

## **Webinar programme: *European Union: A Political Journey***

The aim of the webinar *European Union: A Political Journey* is to help the younger generation to understand the role of the European Union within the international community, as they today are increasingly stuck at the centre of a dichotomy, this is to say that between the "pro-European" and the "sovereigns". There are those who consider it appropriate and who, on the other hand, unacceptable a limitation of national sovereignty pursued in the name of a common resolution of problems.

The Political Society of the College has identified four thematic areas considered crucial in the European reality: the relationship between international cooperation and national sovereignty, immigration, economic policies and Brexit.

The College has the honour of hosting virtually five experts who, thanks to their studies and experience, will analyse the reality of Europe and highlight its potential and its critical issues.

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020. Hon. Sen. Emma Bonino, Italian Parliament and Dr. Sophie Heine, Oxford University**

**European Union is our destiny. Populism is the WORST ENEMY OF this vision.**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020, Hon. Sen. Emma Bonino, Italian Parliament, will give a webinar entitled *European Union is our destiny. Populism is the WORST ENEMY OF this vision.* on ZOOM at 11.00 am.

### **Abstract**

The idea of a United States of Europe means a different Europe from the IMPERFECT one we already have, still paralysed by the criss-crossing vetoes by the member states that are slowing down the progress of deeper integration. Building on the existing one, we want to go forward making the EU stronger, more democratic, and able to face the challenges that can only be overcome if we stay together.

Populism – usually going hand in hand with nationalism – aims to delegitimize the building of a new Europe, forgetting for example that today Europe has the most advanced level of social and health care and attention to the environment.

### **Biography**

Emma Bonino is Italian Senator elected in the last political competition with More Europe. She was served as the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs between 2013 and 2014. From 2008 to 2013 she served as Vice-Chair of the Italian Senate. She has been Minister for International Trade and European Affairs. First elected to the Italian Chamber of Deputies in 1976, she has served either in the Italian or in the European Parliament continuously since then, except when she was European Commissioner, between 1994 and 1999. During this period she confronted man-made crises, including the Balkans and the Great Lakes region. She is a member of the Board of Trustees at the International Crisis Group (ICG). She is also co-chair of the council of Foreign Relations (ECFR ) and an active Member of the Radical Party.

**European federalism at a cross road : why we need to rethink federalism around the idea of sovereignty.**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020, Dr. Sophie Heine, Oxford University, will give a webinar entitled *European federalism at a cross road: why we need to rethink federalism around the house idea of sovereignty.* on ZOOM at 11.00 am.

### **Abstract**

At a time when the European Union is increasingly criticised and exposed to fragmentation, pro Europeans need to build a coherent and convincing alternative project. Defending the statu quo is no longer sufficient to resist anti European forces. European federalism should be deeply rethought and refurbished. In that respect, European sovereignty can constitute a concept , as long as it is combined with democratic and liberal principles.

## **Biography**

Sophie Heine holds a bachelor degree in Politics, a master in European Studies, a master in international Relations and a PhD from the Institute for European Studies (Universite Libre de Bruxelles) that she accomplished with a scholarship from the Belgian Fund For Scientific Research-FNRS. She then did a post-doctoral research at Balliol College (Oxford University) partly funded by the Wiener-Anspach Foundation, before teaching for a year modules on European politics and International Politics at Queen Mary, University of London.

In 2014, she got involved in the movement Stand Up for Europe by contributing to launching the movement and running for the European elections. She then became a Senior Research Fellow for the Egmont institute in Brussels and worked part time for Stand Up for Europe as its secretary General.

Since 2016, she has been back in Oxford as a research associate to Oxford University (Department for Politics and International relations), a freelance author and consultant as well as a dance teacher and choreographer.

Sophie Heine has published numerous articles and several books on a variety of topic (Populism and Euroscepticism, Progressive ideologies, Left-wing movements and parties, liberalism and individual freedom, gender-related injustices, European federalism and sovereignty). Her most recent book, "For a sovereign Europe", has been published last November by Peter Lang (Oxford).

**10<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Dr. Cetta Mainwaring, Glasgow University**

### **Constructing “Europe”: Reflections from the Mediterranean**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020, Dr. Cetta Mainwaring, Glasgow University, will give a webinar entitled *Constructing “Europe”: Reflections from the Mediterranean*. on ZOOM at 11.00 am.

