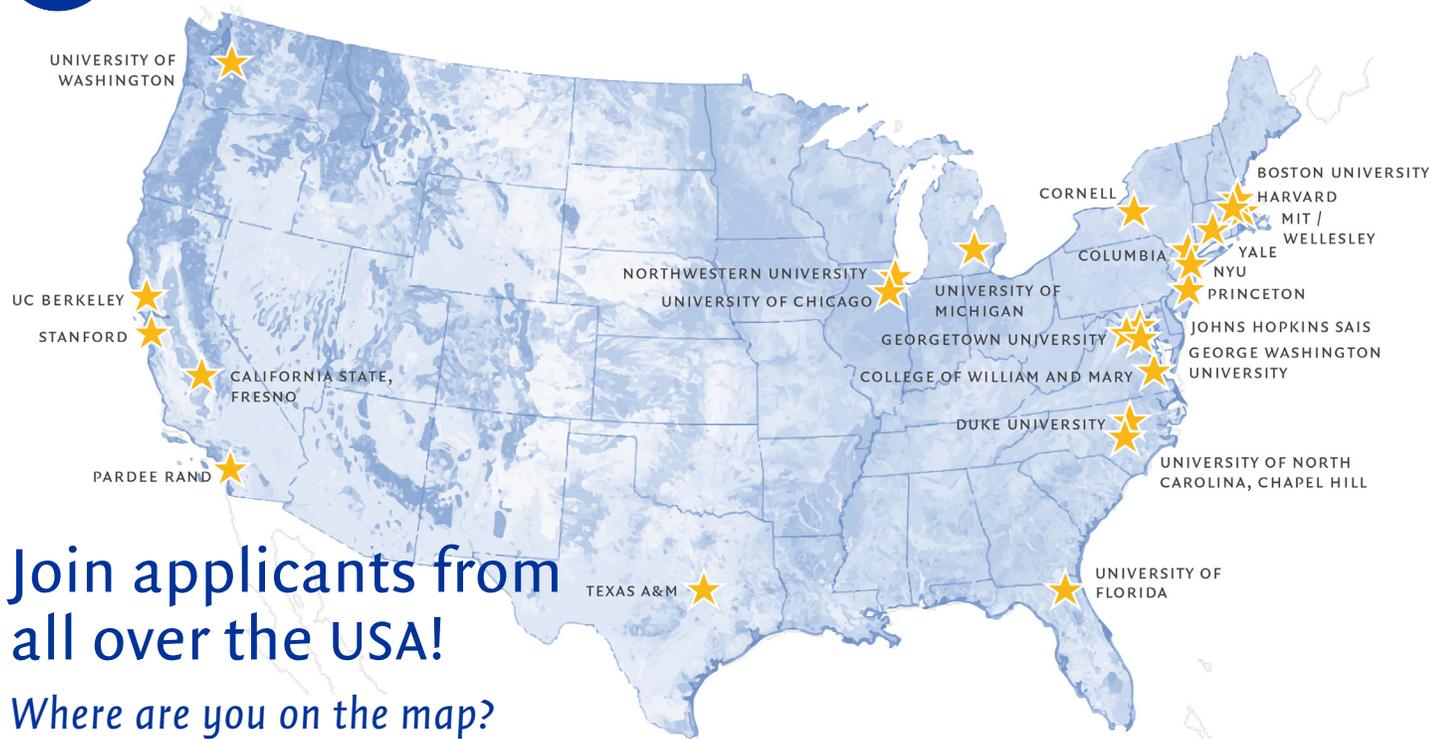




EUROPEAN STUDENT CONFERENCE 2015



Join applicants from all over the USA!

Where are you on the map?

Meet with 80 undergraduate and graduate students from the US and EU-experts to discuss the future of the European Union. Challenge your ideas, find solutions and have an impact on the policy debate in the EU. Make a personal contribution to international politics.

Why should you participate?

