

Europeanisation of Public Spheres? Political Mobilisation, Public Communication, and the European Union

International Conference
Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB)
June 20-22, 2003

The – real or alleged – discrepancy between an increasing Europeanisation of governance structures in the context of the European integration process, on the one hand, and the lagging behind of the development of a European public sphere, on the other, has recently inspired a large number of international research projects, some of them actively sponsored by the European Commission. In the public sphere, citizens, interest groups, and decision-makers observe each others' behaviour and preferences, and debate and contest issues of public interest. As such, the public sphere is a vital aspect of the democratic process, being both a channel for citizen participation, and an arena in which policies and institutions can be held accountable and where their legitimacy is at stake. Many scholars contend that in the absence of a Europeanised public sphere, European policies and institutions face an increasing crisis of legitimacy that threatens to block the European Union's further institutional development. Others are more optimistic and claim that a European public sphere that can form the basis for a democratically viable EU is already in existence. Others still, see the causality running in the other direction and view the Europeanisation of public spheres as a logical consequence rather than as a necessary precondition for a Europeanisation and democratisation of governance structures.

This conference brings together representatives of key ongoing research projects on this thematic in order to exchange theoretical ideas and empirical results. The papers and presentations will address a variety of aspects of the public sphere, including:

- mass media coverage, journalism, and public discourse;
- political communication strategies and campaigns of collective actors, including interest groups, political parties, (national, regional, local) governments, and European institutions;
- social movements, protests, NGO's, and other forms of citizens' political participation;

- the role of new communications technologies such as the Internet in transforming European public spheres.

Our notion of Europeanisation includes political communication and mobilisation that refer to European institutions, policies, interests, or norms, as well as communicative and organisational network linkages between the different (prospective) member states. The conference papers include studies situated at the European level or investigating connections between the national and the European level, as well as cross-national comparisons among (prospective) EU member states.

The conference is organised within the context of the project “The Transformation of Political Mobilisation and Communication in European Public Spheres” (Europub.com) and is sponsored by the European Commission in the context of its Fifth Framework Programme. For more information on the project, please consult our website at: <http://europub.wz-berlin.de/>

Next to the presentations of academic papers, the conference will include a panel discussion with practitioners in European politics and journalism from the Board of Advisors of the Europub.com project (see below).

Organizing Committee:

Ruud Koopmans – Research Group Political Communication and Mobilisation, WZB ruud@wz-berlin.de

Jeannette Mak – Department of Political Science, Universiteit van Amsterdam mak@pscw.uva.nl

Paul Statham – Centre for European Political Communication, University of Leeds paul.statham@blueyonder.co.uk

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

Paper presentations are 15 minutes, followed by a 5 minute statement by the discussant. This leaves 20 minutes for discussion for each paper.

Friday 20 June

14:00-15:00: Welcome and Introduction

15:00-17:00: Paper Session – Political Actors and Communication Strategies

Chair: Paul Statham

Peter Anderson and Aileen McLeod (University of Central Lancashire) - The Great Non-Communicator? The mass communication deficit of the European Parliament and its press directorate

Discussant: Julie Firmstone (University of Leeds)

Maria Trif and Doug Imig (University of Memphis, USA)– Demanding to be heard: Social movements and the crafting of the new Europe

Discussant: Paul Statham

Ruud Koopmans and Barbara Pfetsch (WZB Berlin, Universität Hohenheim) - Europeanised political communication: Comparing the role of political actors and the media in Germany

Discussant: Christoph Meyer

17:00-17:15: Coffee

17:15-18:45: Paper Session – Mass Media Discourses and European Integration

Chair: Paul Statham

Cornelia Dereje, Cathleen Kantner and Hans-Jörg Trenz (Humboldt Universität Berlin) – The quality press and European integration

Discussant: Barbara Berkel

Christoph Meyer (Universität zu Köln) – Towards a Europeanization of Socio-Economic Discourses? A Study of Quality Press Coverage of the EU's Provisions for the Co-ordination of Economic Policies since Amsterdam

Discussant: Barbara Pfetsch

20:00: Common Dinner

Saturday 21 June

9.30-11.30: Paper Session – The Public Sphere and Europeanization

Chair: David E. Morrison (University of Leeds)

