



European Integration and the Member State: New Directions in Research

Scott James
Paul Copeland

This special edition of Political Perspectives brings together an eclectic mix of articles in the field of European policy research. It was decided at an early stage that the research focus for the edition should be deliberately wide: European policy and politics is a broad and dynamic field of academic research and the purpose of this endeavour was to both reflect and contribute towards its further development by publishing some of the very best examples of contemporary research from postgraduate students across Europe. Doctoral research is highly rewarding, but it can also lead to a tendency to focus narrowly on one particular research field. Initiatives like this special edition, together with postgraduate conferences and study seminars, go some way to addressing that challenge by providing a highly accessible forum through which researchers are exposed to the work of their peers and can learn from one another.

While the quality of the articles compiled in this special edition could be considered for any mainstream journal, the underlying purpose of this edition was to provide a vehicle for publishing postgraduate research in various stages of completion. To limit publication only to those articles which reflect a

completed doctoral project would in some ways negate the exercise: it is only by exposing your work to a rigorous publication process that the insights of fellow researchers can be gained and necessary revisions made. Needless to say all of the articles contained in this edition have been subject to blind peer review by two postgraduate researchers, and no doubt subject to significant revision by the author, before being accepted for publication. We hope that this process has been constructive for all concerned, not only to provide authors with potentially their first valuable experience of academic publication, but also to reviewers through an appreciation of the amount of time and effort that it is necessary to devote to peer review.

A quick glance down the list of contributors to this edition reveals a vibrant mix of researchers from across Europe. As expected, many of the articles published here reflect the dynamism of current research fields.

Maria Cheiladaki-Liarokapi opens with a fascinating comparative analysis of the development of student and patient mobility across the European Union (EU). Using insights from a path dependency model to explain how and why the selected paths of 'organised' student mobility and 'emergency' patient mobility have been reinforced, while those excluded paths of spontaneous or free student and patient mobility have been lost altogether, she poses challenging questions for the assumptions that underpin traditional theories of integration – intergovernmentalism and supranationalism.

In an article providing a broad theoretical analysis of the EU's so-called 'crisis of legitimacy', Svetlozar Andreev employs established conceptualizations of legitimacy and legitimation to assess their utility for studying the nature of EU governance and to evaluate claims that the EU suffers from a deficit of legitimacy. The article also addresses the Commission's more recent efforts to develop EU 'citizenship' and whether this constitutes a plausible source of legitimacy for the polity.

Divergent conceptions of multi-level governance provide the inspiration for Anil Awesti's engaging exposition of how new institutionalism can enlighten our understanding of the nature of European governance. Although multi-level governance is widely perceived to fundamentally challenge a traditional intergovernmentalist conception of the EU, Awesti argues that institutions remain central to our understanding and interpretation of how it is structured and functions. By applying the three distinctive 'types' of new institutionalism as developed by Hall and Taylor (1996) to European governance, the article suggests that we embrace three corresponding interpretations of multi-level governance which can plausibly be utilised for different studies at different levels of analysis.

Scott James focuses on the changing nature of governance within national core executives and how we can explain administrative change. He puts forward four distinctive 'modes' of Europeanisation through which adaptation may be induced within the core executive as a consequence of EU membership – compliance, competitive uploading, institutional fusion, and discursive strategy – which challenges traditional conceptions which rely on the 'goodness of fit' model. Aiming to add value to existing institutionalist accounts of change within central government, the article proposes a strategic-relational analytical framework in order to map the changing nature of EU policy making within national EU 'networks', and to explain and evaluate how the structure of the domestic network conditions the nature of national EU policy.

European Union development policy in Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) is critically analysed by Anjali Banthia. Her paper investigates the last fifty years of EU development policy and argues that the agreements reached between the Union and the ACP have failed to achieve their goals. Such an argument is based on the analysis of the five core policy areas of partnership, political development, poverty reduction and economic development, regional integration and trade development. Accordingly, EU development policy has

failed to achieve all five of the core policy areas leaving the ACP states impoverished, uncompetitive, underdeveloped and weak.

Drawing our attention to the democratic deficit debate in the EU, Asimina Michailidou's paper examines the Commission's online public communication strategy which aims to facilitate direct communication with EU citizens to increase transparency and democratic legitimacy. Over the past few years, the European Commission has unambiguously committed itself to facilitating direct communication with EU citizens as part of the strategy to increase transparency and democratic legitimation of the EU's decision-making process: the internet is seen as a direct tool in this process. However through her own analysis, Michailidou argues that the Commission's aims have yet to be achieved.

Marcin Dabrowski writes concerning the institutional and civil society changes which have occurred following Poland's receipt of EU Structural Funds. The paper assesses the system of distribution of the Structural Funds and asserts that the legacy of the communist regime determines the effectiveness of the policies and the potential evolution of the institutional arrangements. Nevertheless, Dabrowski concludes that the potential prospect of Poland's regions developing stronger and more independent administrations independent of central state control is promising.

Continuing with the theme of Poland our final paper by Joanna Kaminska concerns the Europeanisation of Polish foreign policy. The paper examines the changes in Polish foreign policy which have been motivated by EU membership and examines Poland's impact upon the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CSFP). Highlighting the scope and limitations of the Polish Foreign policy, the paper examines the ability of Poland to upload its foreign policy preferences since the 2004/2005 Orange Revolution in the Ukraine and the 2006 Presidential election in Belarus.

To end, we would like to acknowledge our great thanks to all those researchers who contributed papers for providing such a diverse range of high quality articles, and to the reviewers for sacrificing their time to make this edition possible. Finally, we also express our gratitude to Ilan Danjoux and Cristina Masters, without whom *Political Perspectives* would not exist.

Scott James
Paul Copeland

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University of Manchester