



Oxford



Leiden



Bologna



Bonn



Geneva



Paris



Prague



Madrid



Helsinki



Krakow

EVROPAEVM

Winter 2007/8

Briefing

Connecting Europe through history

A series of special European history seminars are being run over the current academic year in all 10 Europaeum universities as part of a special programme to encourage new perspectives on European history and new modes of history teaching in schools.

The project - entitled *Connecting Europe through History* - is being run in collaboration with the European History teachers association, EUROCLIO, which is also running a series of its own seminars in other European countries.

The overall themes are Human Rights, Tolerance, Democracy, Citizenship, and the idea is to develop critical and diverse thinking. The project is being partially supported by the European Union.

A key aim is to collect ideas and data from the various discussions to develop a report on new pathways for History teaching in European schools, including, for example, key texts, key turning points, comparative approaches, and good practice.

A major international conference is planned at Leiden University in late April, around the programme themes, with a Europaeum

participant from each university.

The first Europaeum event in this series was in Krakow last October, with Professor David Marquand, professor of politics at Oxford, giving an inspirational lecture on *The Challenges for Democracy in Europe*. This was followed by a well attended workshop with participants and teachers from higher and secondary education taking part.

A History workshop is planned at Paris 1 - Sorbonne on February 8th with Professors Jean-Phillipe Genet, Robin Briggs and John Watts, along with students from the association's *European History and Civilisation* programme, on medieval origins of democracy, with further seminars planned in Bologna, Geneva, Bonn and Leiden.

In March, History teachers will be invited to join a research workshop on the use of European political concepts in Helsinki; in April to a seminar in Prague on European ideas; and in May to a research workshop in Madrid on cultural difference in Europe; and finally a seminar on medieval history, to be held in Oxford.

Inquiry reports highlights University challenges

A new Europaeum report highlights the key role of 'trust' that leading European universities must play in modern European societies, awash with new forms of communications, and new forms of teaching and learning.

The report discusses the roles and responsibilities of modern universities towards their democratic societies, to citizens, to the economy, but also to the wider world, in bridging the North-South divide and making new ideas and research available both to fellow scholars and world at large, as well as produce "trusted" data and provide open accessto all.

The report is based on a an inquiry into *The Future of European Universities* in the face of the current knowledge revolution, involving three major international conferences of experts held in Berlin, Paris, and Bonn.

The report, aimed at higher education leaders and policy-makers. was made possible

through the generosity of leading German technology company, DaimlerChrysler AG Services.

A detailed report of proceedings, running to some 200 pages, has been prepared, including contributions made by Mary Robinson, Lord (Claus) Moser, Sir Peter Scott, Dominique Moisi, Ben Okri, Jacques Lang, Gerd Schulte-Hillen, Marcello Pera, Bahram Bekhradnia, Avi Primor George Weidenfeld, and many other senior figures from UNESCO, the EU, OECD, corporations, academe, politics, government, media, as well as Europaeum University heads, faculty and student leaders.

The full proceedings, together with background papers, special policy papers, summaries and links, are also combined in a special new section opened this month on the Europaeum's website.

INSIDE: New initiatives – Oxford-Geneva links – Digitisation – Summer Schools
Classics Colloquium – Europaeum Visiting Professors – Diary

The EVROPAEVM Mission

The Europaeum was founded in 1992 as an association of European universities, with a mission to:

- *Promote excellence in academic links in research and teaching collaboration between the Europaeum partners;*
- *Act as an open academic network linking the Europaeum partners and other bodies in the pursuit of study;*
- *Serve as a resource for the general support and promotion of European studies;*
- *Function independently in the search for new ideas;*
- *Provide opportunities for the joint pursuit of new pan-European initiatives;*
- *Serve as a high level 'think-tank' exploring new ideas and new roles for universities in the new Learning Age;*
- *Provide a 'pool of talent' to carry out research and inquiry into problems and questions confronting Europe today and tomorrow;*
- *Help train and educate future leaders for a new Europe.*

The Europaeum consortium consists of 10 leading European university institutions: University of Oxford, University of Leiden, University of Bologna, University of Bonn, University of Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne; the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva; Charles University, Prague; Complutense University, Madrid; University of Helsinki; and Jagiellonian University, Krakow.

Consortium activities include: joint research project groups, annual conferences, special lectures, student summer schools, joint teaching programmes, a visiting professor scheme, innovative academic initiatives, policy fora, workshops and one-day symposia.

New initiatives on EU policy, tech transfer, and links with Turkey

In recent months the Europaeum has supported a range of new academic initiatives under its small grants schemes which have taken in Brussels, Leiden, Milan, Bologna and Oxford.

■ Europaeum graduates attended a special three-day seminar reviewing European policy-making in Brussels. directly with a range of experts and senior EU officers. Policy themes included foreign, migration, Economic, defence, plus conceptualising the EU and the role played by institutions.

The seminar was run in collaboration with the Institute of Politics, Catholic University of Portugal, and the European Parliament, and included many visits. All sessions were highly interactive.

■ How universities can collaborate successfully with industry formed the theme of a special seminar held at the University of Bologna last November, co-ordinated by the Europaeum, with support from the University and the Assochem Society.