- Participate in workshops with leading scholars in European Union Studies and EU policy-makers
- Be part of the international network of future leaders and thinkers
- Spearhead the creation of a student think-tank for EU affairs in America
- Attend social events with students who share your enthusiasm for the EU
- Travel costs and accommodation covered
- American, European and international students enrolled at a US university are welcome to apply

First application round is over, thus applications are only open for undergraduate and business students.

Both American and international students who are currently enrolled at a US university are welcome to apply.

Further information and questions at info@escatyale.com.

THEMES FOR 2015

Borders: Immigration in the Mediterranean

Democratic Participation: Rise of Far-Right Extremism

Economy: Youth Unemployment and the Digital Economy

Identity: Social Solidarity

Transatlantic Relationship: Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

Among our featured EU policy-makers and scholars

Karel Schwarzenberg—Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Ignacio Garcia Bercero—EU’s Chief Negotiator for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

Scholars—**Seyla Benhabib, David Cameron, Jolyon Howorth, Vivien Schmidt and Adam Tooze**

Schedule / Deadline

When: February 13–14, 2015

Where: Yale School of Management

REGISTER BY DECEMBER 1 (2ND ROUND) at www.escatyale.com



Erasmus+



EUROPEAN STUDENT CONFERENCE 2015

The Future of
the European Union

YALE UNIVERSITY
FEBRUARY 13–14, 2015



Erasmus+

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SUMMARY

From February 13 to February 14, 2015, eighty undergraduate and graduate students from US universities will gather at Yale University to discuss the future of the European Union, their personal contribution to a more successful Union, and the creation of a **student think-tank for EU policies and affairs in the United States**.

The overall goals of the conference are for students:

- To develop a vision for the European Union concerning borders, transatlantic relations, an innovative economy, democratic participation and identity and solidarity in Europe.
- To enter into a debate with distinguished professors, current and former EU-policy makers, and representatives of the European Commission.
- To draft a concrete plan of action: How can each of us contribute to our vision in our own lifetime.
- To form a student think-tank to continue the debate and follow up on our vision with initiatives at US universities.
- To dedicate student creativity, ingenuity and time to build the future of the European Union.

The European Student Conference is co-funded by the European Union as a Jean Monnet Activity under the Erasmus+ Programme.

ADVISORY PANEL | PROFESSORS

DAVID BACH

Senior Associate Dean for Executive MBA and Global Programs at Yale School of Management

SEYLA BENHABIB

Eugene Mayer Professor of Political Science and Philosophy at Yale University

DAVID CAMERON

Professor of Political Science and Director of EU Studies at Yale University

JOLYON HOWORTH

Visiting Professor of Political Science at Yale University and Jean Monnet Professor at Bath University

VIVIEN SCHMIDT

Jean Monnet Professor of European Integration and Director of the Center for the Study of Europe at Boston University

ADAM TOOZE

Barton M. Biggs Professor of History at Yale University

We are in the process of forming an advisory board consisting of former policy-makers with vast experience in EU politics.

VALUES

Many of us were born and raised in a Europe markedly different from the Europe of our ancestors. We were raised in what is often referred to as “liberal democracy”—a society where we enjoy fundamental rights protection and economic opportunities. At the same time, we recognize that many of our fellow Europeans, both within the EU and outside of it, cannot enjoy these opportunities equally. Creating a Europe that offers democratic participation, fundamental rights protection, a thriving economy and financial system, and a common European identity to all inhabitants is our goal.

Many of us came to the United States to pursue higher education. We feel highly connected to the European Union and want to contribute our creativity, our ideas and our time to finding answers to the challenges ahead of us in the European Union. Thus, we want to come together with some of the most innovative European policy-makers and enlightening academics at a conference at Yale University in February 2015, to discuss our visions for the European Union and our personal contribution to their realization. We want to make this conference the starting point for a student think-tank that will be a contact point and support mechanism for students in the United States, enabling them to transform their motivation into concrete action for the benefit of the European Union.

