

IPSE / Institute of Political Science / Robert Schuman Institute
ACADEMIC SEMINAR

**On the Uses and Abuses of Tradition in Political Economy:
The Case of Ordo-liberalism,
the German Economy, and the Euro**

**Kenneth Dyson, Professor Emeritus,
Cardiff University**

Fellow of the British Academy
Honorary Professor at the University of Luxembourg

Friday, 31 March 2017, 10h00-12h00

Room: MSH 03 25 080 (the seminar room next to the MSH elevators / the Panorama room)
Questions can be asked and answered in English and German

Please contact David Howarth (david.howarth@uni.lu) to register and receive the readings

Abstract / Summary

Ordo-liberalism, Keynesianism and neo-classical economics represent traditions in political economy rather than just schools or theories. This seminar examines the case of Ordo-liberalism and its uses and abuses by policy makers and commentators and in public debates with respect to the German economy and to the euro area and its crises. What kind of tradition is it? How is it to be understood in ideological terms? How has it been used and abused? The seminar draws both on close and wide reading of the Ordo-liberal literature and on ongoing, original archival research in Britain, France and Germany. It will look at various historical case studies, including the Great Depression, post-war German reconstruction, the formation of the European Economic Community, the design of EMU, and the Euro Area crises.

Key Text

K. Dyson and I. Maes (eds) (2016). *Architects of the Euro: Intellectuals in the Making of European Monetary Union*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, the chapters on Pöhl and Tietmeyer, to be sent (please contact David Howarth).

Biography

Professor Dyson's interests lie at the intersection of European integration, comparative and historical political economy, and German studies. In particular, he has worked on cross-national comparisons of economic and monetary policies in Europe and in post-war Germany. Professor Dyson seeks to explore the complex interactions of ideas, interests and institutions across space and over time, with a particular focus on underlying attitudes to public authority

and its use. He has a long-standing interest in state traditions in Europe and more specifically in German policies and politics in a European context, especially processes of economic reform. Professor Dyson's recent book *States, Debt, and Power* (with Oxford University Press) situates the current Euro Area crisis in historical perspective, using long-term data on debt from across Europe to identify patterns, continuities and discontinuities. Over the last decade, Professor Dyson's research has been principally concerned with the historical evolution of European macro-economic governance and policies. This research has concentrated on the euro as the most advanced project in European integration (10 books in total). Professor Dyson has examined its genesis, its negotiation, its governance, its effects on the balance between unitary and differentiated integration, accession issues especially relating to Central and Eastern Europe, its effects on EU member states, the political economy of time, and its reforms under conditions of crisis.

Additional Texts

Dyson, K. and Featherstone, K. (1999). *The Road to Maastricht: Negotiating Economic and Monetary Union*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Gerber, D. (1994). 'Constitutionalizing the Economy: German Neo-liberalism, Competition Law and the "New" Europe', *American Journal of Comparative Law*, 25.

Nicholls, A. (1994). *Freedom with Responsibility: The Social Market Economy in Germany 1918-1963*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Schmidt, V. (2002). *The Futures of European Capitalism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.