The event on *Technology Transfer: Best Practices and Models of Excellence*, formed part of the continuing programme on *Culture, Humanities & Technology in Europe Programme*. The keynote speaker was Dr Tim Cook, former managing director of Oxford's highly successful Isis Innovation., which has been responsible for almost 60 spin-out companies and more than 400 patents over the past 10 years, worth about €1 billion.

■ In Leiden a new Turkey Institute was formally launched, with backing from a range of leading Dutch businesses, to promote understanding about Turkey, develop links with Turkish institutions and to develop new research under guidance of Professor Erik Zurcher. The event marked a major step forward in the initiative to develop academic collaboration with Turkish universities, under the Europaeum's *Islam-in-Europe* programme.

■ Among future initiatives this year will be a student-inspired workshop, arising out of the last Europaeum summer school on the *Borders of Europe*, to study migration policies and developments.

Oxford - Geneva links continue

Academic collaboration linking the Graduate Institute for International Relations (HEI) in Geneva and the University of Oxford flourishes, thanks in part to a special ear-marked grant.

Last year Europaeum Lectures by Professor Hew Strachan (Oxford) on the *Changing Character of War*, and Professor Henrik Kierzkowski (HEI) on *Globalisation* were given, and this year Professor Vaughan Lowe (Oxford) will lecture on *Rights and International Law* in HEI, and Professor Vera Gowlland-Debbas on a similar theme in Oxford.

A Europaeum bursary scheme, supporting graduates from each university to spend time researching in archives at the partner university, continues.

Funds are also being used to promote the *US-Europe Dialogue Programme*, including last year's collaborative international event in Washington DC and a further workshop on *Atlantacism* and *Enlargement* planned for 2008.

Focus on digitising library texts

Digitising texts has become one of the key activities for leading university libraries and yet relatively little is known about the strategies and thinking behind decisions in this field.

Now the Europaeum is organising an international conference on the *Dilemmas of Digitalisation*, in Oxford, to be held on 23rd - 25th May 2008, in partnership with the Madison Françoise at Oxford, with support from the Bodleian Library, and others.

The event will illustrate good practice with range of successful and perhaps less successful initiatives and seek answers to such questions as: *Who decides? Who pays? Who benefits? Who coordinates? And how do we avoid duplication?*

The event aims to bring together librarians, technologists, academic researchers, archivists and policy makers, including representatives from partner universities.

Keynote speakers will come from Paris, and also from the European Union, which has formulated a recent European digitisation directive strategy; Google, which is supporting a multimillion Bodleian digitisation programme; and other relevant bodies and companies. More information will be put on the website.

Classicists air myths and culture

The Europaeum's sixth annual Classics Colloquium, brought together leading scholars and young graduates from across the association, at Oxford's new Classics Centre, to discuss interdisciplinary themes in the work of Jean-Pierre Vernant, who died this year.

Papers were given under the headings of myth, culture and society by both established scholars and by graduate students from all Europaeum universities.

Jean-Pierre Vernant (1914-2007) was a towering figure in Classics, both in his native France and internationally. Educated at the Sorbonne, a Europaeum partner institution, he commanded the SW French resistance forces before teaching Philosophy, Ancient History and Classics, and setting up new research centres.

The event was directed by Professor Stephen Harrison, Professor of Classical Languages and Literature, at Oxford.

New Visiting Professors

The Europaeum has supported a number of Europaeum Visiting Professors, travelling from one partner university to another to give lectures, teach or take part in research work

Iain McLain, Professor of Politics at Oxford University, is an EVP linked to Charles University, Prague, giving a series of lectures over the year as part of a developing programme in British Studies. He also took part in the launch of the programme, graced by Princess Anne.

Professor David Marquand, former Principal of Mansfield College, was an EVP last October at the Jagiellonian University, Krakow, when he delivered a Europaeum Lecture on *The Challenges for Democracy in Europe*.

He also took part in a lively workshop, arranged with EUROCLIO History teachers association, to delve into how issues raised in the lecture could be adopted for classroom teaching.

Last year, Dr Piotr Mikuli, Professor of Comparative Constitutional Law at the Jagiellonian University, Krakow, served as an *EVP* attached at the Institute of European and Comparative Law at Oxford University, when he carried out research work particularly on judicial activism and judicial review.

Future EVPs include Professor John Darwin, Fellow of Nuffield College and Professor of History at Oxford, who will be teaching and giving a lecture on Medieval History, at Leiden University in the spring.

2008 Summer School to analyse "sacred" buildings in Europe

The 2008 Summer School will take place in Bonn at the beginning of September in the theme of *Sacred Building in Modern Cities* looking at the place of sacred buildings, the sacred in religion, and religious thinking in Europe.

As usual, it will involve three graduates from each of the 10 Europaeum universities. All costs - apart from travel - will be fully covered by the Europaeum. Please get in touch with the Europaeum Office to register your interest. Participants will need a letter of support from their professor or supervisor.

The 2007 Summer School, in Helsinki just completed, on the theme of *The Borders of Europe*, with 29 graduates, included discussion of where borders end, including Turkish membership; the impact of recent Enlargements; and the impact of migration.

Past summer schools have looked at *Bridging Divides: EU-US Relations After 9/11; Multilateral Governance: Effective ways forward?; Islam and Europe: building bridges; Old and New Ideas of European Federalism; and European Economic Integration.*