



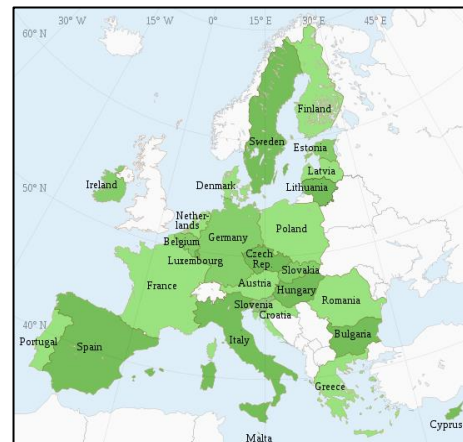
**University
of Victoria**

**Retirees
Association**

UNDERSTANDING THE EU

AN ELDER ACADEMY EVENT

We follow the “Understanding China Series” by looking at the European Union (EU). The EU is an amazing organization, quite unique in today’s global village. It is a collection of states which have come together over time each bringing a variety of cultures, ethnicities, values and languages but with the common goal of being united. The history of the union is fascinating, the way it operates and indeed survives is remarkable. The average North American is unfamiliar with a part of the world that is exceedingly important on the global stage. Here is an opportunity to learn more about it.



WHEN, WHERE, HOW MUCH?

DATES: Saturdays, November 6, 13, 20, 27, & December 4, 2021.

TIME: 10:00am to Noon. Zoom entry available starting 15 minutes prior to scheduled time.

WHERE: Zoom only.

LINK TO JOIN THE SESSIONS: Emailed to registrants via Eventbrite two days before first session.

COST: \$25.00 for the five sessions.

Nov 6: “Evolution of the EU, how it functions and Canada-EU relations”

Presenter: Dr. Valerie D’Erman, Instructor in the Department of Political Science, UVic.

Nov 13: “European Border Issues”

Presenter: Professor & Jean Monnet Chair Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly, UVic School of Public Admin

Nov 20: “Understanding Fiscal Solidarity in the EU”

Presenter: Associate Professor Paul Schure, Department of Economics, UVic.

Nov 27: “European Law and National Sovereignty: Exploring Europe’s ‘Constitutional Pluralism’”

Presenter: Dr Keith Cherry, Instructor, University of Victoria; Associate Faculty, Royal Roads

Dec 4: “COVID-19 and the EU: a game changer or same old?”

Presenter: Professor Amy Verdun, Pol. Science and founding Director of the European Studies Program, UVic.



EU Leadership – 4 Presidents (L to R)

Christine Lagarde
Ursula von der Leyen
Charles Michel
David Sassoli

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

Registration & payment done through EventBrite.

Please click on: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/x/understanding-the-eu-tickets-178965950977>

Students attend free but need to register by emailing

UVRAElderAcademyevents@uvic.ca to secure the Zoom link.

Need to know more? Email UVRAElderAcademyevents@uvic.ca

UNDERSTANDING The EU: An Elder Academy Event

Saturday, Nov 6th, 10am

“Evolution of the EU, how it functions and Canada-EU relations”

Presenter: Dr. Valerie D’Erman

Instructor in the Department of Political Science, UVic



Valerie D'Erman has been an instructor in the Department of Political Science since 2010. She has taught courses related to European Integration, International Relations, and Comparative Politics, as well as co-taught the department's 103 World of Politics course.

Valerie's research interests include comparative political economy, theories of European integration, international relations, and European political parties.

She has published in numerous academic journals and has contributed to edited volumes with Ashgate Press (2010) and University of Toronto Press (2018).

In 2017 Valerie won the Gilian Sherwin Award for Excellence in Teaching.

“The European Union (EU) is a post-war experiment that brings together 27 countries in Europe under an unprecedented umbrella. Frequently referred to as ‘sui generis’, the EU is much more than a typical international organization (such as the United Nations or the World Health Organization), and yet not quite a familiar federal construct. Member states of the EU both retain their fundamental sovereignty while simultaneously relinquish a great deal of authority over policy-making to the supranational level. How do we understand this tension within a world that is still largely defined by countries, particularly on a continent that is home to some of the biggest political actors on the world stage? This talk will explain the basic history and functioning of the EU as well as introduce some of the current challenges and opportunities, and will also describe EU-Canada relations.”

UNDERSTANDING The EU: An Elder Academy Event

Saturday, Nov 13th, 10am

“European Border Issues”

Presenter: Professor Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly

Professor & Jean Monnet Chair, UVic School of Public Administration



Emmanuel worked for the French public sector for 10 years, including postings with the French Small Business Administration and the Nord Pas-de-Calais Regional Council. In both capacities, he worked with the European Commission and the European Union Directorate for Regional Policies in Brussels. Prior to his appointment at UVic, Emmanuel was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Western Ontario from 1999-2000, and Assistant Director of the Nanovic Institute for European Studies at the University of Notre Dame from 2000-2001.

