

EUROPEAN INTEGRATION WITHOUT INTEGRATION OF EUROPEAN SOCIETIES?

4th HEIRS Conference

Institut d'Etudes européennes (Brussels)

Organized by: Institut d'Etudes européennes, Université Libre de Bruxelles.

Location: Brussels.

Date: April 11-12, 2008.

Deadline for 500-word abstracts: December 14, 2007.

The abstracts should be sent by e-mail to all the conference organizers, Flavia Cumoli, Mazyar Khojini, and Nicolas Verschuere: heirs2008@ulb.ac.be

HEIRS encourages papers by PhD students and young scholars. Papers can be submitted in either French or English. They should be no longer than 8.000 words.

Applicants will be notified of the results by January 7, 2008. They should send their final papers to the organizers for circulation among participants and panel discussants no later than March 31, 2008. The presentations should last no more than 20 minutes, thus allowing time for discussion.

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www.heirs-eu.org

Beyond the political and economic history of European integration, a history of the growing social integration of European societies has become a necessity. Our aim is to tackle some interrelated topics which underline patterns of convergence and resistance related to labour, migration, and social policies in a historical perspective.

Undoubtedly, the confrontation of market-driven mechanisms, on the one hand, and the advent of Welfare-State systems, on the other hand, has resulted in tensions, which nurtured the process of homogenisation, interdependence and exchange among competitive social models.

Potential topics for the focus theme include, but are not limited to:

- The free circulation of labour has long been hampered by Member States, for instance through the persistence of bilateral accords. Did migration accelerate or slow down the process of European integration?
- How did the European construction and the recent enlargements, together with the unresolved question of Europe's colonial legacies, challenge the European identity as a post-national construction?
- How did these issues, among others, become an object of social policies (e.g. working conditions, standards of living, housing conditions, regional and urban planning...)?
- How did the process of convergence of European societies influence the course of European integration? Or, on the contrary, to what extent has the process of European integration perpetuated or strengthened the divergent views of national social policies?

HEIRS's fourth conference aims to stimulate the dialogue between historians and scholars from other disciplines in the area of social sciences.