#### **Abstract**

“In this presentation, I draw on my research on migration and the Mediterranean to examine how struggles over mobility, rights, and space in the region reflect contestations of the very idea of ‘Europe’. Examining the relationship between Malta and the European Union, I will discuss how migration flows are constructed as ahistorical ‘crises’. These constructed ‘crises’ justify violent border controls, including pushbacks and pullbacks to Libya, as they imagine the Mediterranean as a neo-colonial space and erase histories of colonialism and empire. Such crises also project an image of Europe as a coherent, unified body with an altruistic, civilized core and a hard border, erasing tensions within the EU as well as contestations over mobility within the Mediterranean region. “ - C. Mainwaring

#### **Biography**

Cetta Mainwaring is a Leverhulme Early Career Research Fellow in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Glasgow. She holds a DPhil in International Relations from the University of Oxford. Her research focuses on migration, borders, and the Mediterranean. Her first book, *At Europe’s Edge: Migration and Crisis in the Mediterranean*, was published by Oxford University Press in 2019.

**12<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Dr. Jérôme Creel, École supérieure de commerce de Paris**

## **Convergence in the euro area and the consequences of Covid-19 crisis.**

On the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020, Dr. Jérôme Creel, École supérieure de commerce de Paris, will give a webinar entitled *Convergence in the euro area and the consequences of Covid-19 crisis*. on ZOOM at 11.00 am.

### **Abstract**

One major characteristics of an optimal currency area is its ability to maintain or foster integration and convergence among its Member States. This objective requires reaching a stable economic and financial situation and developing resilience to shocks. After reviewing the state of convergence in the euro area, I will propose a number of recommendations, aimed at improving convergence towards the steady state, as well as financial and cyclical convergence. Recommendations will focus

on several policy areas, including cohesion policy, the policies and statute of the ECB, public and private debt sustainability, fiscal rules and a minimum wage policy. The Covid-19 crisis has had an immediate economic and social impact on the euro area that has been plagued with recession and unemployment. It is still uncertain whether this impact will last. Recommendations for an improvement in the convergence criteria within the euro area will be discussed against the backdrop

of the on-going economic crisis and of the economic impetus launched by the European Central Bank, European governments and the European Commission.

### **Biography**

Jérôme Creel has been an associate professor of economics at ESCP Europe since 2007 and the director of the Research Department at SciencesPo-OFCE since 2014. Holding a PhD in economics from University Paris-Dauphine, his recent works have dealt with the European management of the Covid-19 crisis, with reforms of the European economic governance, and with the relationships between financial stability, monetary policy and economic performance.

Jérôme Creel has published many articles in leading field journals including *Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control* and *Economic Modelling*. He co-edited with Malcolm Sawyer a book on the revival of fiscal policy in 2009 at Palgrave-MacMillan. He is the editor of *L'économie européenne* published by La Découverte every year since 2016.

He is a member of the scientific committee of the French Economic Association and of *Journées de l'économie*. He participated in a number of European projects funded by the European Commission, including FESSUD and POLHIA. Jérôme Creel participates on a regular basis as an expert for the European Parliament Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee, notably in the OFCE team for preparatory meetings of the Monetary Dialogue with the European Central Bank. He has recently co-edited (with Eloi Laurent and Jacques Le Cacheux) a Report on the State of the European Union, *The Euro at 20 and the Futures of Europe*, published at Palgrave MacMillan for the 20th anniversary of the Euro.

**17<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Dr. Simon Usherwood, Surrey University**

### **Where next for EU-UK relations?**

On the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020, Dr. Simon Usherwood, Surrey University, will give a webinar entitled *Where next for EU-UK relations?* on ZOOM at 11.00 am.

### **Abstract**

As the transition period comes to an end and the EU and UK make their decisions about the Future Relationship, now is an excellent opportunity to reflect on the next steps. The negotiations of 2020 were never going to produce a complete and settled equilibrium, even in the best of circumstances (which these have not been), but they do point us towards a better understanding of where the continuing interactions between these neighbours might lead. This process will require both sides to consider what they want from that relationship and how that fits with their respective strategic visions, something that remains poorly developed on both sides.

### **Biography**

Simon Usherwood is Professor of Politics at the University of Surrey. His research focus on EU-UK relations, building on previous work on euroscepticism. He has been Deputy Director of the “UK in a Changing Europe” programme and provides regular contributions to the academic and public debate in and around Brexit. For more information, visit: [www.simonusherwood.com](http://www.simonusherwood.com)