Emmanuel joined the UVic School of Public Administration in 2001. He was the Jean Monnet Chair in European Urban and Border Region Policy (2014-16), and currently, he is the Jean Monnet Chair in Innovative Governance (2017-20). Also, he is the director of the Borders In Globalization research program (2013-20), and Director of the European Union Jean Monnet Center and the Jean Monnet Network research programs (2013-19) as well.

Emmanuel teaches students with interests in complex policy and governance issues, such as, the governance of policies straddling international boundaries (custom, ecological, migration, regulatory, security, as well as, urban, regional, planning and transportation governance policies), and, the governance of Canadian policies affecting First Nations in the post Truth and Reconciliation era (such as intergovernmental relations across policy arenas, but also government and self-determination).

Emmanuel has published over 100 article and book chapters in English, French and Spanish. He has edited books and special issues of academic journals. Currently, he is finishing a book comparing the border security policies of countries in the Europe, North American, Australasia, South America and South.

“For the last 30 years the European Union has become the richest trade area in the world, and since 2014 in particular it has been faced with increased immigration uncommon in the western world. EU border policies dealing with trade issues and immigration have been strained over and over. In this presentation, Emmanuel, will discuss how the Union and member states have adapted to such sweeping changes, looking at genesis of border policies, the current immigration crisis and Brexit to illustrate this evolution.”

UNDERSTANDING The EU: An Elder Academy Event

Saturday, Nov 20th, 10am

“Understanding Fiscal Solidarity in the EU”

Presenter: Professor Paul Schure

Associate professor, Department of Economics, UVic



Paul Schure is an associate professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Victoria. Paul works on financial intermediation, industrial organisation, and European integration. His work has appeared in various international economics and finance journals. His most recent work analyses the behaviour and role of angel investors in the start-up eco-system.

Paul obtained his PhD from the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. Prior to joining UVic in 2000, he also spent a year as a postdoc student at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and 4 months as a consultant at the European Investment Bank (1998). Paul held visiting positions at the Robert Schuman Centre of the European University Institute (2002 and 2005), the University of Bonn (2003), Utrecht University (2008), the University of Amsterdam (2009), Ben Gurion

University of the Negev (2011), and the Free University of Amsterdam. In Fall 2014 he was Fellow at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Studies (NIAS).

Paul was five times elected member on the board of the European Community Studies Association-Canada (ECSA-C) and co-organised the ECSA-C biennial conferences of 2008 and 2010. He was guest co-editor of the 2008 special issue of the Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics and organiser of the Financial Institutions Summer School, held at the University of Victoria in June 2010. He also co-organised the inaugural and second International Workshops on Financial System Architecture & Stability (i.e. IWFSAS 2016, in Victoria BC; and IWFSAS 2017, in Montreal, QC).

“This session focuses on fiscal solidarity in the EU, which is the willingness or practice of governments of EU member states to provide financial support to governments of other EU member states with an identified need. Instruments of fiscal solidarity can be direct transfers between EU governments or they can take the form of support for new or existing funds or institutions to support EU members states in need. In Canada equalization transfers are an institutional form of fiscal solidarity between the provinces.”

In this session I will present results of an expert survey on fiscal solidarity in the European Union. The survey circulated in April-August 2021 in Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Portugal, that is, in a small and a large member state in “the North”, and a small and a large member state in “the South” of the Euro Area. We surveyed academics, researchers at research institutes and think tanks, and civil servants with expertise on macroeconomic policy, public finance and/or Economic and Monetary Union (EMU). The survey design captures that expert opinions on fiscal solidarity may depend on a number of factors, including geography, the idea of respondents regarding the perceived benefits of the EU and EMU, as well as their vision for EU, and their political preferences. The survey data suggest, among other matters, that several of these factors do indeed play an important role in shaping expert opinions on fiscal solidarity in the EU.”

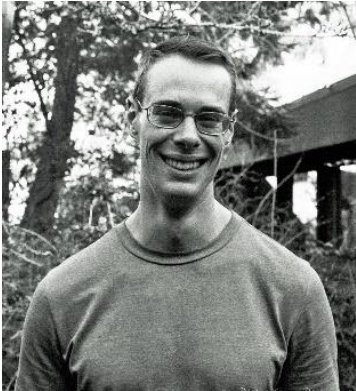
UNDERSTANDING The EU: An Elder Academy Event

Saturday, Nov 27th, 10am

“European Law and National Sovereignty: Exploring Europe’s ‘Constitutional Pluralism’”

Presenter: Dr. Keith Cherry

Instructor, University of Victoria; Associate Faculty, Royal Roads



Dr. Keith Cherry is a settler academic and activist living on unceded Lekwungen territories. Keith is currently a Killam Postdoctoral fellow at the University of Alberta, a graduate fellow at the University of Victoria’s Central for Global Studies, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Alberta’s Center for Constitutional Studies, and a fellow at the Cedar Trees Institute.