PARTICIPANTS

Eighty American and international students from universities from all over the United States will participate at the conference. Participants pursue an undergraduate or graduate degree and, ideally, have some background in European Studies or prior involvement with EU institutions. Students need to apply to take part at the conference by submitting an online form and short essay about their motivation at www.escatyale.com, by October 27 (both undergraduates and graduates) and December 1, 2014 (only undergraduates and students of business schools, second round).

In addition to student participants, we expect that up to eighty more people will take part in the conference's activities: professors, current and former EU policy-makers (as workshop facilitators), keynote speakers, Yale Alumni, corporate sponsors, media representatives and the conference team.

The total number of participating individuals will approximate 160. The conference will take place in the rooms of the newly built Yale School of Management, which offers abundant and comfortable space for activities.

WORKSHOP LOGISTICS

There will be five workshops at the conference, each of them dealing with a specific topic relevant to European affairs. The workshops will consist of three sessions (the first two sessions will take place on February 13 and the third session will take place on February 14). Each conference participant will attend only one workshop throughout the conference and will work towards reaching a series of conclusions about the respective workshop topic in aforementioned three sessions. Students will furthermore participate in pre-conference discussions about their workshop topic in an online forum. By dedicating all their time to one workshop of their choice, workshop participants will produce high-quality and elaborate results.

A team of students (from the Yale conference team), a professor and an EU-policy maker will prepare each workshop together. The EU policy-maker could be an official of an EU institution or a researcher of an EU-related think-tank. He or she will facilitate discussion during the workshop's sessions and contribute commentaries from the perspective of a practitioner. The professor is an academic knowledgeable in European affairs. He or she will participate at the second workshop session, will offer his or her expertise on the workshop's question and stimulate debate among the participants. One student participant will serve as workshop's rapporteur to collect all ideas and thoughts.

The end-goal of each workshop is a written collection of thoughts, ideas and visions concerning the workshop's topic; and a written collection of strategies how each workshop participant can contribute towards the realization of these ideas in the future, personally and through the new student think-tank that we want to found at our conference.

WORKSHOP TOPICS

I. **How do we define the borders of the European project?**

CASE STUDY: Immigration in the Mediterranean

Burdened by economic and political instability at home, people from Africa and the Middle East cross the Mediterranean to Europe. Many have lost their lives in the process and those who survive often pose a social and financial challenge to EU member states. In this workshop, we will discuss the delineation of Europe's borders in the South. How can the EU balance the moral responsibility of helping migrants with the objective to control illegal immigration and protect local economies? Should migrants be classified as asylum seekers or unauthorized immigrants? What role can the EU play in combating the many factors that compel these people to leave their homes? How can one harmonize and reform the migration processes across the EU? We will discuss how to solve immigration in the Mediterranean as one of the persistent challenges Europe faces.

II. **How do we establish a beneficial transatlantic relationship?**

CASE STUDY: Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

In the past century, the European Union and the United States developed resilient links of friendship and solidarity. Today, they have embarked on an even more ambitious enterprise of cooperation with the "Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership" (TTIP). A free-market agreement that comprehensively eliminates trade barriers and enhances investment between the two economic players could unleash new opportunities for entrepreneurship, investment, and employment. The TTIP involves the task of harmonizing product standards, investor regulations, dispute settlement mechanisms, and legal frameworks. The TTIP has also caused concerns about democratic legitimacy and amplification of corporate power. In our workshop, we will address these challenges and formulate policy-proposals that will render the TTIP an agreement that can contribute to economic growth as well as to the broader exchange of goods, services, individuals, and ideas between our two major markets.

III. How do we create an innovative European economy?

CASE STUDY: Youth Unemployment and the Digital Economy

Young people have suffered disproportionately from the global financial crisis and the situation is improving slowly at best. In this workshop, we are interested in discussing the issue of youth unemployment in EU member states. Our workshop will investigate what tangible steps one can take to improve the outlook for young Europeans, with a specific focus on the role of the digital economy. We will discuss what role innovation, entrepreneurship, and access to capital plays in a more dynamic Europe. We will also examine how the EU budget can be focused on growth and the future economy, looking at education, research and technology infrastructure.