Marianne van de Steeg and Thomas Risse (European University Institute, Freie Universität Berlin) – An Emerging European Public Sphere? Theoretical Clarifications and some Empirical Results

Discussant: Juan Diéz Medrano (Universität Bremen)

Ruud Koopmans and Jessica Erbe (WZB Berlin) - Towards a European public sphere? Vertical and horizontal dimensions of Europeanised political communication

Discussant: Doug Imig

Bernhard Peters and Stefanie Sifft (Universität Bremen) – The transnationalization of public spheres: A public discourse approach

Discussant: Jeannette Mak

11:30-11:45: Coffee

11:45-13:15: Paper Session – Europeanization: Southern countries' experiences

Chair: Andrea Romano

Donatella della Porta, Manuela Caiani, Lorenzo Mosca and Sara Valenza (European University Institute, Università degli Studi di Firenze)– Forms of Europeanization of the public sphere in Italy in a cross-time, cross-issue and cross-media perspective

Discussant: Andrea Romano

Ece Göztepe-Celebi and Aykut Celebi (Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, University of Ankara) – European public sphere in the periphery? The public discussion on the European Union in Turkey in 2002

Discussant: Emily Gray (University of Leeds)

Lunch buffet

14:15-16:15: Paper Session – Europeanization: Comparing National Experiences

Chair: Thomas Diez

Virginie Guiraudon and Paul Statham (CRAPS/CNRS Lille, University of Leeds)
– Contesting Europe and the “Europeanization” of policy debates in France and the UK

Discussant: Peter Anderson

Margit Jochum and Jeannette Mak (Universität Zürich, Universiteit van Amsterdam)– Europeanization without membership, membership without Europeanization? An analysis of agricultural and monetary issues in the national public spheres of Switzerland and the Netherlands

Discussant: Thomas Diez

Carolina G. de Miguel and Anke Tresch (Universitat Pompeu Fabra Barcelona, Universität Zürich) – Towards a fragmentation of national public spheres? Public discourse on European integration and pensions in Spain and Switzerland

Discussant: Hans-Jörg Trenz

16:15-16:30: Coffee

16:30-18:00: Panel Discussion with members of the Europub.com Board of Advisors: Experiences of Europeanisation – Past, Ideal, and Realistic Paths

In this panel discussion, each of the board of advisors will speak for between five to ten minutes with respect to the following issues:

- a) How Europeanisation has impacted upon their experiences in their position.
- b) What they think the public sphere in Europe should ideally be.
- c) To what extent this vision is viable/realisable according to their experiences

There will then be questions and discussion.

Chair: Jeannette Mak

Participants (confirmed):

Henrik Enderlein - ECB inter-institutional relations

José Manuel Costa - correspondent in London for Abc

Bino Olivi – former spokesperson of European Commission

Andrea Romano - Director of Italianieuropei - Fondazione di cultura politica

Felipe Sahagún - Journalist of El Mundo

Dario Valcárcel - Editor of Política Exterior and collaborator with Abc

19:30 Common Dinner

Sunday 22 June

09:30-11:00: Paper Session – The Mass Media and Europeanization

Chair: Donatella Della Porta

Silke Adam and Barbara Berkel (Universität Hohenheim)– Media structures as a brake block of the Europeanisation of public spheres? Development of a cross-national typology

Discussant: Marianne van de Steeg

Christoph Münzing and Hans-Jörg Trenz (Humboldt Universität Berlin) – “Qua vadis Europe?” Quality newspapers struggling for European unity

Discussant: Carolina de Miguel

11:00-11:15: Coffee

11:15-12:00: Paper Session – The Internet and Europeanization

Chair: Jeanette Mak

Ruud Koopmans and Ann Zimmermann (WZB Berlin) - Internet: A New Potential for European Political Communication?

Discussant: Jan Beyers

Lunch buffet

13:00-14:30: Paper Session - Researching Key Issues

Chair: Ruud Koopmans

Jan Beyers and Bart Kerremans (Universiteit Leiden, Universiteit Leuven)– Access and Legitimacy: Outline of a Research Project

Discussant: Virginie Guiraudon

Rolf-Hagen Schulz-Forberg (European University Institute) – title to be announced

Discussant: Jos de Beus (Amsterdam)

14:30-15:00: Conclusions