Keith’s interdisciplinary research blends political science, law, economics and political philosophy. His research interests include legal pluralism, decolonization, and agonistic politics with a focus on Canada and the European Union. Keith’s PhD dissertation offered a comparative analysis of pluralism in Canada and the European Union. He has taught multiple courses concerning European integration, law, legal ethics and settler colonialism, and has published on European, Canadian and transnational politics.

Keith is also active in non-violent direct action in support of Indigenous sovereignty and climate justice.

“The principle of national sovereignty is a cornerstone of the modern world order, allowing each state to make its own autonomous decisions free from outside interference. This makes it possible for each government to be formally accountable to its own citizens and no one else.

In the context of the European Union, however, member states are constrained to work within legally binding rules and structures that are set, in part, by the citizens of other countries. These rules are not voluntary, and they can be enforced in national courts. By creating a system of binding transnational law that constrains its member states’ decision making power, the European Union changes the nature of international law and throws the concept of national sovereignty into question.

In this talk, we will explore how the Court of Justice of the European Union has sought to limit national sovereignty by declaring European law supreme over national law, and how national courts have sought to protect their sovereignty by imposing limits on European Law. The resulting system is one of “constitutional pluralism” – a unique system where multiple sovereigns coordinate their decisions in ways that challenge and transform traditional notions of sovereignty and democratic accountability.

Finally, we will conclude by discussing the relevance of “constitutional pluralism” here in ‘Canada.’”

UNDERSTANDING The EU: An Elder Academy Event

Saturday, Dec 4th, 10am

“COVID-19 and the EU: a game changer or same old?”

Presenter: Professor Amy Verdun

Professor Political Science, & Director of European Studies Program, UVic



Amy Verdun is Professor of Political Science and the founding Director of the European Studies Program at the University of Victoria (UVic) and served as Chair of the Department (2010-2013). She was on leave from 2018-2020, during which time she served as Professor of European Politics and Political Economy at Leiden University (The Netherlands).

In July 2017 she was awarded the first Distinguished Lansdowne Fellow of UVIC's Faculty of Social Sciences, a position given to an established researcher in recognition of outstanding, internationally recognized contributions to scholarship in their area of expertise. Dr. Verdun holds a PhD in Political and Social Sciences from the European University Institute Florence Italy (1995). Her earlier appointments were at the University of Leiden (1991-92) and at the University of Essex (1995-96). She has been a faculty member at UVic since 1997.

She has published in numerous scholarly journals and refereed articles for several journals. She is the author of several recent books on European Union Governance and Policy Making. Her earlier books include Britain and Canada and their Large Neighboring Monetary Unions.

She has served in various capacities in professional associations and as a member of several advisory boards.

“The COVID-19 pandemic posed unprecedented challenges to the European Union (EU), its member states as well as the international economic and political order. This lecture aims to explain the political and economic responses of the EU to the pandemic; to assess the implications of this crisis on the institutions, policies and politics of the EU; and to draw lessons from it, relating these findings to long standing debates in EU studies and political science. The lecture provides an analysis of the political and economic responses Covid-19 in the period since in March 2020 when it was declared a pandemic. This crisis has profound and far-reaching implications including for the EU and its citizens.

The crisis generated by the pandemic raises several important questions i) how has the EU responded to the pandemic and why? ii) what have been the repercussions of the pandemic crisis for the institutions, policies and politics of the EU? iii) What lessons can be drawn from these studies?

In this lecture we will review a number of major themes that the EU has grappled with in recent years. They include: the choice of deepening economic and political integration in the EU versus the risk of a falling apart of this project; the tension between the EU and its member states (and, occasionally, subnational units) concerning the distribution of competences, and the extension of EU's competences to new terrains in times of crises; the redistributive issues triggered by the pandemic within and across countries ('north' versus 'south' and 'east' versus 'west', for instance), generating 'winners' and 'losers' as well as political discontent; the effects of the pandemic as a manifestation of globalisation; the effects of the crisis and its management on public opinion and political parties, in particular support (or otherwise) for the EU, but also the occurrence of protest events; and finally further international cooperation more broadly, including complex dynamics concerning cross-border regional (EU) and international political and economic cooperation.”