

West European Studies

Newsletter

March 2003

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The most pressing policy issues confronting Europe will be addressed by experts, says the director of WEST David Audretsch

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The new WEST workshop: Academic learning in informal setting

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Lecture Schedule

March 10: European Law

Speaker: Dr. Vera Hoppe, Visiting scholar IUB Law School, from Universität zu Köln, Cologne, Germany and Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes, Bonn, Germany

March 24: European Agriculture

Speaker: Dr. Dan Knudsen of the Department of Geography, West European Studies, and International

The new WEST Workshop in Contemporary European Policy Issues, starting in the second eight-weeks of the Spring semester, is not a usual class. "It differs because it is centered around a series of speakers who will address specific topics focusing on Europe and the most pressing policy issues confronting Europe," explained the Director of the West European Studies David Audretsch. The workshop will enable the participants to hear first-hand from a broad range of experts spanning different academic disciplines and perspectives in a relatively informal, interactive setting.

Studies

March 31: Jean Monnet and the Founding of the EU

Speaker: Dr. Henry Remak, Professor Emeritus of West European Studies, Germanic Studies, and Comparative Literature

April 7: Is the EU a Nation State?

Speaker: Dr. Randall Baker of the School of Public and Environmental Affairs

April 14: European Monetary Union

Speaker: Dr. Michele Fratianni of the Kelley School of Business

April 21: National Identities: Redesigning Internal Borders

Speaker: Josep Sobrer of the Department of Spanish & Portuguese

April 28: European Union Expansion and Integration

Speaker: Dr. Janusz Mucha, visiting scholar at Indiana University South Bend, from Nicholas Copernicus University, Poland

According to Dr. Audretsch, the purpose of the course is to provide a unifying academic experience for all of the graduate students' interests in or involved in some aspect of Western Europe. In that sense, the course is intended to provide a capstone experience, which should be shared by all WEST graduate students. In addition, the course is intended to provide preparation and motivation for students enrolled in the three-week graduate summer seminar that takes place in Europe.

European integration enhances the awareness of dialects

WEST professors comment on the multi-lingual mix resulting from the biggest ever enlargement of the EU

The decision of the European Union to increase the number of its members from 15 to 25 will not only bring new political and financial challenges, but it will also pose new linguistic problems. For now, Brussels interprets and translates into 11 official languages. The enlargement will almost double the number of languages spoken in the EU. The European Commission is currently working on urgent plans to deal with the multi-lingual mix resulting from the biggest enlargement the EU has ever seen.

What will happen to the EU commitment to multilingualism when the ten new members join the Union? Is English taking over as the dominant language in Europe? French was the most used language in the EU only a couple of years ago but now some analysts doubt that French and German will even remain working languages of the EU. How is European integration affecting regional languages and dialects and the identity of people in those communities?

WEST asked its faculty members for a commentary on these questions. Prof. Andrea Ciccarelli, Prof. Peter Boerner, Prof. Josep Miquel Sobrer, and Prof. Guillaume Ansart – all experts on different European languages - discuss below the linguistic challenges facing the 25-member EU.

Andrea Ciccarelli

Professor of Italian, Chair of Department and Director, College Arts and Humanities Institute

Europe's loyalty to linguistic diversity could be put to a test when the ten new members join the Union and it is inevitable that English will be predominant because of business, particularly. But at the local level, actually, it could be the opposite. In fact, linguistic diversity at the regional/national level could be reinforced by a reaction to centralism.

I think English will be the most known foreign language. There has always been a dominant language in Europe (Latin, Italian in the Renaissance, French until World War II, then English) and that has not prevented the development of the others. Nonetheless, in our mediatic society there is a faster tendency to imitate and this could facilitate the use of a language universally recognized as more "useful." I do believe that in the current scenario French is still the second one, more than Spanish and German. Spanish will become increasingly important when in the future the EU will begin operating as a business group in central-south America.

I do not believe the 25-member EU should speak in one tongue. It would be desirable, however, that the members of the EU congress spoke at least two European languages beside their own, and possibly one of them English.