IV. How do we increase democratic participation in Europe?

CASE STUDY: Rise of Far-Right Extremism

In the 2014 EU election, Eurosceptic and extreme nationalist parties have risen across Europe. In this workshop, we will examine the underlying reasons and possible solutions to tackle this development. We will discuss solutions on the EU-level, such as reforms of the EU election system and European political institutions, enhancement of citizens' participation in EU affairs, and other ways to close the gap between the EU and its citizens. We will explore mechanisms of citizens' democratic involvement, such as the European Citizens Initiative, public consultations and social media, and discuss possible policies in this area and our contribution.

V. Upon what can we build European solidarity and identity?

CASE STUDY: Social solidarity in the EU

What is the status of a “European identity” today? In this workshop, we will tackle the issue of what it means to identify as “European” and examine the question of how to promote social solidarity among European states. Which are the main commonalities that link the members of the European Union, in particular when it comes to social solidarity and human rights? Are there any shared characteristics, be they societal, economic, or political, that can be used as basis for

speaking of a common European identity? We will formulate a concrete set of ideas about how to promote greater solidarity within the EU, as much between member states as between member citizens.

IMPACT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Before the conference, there will be an online forum where all participants create a profile, map out their original ideas (pertaining to all workshops), and comment on each others' thoughts. Thereby we will begin the conversation before meeting at Yale.

Following the conference, there will be a written report, a video documentary and a website with all conference outcomes: our list of recommendations, our plans of actions and our outline for the new student think-tank.

In sum, there will be three longer-lasting results:

FIRST, at the conference, students will draft a **concrete plan of action** for how each participant can actualize their ideas in the future on a personal level. This plan will give to students a range of activities to pursue after the conference. Activities could include organizing EU-related publications, student organizations and events on their university's campus and together with conference participants from other US universities; pursuing summer internships and work opportunities in EU-related matters; or just taking more EU-related classes at their universities. The idea is to encourage high-performing students not "to forget about Europe," but rather to commit time, thought and creativity to issues regarding the European Union.

SECOND, students will ideally form a **US-based student think-tank about EU affairs**. The think-tank will be an association of conference participants who are eager to go "one step" beyond their personal plan of action and become active on a more macro-level. Through the think tank, these committed conference participants will develop their ideas for the European Union further together, organize conversations with EU policy-makers and

European business stakeholders, and plan activities for European Union Studies in the United States on an aggregate level. The think-tank will eventually evolve into a platform open to all interested students in the United States and potentially even beyond the US.

THIRD, graduate students from Yale University will assist the new think-tank and conference participants in developing selected conference ideas and publishing them as **academic essays**.

TIMETABLE

September–December 2014

- The website is launched, www.escatyale.com, and regularly updated with news regarding speakers, EU-policy makers, and sponsors.
- Registration opens: Students can register for the conference by October 27 (both undergraduates and graduates) and December 1, 2014 (only undergraduates and students of business schools, second round). They fill out a profile in an online forum and collect ideas for all workshops.

January 2015

- The idea collection is closed. Based on the merged ideas, student teams prepare policy-papers that they will further develop and discuss at the conference.

February 2015

- The conference takes place.
- At the conference, students establish their own EU student think tank in the United States.
- Evaluation of the conference takes place.

March 2015

- A conference report and a film documentary are sent to all participants and sponsors as well as EU stakeholders, think tanks, youth organizations and European Studies Centers at US universities.
- Representatives of the new student think tank ideally participate at the “European Conference at Harvard” and present the conference outcomes. This will be an additional venue to continue the conversation with policy-makers, academics and business stakeholders.

After April 2015

- The new student think tank pursues the strategies the students drafted at the conference.
- Conference participants get a monthly newsletter from the new student think tank, so that they know how each of them pursues their plans of actions.
- Ideas of the conference get further developed and published as academic essays, under the guidance of Yale graduate students.

