inaugural Lecture, Christina Eckes

The Paradox of EU External Relations: Taking Back Control

Venue: Aula of the University of Amsterdam, Singel 411, Amsterdam

* panel titles may change depending on the direction individual speakers take