In these past few decades, Italian dialects have already lost their long daily supremacy in mid-size and large towns, with a few exceptions (Naples, Venice, Sicily, etc.) to standard Italian (we can now often speak of regional accents, more than of dialects). The spread of education and TV and radio were the "culprit." Paradoxically, the European integration has enhanced the awareness of dialects and minority languages and now Italy recognizes seven different linguistic groups in Italy, and obliges schools to comply with bilingualism in those areas: Sardinian, Furlan, Croatian and Slovenian (all three in Friuli, northeast of Italy), German (Sud Tyrol), French (Val d'aosta), Romancio (north east: Lombardy, Trentino and Veneto).

Peter Boerner

Professor Emeritus of Germanic Studies and West European Studies

There is no doubt in my mind that within a few years English will be the dominant language in Europe. This will be particularly true as far as all forms of business are concerned. Larger corporations have initiated this trend already, and many midsize,

even smaller industries will be forced to follow suit. Communications within financial institutions and the transportation industries will be completely bilingual, perhaps even with English first, the national language second.

English will be less dominant among officials and employees of the European Union. As is already the custom in the Brussels headquarters, one will hear English, French, and German spoken as if there were no differences among these languages. Whoever accepts a job in Brussels must be at least bilingual.

At formal conferences and plenary sessions of the EU all delegates will be allowed to use their own languages, with simultaneous translations. Most written documents of the EU will be in English, French, and German, with the exception of legislation applying to the individual states. They will continue to be published in ALL languages, an incredible effort.

As far as research is concerned: English will probably be used exclusively in the natural sciences, also in the social sciences. Communications among scholars in the humanities may involve more linguistic flexibility.

Josep Miquel Sobrer

Professor of Spanish, Expert on Catalan

It is hard to imagine French or Spanish or any other language becoming the first official language of Europe. English is de facto the language of the global world, at least the Western world. The EU's main international links, for trade and for defense, are with the US. And most continental Europeans, at any rate, are already fluent in English. At least this is what I think the pragmatics of the situation dictates.

From the regional languages perspective, for Catalonia, for example, the consolidation and growth of the European Union is a double-edged sword. On the positive side, the European Union represents for Catalonia a welcome dilution of the powers of the centralized Spanish state. Madrid has never understood Catalonia, as it has never understood the other Spanish regions with strong, historical claims to autonomy, most notable Euskadi, the Basque country. Another positive effect of European unity for Catalonia is the economic opportunities that what is known as "the Europe of the regions" might bring. Rather than depend on Madrid, say, Barcelona might form tight economic associations with such non-capital cities as Lyons or Milan or both. Indeed for some years now the autonomous Catalan government, the Generalitat, has been fostering such ties.

On the negative side, a grander Europe might mean the erosion of Catalan identity, and most notably the weakening of Catalonia's language. The Catalan language has been one of two key elements in defining Catalan identity. No matter what politicians say, a Catalan is one who speaks Catalan and who makes Catalan the language of self and family, even if it is one generation down the line. (The other defining element has been opposition to the moth-eaten imperialist visions that are always a political force in Madrid's centers of power.)

With the enlargement of the EU, Catalan identity will be eroded further. Some attempt was made a few years ago to make Catalan an official language of the EU. This succeeded only in principle; it had no practical applications. With 25 members,

the languages of the non-national communities within the EU (Catalan is the largest of quite a large group) will be further pushed aside. Globalization, or Europeanization, means standardization which implies the disappearance of diversity. Catalan, as other regional languages, is bound to disappear within a few generations. Whether legislative acts can slow that process remains to be seen. The creation of one official language for the EU, paradoxically, would be advantageous for Catalan as the many languages of the union would then not be ranked in order of importance but rather all have equal status as co-official with that one language.

Guillaume Ansart

Professor of French

The addition of ten new members to the EU will certainly present a linguistic challenge and a move toward English as the main administrative language is probably inevitable. But French and German will remain important. In this field as in the purely political sphere, a balance will have to be found between respect for diversity and the need for efficiency. As for regional languages, the question is different. The diminution of the importance of the nation-states does not have to affect them negatively. Regional languages do not have to be affected by the gradual transfer of sovereignty from the nation-states to a European federal government. In some cases, they might actually benefit from it.

