

CHALLENGES OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION



MA course, summer semester 2023

by

prof. Aleksandra Maatsch, Jean Monnet Chair in EU Politics, University of Wrocław

Time & Place:

ABOUT THIS SEMINAR. The objective of this seminar is to introduce students to current debates on the impact of contemporary crises on the EU integration process. During the last few years the EU has been challenged by various crises, only to mention the sovereign debt crisis, the refugee crisis, the rule of law crisis, the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. As the literature demonstrates, only some of these crises generated institutional responses deepening the EU integration process. Against that background, this seminar poses the following questions: why does the impact of contemporary crises differ with respect to the EU integration process? Which factors help to explain why certain crises foster the EU integration process whereas other crises don't? In the course of the seminar students will acquire knowledge and skills allowing them to critically evaluate the current dynamics of the EU integration process. The course draws predominantly on political science literature, however, it is open to students with different backgrounds.

HOW WILL I LEARN? Activities will take place every teaching week. The seminar will be organised in a **hybrid** way, allowing students to attend the seminar **both** in person and online. Our seminars will have various forms: (a) "hands-on-literature" sessions, (b) guest lectures by visiting scholars and experts and (c) discussions with politicians.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Short essay of ca. 5 pages (60%) presentation (20%) and activity during our classes (10%).

FURTHER INFORMATION. If you wish to enquire about the seminar contact prof. Aleksandra Maatsch (aleksandra.maatsch@uwr.edu.pl), or visit the Jean Monnet Chair webpage (<https://www.redemo.eu>) for further information about the past and future activities of the Chair.

The Seminar

Week 1: (xx.March) **Introduction. What will I learn in this seminar? (Brainstorming session: EU integration & crises)**

Week 2: (xx.March) **Why do we need theories of EU integration?**

Diez, T. and Wiener, A. (2003) Introducing the Mosaic of Integration Theory, in: Diez, T. and Wiener A. (2003) *European Integration Theory* (OUP).

Presentation by:

Week 3: (xx.March) **Theories and dimensions of EU integration (selection)**

Mandatory readings:

1. Schmitter, P.C. (2003) Neo-Neofunctionalism, in: Diez, T. and Wiener A. (2003) *European Integration Theory* (OUP).
2. Schimmelfenning, F. (2003) Liberal Intergovernmentalism, in: Diez, T. and Wiener A. (2003) *European Integration Theory* (OUP).

Presentations by 2 students:

- 1.
- 2.

Week 4: (xx.March) **Crises and their impact on the EU integration process**

Mandatory readings:

Erik Jones, R. Daniel Kelemen & Sophie Meunier (2021) Failing forward? Crises and patterns of European integration, *Journal of European Public Policy*, 28:10, 1519-1536.

Leonard Seabrooke & Eleni Tsingou (2019) Europe's fast- and slow-burning crises, *Journal of European Public Policy*, 26:3, 468-481.

Presentation by:

Week 5: (**xx.March**) **Is EU accession to the EU possible in time of war?**

Guest lecture by (tbc)

NO READING ASSIGNED, ATTENDANCE MANDATORY!

Week 6: (xx.April) EU accession through war?

Mandatory reading:

Petrov, R. and Hillion, C. (2022) Accession through war – Ukraine’s road to the EU, in: Common Market Law Review.

Additional reading:

Maryna Rabinovych (2021) Failing forward and EU foreign policy: the dynamics of ‘integration without membership’ in the Eastern Neighbourhood, Journal of European Public Policy, 28:10, 1688-1705.

Presentation by:

Week 7: (xx.April) Climate policy and the EU integration

Mandatory reading:

Sebastian Oberthür & Ingmar von Homeyer (2023) From emissions trading to the European Green Deal: the evolution of the climate policy mix and climate policy integration in the EU, Journal of European Public Policy, 30:3, 445-468, DOI: [10.1080/13501763.2022.2120528](https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2022.2120528)

Additional reading:

Perino, G. et al (2022) Closing the Implementation Gap: Obstacles in Reaching Net-Zero Pledges in the EU and Germany, in: Politics and Governance vol 10(3).

Presentation by:

Week 8: (xx.April) Comparing the economic responses to the sovereign debt crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic: heading towards a Hamiltonian moment?

Mandatory reading:

Maatsch, A. and Closa, C. (under review) A Hamiltonian Moment for the EU? Domestic Ratifications of the European Financial Stability Facility and the Own Resources Decision.

Presentation by:

Week 9: (xx.April) **Migration as a challenge to EU integration**

Mandatory reading:

Lavanex, S. (2018) 'Failing Forward' Towards Which Europe? Organized Hypocrisy in the Common European Asylum System, in: Journal of Common Market Studies.

Presentation by:

Week 10: (xx.May) **Decline of the rule of law standards in the EU member states: why is it a challenge to EU integration?**

Mandatory reading:

Bard, P. and Grabowska-Moros, B. (2020) The strategies used by national authorities to systematically undermine the rule of law and possible EU responses (RECONNECT report)

Pages: 6-12, 44-62.

<https://reconnect-europe.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/D8.2.pdf>

Presentation by:

Week 11: (xx.May) **Rule of law crisis: the cases of Poland and Hungary**

Mandatory reading:

Maatsch, A. (2023) Explaining the democratic backsliding in Poland: the interplay of party-specific and contextual factors, in: Crum, B. and Oleart, A. Populist Parties and Democratic Resilience (Routledge).

Ilonszki, G. and Vajda, A. (2021) How far can populist governments go? The impact of the populist government on the Hungarian parliament, in: *Parliamentary Studies* 74(4).

Presentation by:

Week 12: (xx. May) **Hands-on-data seminar: rule of law and democracy crisis during the pandemic**

Mandatory reading:

Country report: Hungary (by Anna Novak)

Country report: Poland (by Barbara Grabowska-Moroz)

Country report: Finland (by Corentin Poyet)

Country report: Latvia (by Andrii Nekoliak)

Presentation by:

Week 13: **(xx.May) #EPelections2024 – debate with candidates**

Given the importance of the EP elections, the Jean Monnet Chair organises a pre-election debate at the university. Our guests will be candidates running in elections and representing various EP parties.

In May 2023 the JMC organised a pre-election debate with candidates to the Polish parliament. The 2024-debate will have a similar format with students proposing the questions and moderating the debate. The debate will be in Polish but there will be a simultaneous translation into English available.

Week 14: **(xx.May) #EPelections2024– a scientific debate**

During the second day we will host scientific panels focusing on various issues related to EP elections.

Week 15: **(xx.June) Presentation and discussion of final essays**