

EUROSPHERE

International Project Conference



Towards a Diverse European Public Sphere? Theoretical Puzzles and Empirical Evidences

Date: 13 – 14 November 2009

Host: Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (IMIS), University of Osnabrück

Location: University of Osnabrück, Germany

Organiser: Prof. Dr. Michael Bommers (IMIS, University of Osnabrück)

The EUROSPHERE Project

EUROSPHERE is an integrated project funded by the European Commission within the European Union's 6th Framework Programme, involving researchers from different disciplines and 16 countries and coordinated by the University of Bergen (Norway). The main objective of the project is to create innovative perspectives on the European public spheres and to identify the conditions that enable or undermine the articulation of inclusive European public spheres. In each participating country, researchers analyse political parties, social movement organisations, think tanks and media, as well as the trans-European counterparts and networks of these, with the aim to create a knowledge base on how organisations contribute to the articulation of different types of public spheres in contexts of complex diversity. After the periods of theoretical and methodological elaboration, followed by the data collection activities, the project will be able to present its first results in this conference.

Aim of the conference

Having reached this point in the project, the first international conference in November 2009 aims to face up *EUROSPHERE*'s theoretical and empirical approaches to criticism of external experts. The central research topics of *EUROSPHERE* will be addressed here contrasting *EUROSPHERE* research and its first results with critical views in theoretical and empirical terms. For this purpose, the conference will focus on two major thematic issues:

- *Does a European Public Sphere (EPS) exist and how can it be approached?*
- *The tension between diversity and unity in the EU as a challenge for a EPS – which are the structural consequences of diversity for EPS (and vice versa)?*



First day 13 November 2009

Does a European Public Sphere (EPS) exist and how can it be approached?

9.00 Reception and registration

9.15 Welcome

May-Britt Kallenrode (Vice President of the University of Osnabrück)

Andreas Pott (Director of the Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies)

Hakan G. Sicakkan (EUROSPHERE Coordinator)

9.45 **Göran Therborn**

Is there a European Public Sphere?

Coffee break

11.00 **Jean-Claude Barbier**

Public spaces, forums and arenas. The example of social Europe

11.45 **Yngve Lithman and Hakan Sicakkan**

EPS: Its Potential and Limits. A Reply from EUROSPHERE

Lunch

14.00 **Panel I: How significant is EPS for actors and what are the communicative infrastructures of EPS?**

- Hungarian think tanks and the European Public Sphere (*Anna Selmeczi*)
- EPS and the meanings of 'significance'. Preliminary findings for political parties, social movements, and print media in the Spanish case study (*Alberto Arribas Lozano*)
- Boundary-Work of National Unity. Legislative Discourses Framing Representations of Finnish National Identity in Political Rhetoric and Media (*Niko Pyrhönen / Karin Creutz-Kämppi*)

Coffee break

16.30 **Panel II: Does the EPS have a democratic potential? Methodological issues and empirical research**

- Trans-European Networks of NGOs (*Acar Kutay*)
- Media's Role in Articulation of a European Public Sphere (*Hakan Sicakkan*)
- The Rhetoric of Europeanness (*Karin Creutz-Kämppi / Peter Holley*)

20.00 **Conference Dinner**



Second day 14 November 2009

The tension between diversity and unity in the EU as a challenge for a EPS – which are the structural consequences of diversity for EPS (and vice versa)?

9.30 Peter Kivisto

Diversity and EPS: How to approach as a Field for Empirical Research?

10.15 Peter Kraus and Monika Mokre

Diversity – its politics and meanings. A Reply from EUROSPHERE

Coffee break

11.00 Panel III: How to approach issues of diversity? What are the effects of diversity in European society on the development of EPS infrastructures?

- Framing of diversity and the EU by the Hungarian print media (*Beáta Huszka*)
- The diversity model in France seen at the regional level: Corsica and Lorraine (*Wanda Dressler / Liza Terrazoni*)

Lunch

14.00 Panel IV: What are the normative and symbolic implications of diversity in politics, for public spheres and EPS? Methodological issues and empirical research

- The tension between diversity and unity in the EU: European integration and future prospects for complex diversity (Group of EUROSPHERE Researchers, coordination: Helene Pristed Nielsen)
- Citizens' attitudes to the European Union and social representations of different types of diversity (*Hakan Sicakkan/ Martina Klicperova-Baker / Yolanda Zografova*)
- The diversity of cultural diversity (*Artan Fuga*)

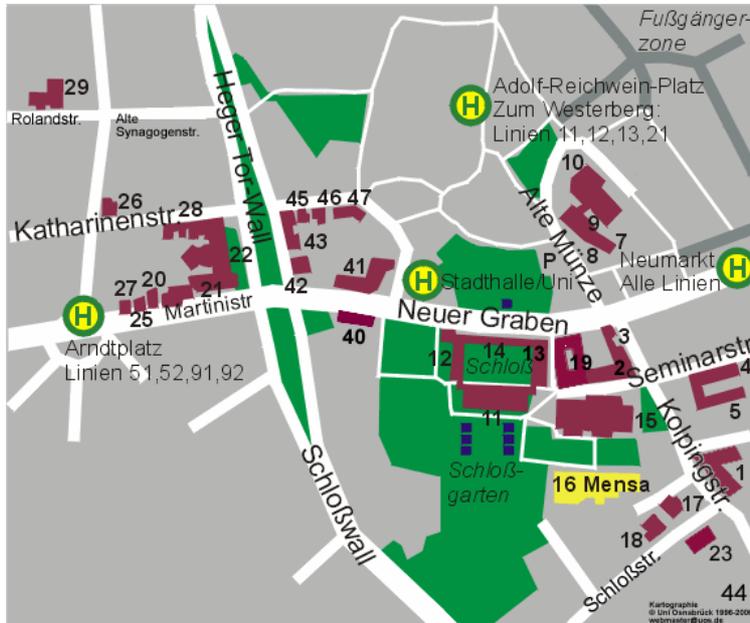
Coffee break

16.30 Round table discussion:

Diversity and the European Public Sphere – Assessments, Expectations, Requirements

17.30 Mikko Lagerspetz

Conclusion: What are the implications and consequences of the conference results for understanding the articulation of inclusive European public spheres?



Conference Venue:
University of Osnabrück,
building 1
Kolpingstr. 7
49069 Osnabrück

Framework programme on Saturday 14 November

With the Night-watchman through Osnabrück

200 years of tradition ended when the last night watch patrolled Osnabrück in 1913. Today the night-watchman takes you through his Osnabrück. You are welcomed in the Peace Chamber, which is illuminated by candles. Then his guests, armed with lanterns, follow him through the lanes of the Old Town and into two old defensive towers which were also used as prisons. The extended version of the tour includes an extraordinary experience: You have a breathtaking view of nightly Osnabrück from the observation platform, about 40 metres high, of St. Mary's tower.
(free of charge for conference participants)

For further information please visit

<http://www.imis.uni-osnabrueck.de/EuroSphereConference.htm> or contact

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