Faculty Highlights:

William Corsaro given a Fulbright grant for research in Europe

William A. Corsaro, the Robert H. Shaffer Class of 1967 Endowed Professor of Sociology, has received a Fulbright Senior Specialists grant for research on children's peer cultures and early education policy in Italy and the United States. Corsaro is the author of the *Sociology of Childhood* (1997) and his new book "We're Friends, Right?: Inside Kids' Culture" will be published by Joseph Henry Press in September, 2003.

Corsaro has lectured throughout Europe and is interested in variations in policies regarding children's welfare, rights, and community involvement as well as early education policy. During the six weeks of the Fulbright Grant (from March 24th until May 5th, 2003) he will participate in a lecture series at the University of Norway, at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology and The Norwegian Centre for Child Research. After leaving Norway, he will lecture on childhood socialization in Sweden, Ireland, Spain and Portugal. Professor Corsaro is now in Modena, Italy, where he is supported by a grant from the Spencer Foundation while working on a research monograph with Professor Luisa Molinar of the University of Bologna. The monograph is based on a longitudinal study of a group of Italian children's transition for preschool to elementary school and their experiences in elementary school before they move on to middle school. It is the first study of its kind to follow children from

the well-known and high-quality preschool system in Italy on to elementary school. Professor Corsaro regularly teaches undergraduate classes on the sociology of childhood and a graduate class which compares children's cultures and social policies affecting their lives in the U.S. and Europe. Corsaro received his first Fulbright grant in 1983 for study in Italy.

Jane Fulcher awarded the sole Princeton grant in music

Jane Fulcher, Musicology (School of Music) and West European Studies, has been named the Edward T. Cone member in Music Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey, for 2003-03. Of the some 1,500 applications from all over the world, only 180 memberships (fellowships) are awarded, and of these only one is in music.

Prof. Fulcher is a specialist in French music of the 19th and 20th centuries, and particularly in the relation between music, politics, and ideology. She is the author of *The Nation's Image: French Grand Opera as Politics and Politicized Art* (Cambridge Univ. Press, 1987), *French Cultural Politics and Music from the Dreyfus Affair to the First World War* (Oxford University Press, 1999), and *The Composer as Intellectual: Music and Ideology in France 1914-1940* (forthcoming). At the Institute she will be working on her next book, "Reconfiguring Identity: Musical Culture and Creativity in France during the German Occupation." She has previously received fellowships from the French Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, and the German Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, in addition to the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Council of Learned Societies. She has twice been a visiting professor at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, in Paris.

Prof. Fulcher has been recently offered another prestigious fellowship. She was selected as a fellow at the National Humanities Center, at Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. Only 35 fellows were chosen out of 550 applications in all areas of the Humanities. Unless it can be delayed for a year, Prof. Fulcher shall have to decline it because of the simultaneity of the fellowship she has accepted at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ.

Fest

WEST celebrated Greek carnival

Faculty and students of West European Studies recently celebrated Greek Carnival with traditional Greek food and music.

Carnival is the four week period before the beginning of Easter Lent. It is a time of joy and happiness, traditionally a time when food supplies, such as cheese and meat products, have are consumed prior to the advent of Lent. It is also a time when dancing, feasting and drinking are encouraged and jokes and tricks are played on people.



Traditional carnival celebration in Greek Macedonia.

After Thursday, appropriately named "Meat Thursday" (Tsiknopempti), two weeks before Lent, the consumption of meat is forbidden. On Tsiknopempti parties are held, meat products are consumed and people dress up in costumes. The Sunday prior to Lent, is the culmination of Greek carnival with people feasting and watching parades. The Monday following that feast is called Clean Monday (Kathari Deftera) (known as "Ash Wednesday" in other Mediterranean, primarily Catholic countries), as tradition has it that all meat and cheese residues have to be cleaned out of pots and pans in the household. In Greece, Kathari Deftera is a day of picnics, Lenten foods (including unleavened flat bread called "layana") and kite-flying, an activity particularly loved by children.