SCHEDULE

FIRST DAY (Friday, February 13, 2015)

Yale School of Management

TIME	ACTIVITY	COMMENTS
9 – 11 AM	Registration	
11 AM – 12.30 PM	Opening remarks	
12.30 – 1.30 PM	Lunch break	
1.30 – 3.30 PM	WORKSHOP SESSION # 1 Presentation of policy-papers and feedback from professor and policy-maker.	Around 16 students participate in each workshop. A policy-maker facilitates the discussion.
3.30 – 4 PM	Coffee break	
4 – 6 PM	WORKSHOP SESSION # 2 Further development and discussion of the ideas collected in session #1.	Around 16 students participate in each workshop. A policy-maker facilitates the discussion.
6 – 6.30 PM	Coffee break	
6.30 – 8 PM	PLENARY SESSION Presentation of ideas by workshop-participants; Q&A by audience.	All conference participants take part in the plenary. The idea is to have a stimulating exchange about the thoughts collected in the previous workshop sessions, and to solicit feedback from professors, policy-makers and the greater audience.
8.15 PM	Reception	

SECOND DAY (Saturday, February 14, 2015)

Yale School of Management

TIME	ACTIVITY	COMMENTS
10 AM – 12 PM	<p>WORKSHOP SESSION # 3</p> <p>Rethinking yesterday's ideas and incorporating feedback from the plenary; drafting a final list of recommendations and a strategy how each of us, and the new student think-tank, can contribute towards the realization of our ideas in the future.</p>	<p>Around 16 students participate in each workshop. A policy-maker facilitates the discussion.</p>
12 – 1.30 PM	Lunch break	
1.30 – 3.30 PM	<p>PLENARY SESSION</p> <p>Presentation of final ideas (recommendations) of each workshop and of the strategies forward. Creation of a new student think-tank.</p> <p>Panel with a representative of the European Commission and academics: What are their thoughts on our ideas and strategies, and how can they support our activities.</p>	<p>All conference participants take part in the plenary. Members of the press will be invited, too.</p>
Afterwards	Coffee break / Departure	

CONFERENCE TEAM

We are students at Yale University, coming from different parts of Europe and beyond:

Igor Mitschka, *President*

Class of 2015, Austria

Melina Sánchez Montañés,

Vice-President

Class of 2015, Spain

Aisenour Bitsen

Class of 2018, Turkey

Alexander Co

Class of 2015, USA

Alicia Borja Alvarez

Class of 2017, Spain

Andreas Greiler Basaldua

Class of 2018, Germany/Mexico

Aris Mari Carrio

Yale School of Management, Spain

Arvin Anoop

Class of 2018, Pakistan

Elliot O'Reilly

Class of 2016, France

Giorgio Mariano

Yale School of Management, Italy

Isidora Stankovic

Class of 2016, USA

Johanna Goehler

Yale Law School, Germany

Johannes Behringer

Class of 2018, Germany

Kris Todi

Class of 2017, Albania/Canada

Max Krahe

Yale Political Science Department, Germany

Nasos Abuel Basal

Class of 2016, Greece

Nicholas Andresen

Class of 2016, Spain

Nicholas Pokas

Class of 2015, USA

Nils Metter

Class of 2017, Germany

Nitsan Shakked

Yale Jackson Institute, Israel

Olga Karnas

Class of 2016, Poland

Ren Ling Alicia Tee

Class of 2016, Singapore

Victoire Courtenay

Class of 2016, France

Xiaolu Wang

Class of 2016, China

Post-graduate and graduate students advise the conference team on publishing a student-run academic journal after the European Student Conference.

Bilyana Petkova

Emile Noël Fellow at NYU Jean Monnet Center, Bulgaria

Paul Linden-Retek

Yale-Political Science Department, Czech Republic

Design by Loide Marwanga

Thanks to the following for their support and contributions to this event:



**Yale SCHOOL OF
MANAGEMENT**

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