



The Manchester Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence

Annual Review of Activities, 2014-15

June 2015

1. Introduction

The Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence was created in 2003 with the financial support of the European Commission under its [Jean Monnet Action](#) and co-funded by the University of Manchester.

At the end of a three-year funding period its focus was broadened away from its initial concern with the European Union to European Studies more generally. At the same time the JMCE became more broadly based with partners from the University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University and other local organisations.

The JMCE aims to provide a platform for European Studies-related activities and research in Greater Manchester and the North West of England. The Centre aims to strengthen the intellectual community in European Studies, while also facilitating local, regional and international links with practitioners, researchers, students and others interested in European affairs.

JMCE Centre relies on subscriptions from its principal stakeholders for its operation and is grateful for their continuing support.

The following pages report specifically on the structure and achievements of the Centre during the academic year 2014-15.

Prof. Dimitris Papadimitriou

Director of the Manchester Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence



2. Stakeholders

The Manchester Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence showcases European expertise across the main Universities of the city. Its principal stakeholders are:

- **The University of Manchester**
 - School of Arts, Languages and Cultures
 - School of Social Sciences
 - School of Law
 - Manchester Business School
- **Manchester Metropolitan University**
 - Centre for Enterprise
 - Department of History, Politics and Philosophy

3. Governance

The JMCE is governed by a Steering Committee, meeting at least twice a year in order to set approve the budget and set the priorities of the Centre.

The Director of the JMCE is Prof. Dimitris Papadimitriou (UoM, SoSS)

The JMCE's administrator (p/t) is Abigail Saffer (UoM, SALC).

The members of the JMCE's Steering Committee are:

- Dr Kate Barker (UoM, MBS)
- Fadil Ersozer (Administrator, Manchester Europe Direct Information Centre)
- Dr. Tilman Frasch (History, MMU)
- Prof. Matthew Jefferies (SALC, UoM)
- Dr. Dimitrios Doukas (Law, UoM)
- Ewan Munro (Student rep)
- Dr Filippo Nereo (HEA)
- Dr. Gabriel Siles-Brugge (SoSS, UoM)
- Russell Yates (Centre for Enterprise, MMU)

4. Review of Activities, 2014-15

4.1. JMCE-funded Bids

Conferences/workshops

- *Work and Retirement in the European Union: An Interdisciplinary Perspective*
(Dr. Elaine Dewhurst, Law, UoM)
- *The Rhetorics of Comparison and the Europeanisation of LGBTQ Politics*
(Dr. Jon Binnie, School of Science and the Environment, MMU)
- *Transnational Cultures of Petitioning from 1750 to the Present*
(Dr. Henry Miller, SALC, UoM)
- *EU Performance in Eastern Europe*
(Prof. Dimitris Papadimitriou, SoSS, UoM)
- *Sport and Leisure Symposium*
(Dr. Dave Day, Department of Exercise and Sport Science, MMU)
- *Identifying a consolidated stakeholder position to inform policy debate in relation to the UK's proposed EU referendum*
(Prof. Lynn Martin, Centre for Enterprise, MMU)
- *European identity in the Shadow of the Shoah: Contemporary Cultural and Historical Perspectives*
(Dr. Ursula Tidd, SALC, University of Manchester)



Participants at the workshop on EU performance in Eastern Europe

Teaching and Learning Activities

- *A policy-maker's view on the European Union and welfare governance*
Dr. Georg Picot (SoSS, UoM)
- *Preparing Interpreter Trainees for Professional Conferences on Europe*
(Ms. Catriona Howard, SALC, UoM)
- *Anniversary and Memory: Britain Remembers the European Past*
Dr. Jonathan Spangler (DHPP, MMU)
- *Youth, Politics and Activism in Europe*
(Prof. Hilary Pilkington, SoSS, UoM)

PhD Bursaries

- Ugochukwu Orazulike (Law UoM)
- Arlinda Rrustemi (Grotius Centre, Leiden University)
- Elvira Wepfer (SoSS, UoM)
- Kavan Luke Bhatia (SoSS, UoM)

4.2. JMCE Seminar Series

- **Wednesday 8 October 2014, 14:00 @ University Place 4.213**
Speaker: Dr Eli Gateva (Queen Mary University, London)
Title: *EU Enlargement Policy 20 Years after Copenhagen*
- **Wednesday 22 October 2014, 14:00 @ Roscoe 2.2**
Speaker: Dr Miguel Otero-Iglesias (Elcano Royal Institute and ESSCA)
Title: *The Euro, the Dollar and the Financial Crisis*
- **Wednesday 5 November 2014, 14:00 @ Roscoe 2.2**
Speaker: Dr Georg Picot (University of Manchester)
Title: *Liberalisation, dualisation, or recalibration? Italian and Spanish labour market reforms under austerity*
- **Wednesday 12 November 2014, 14:00 @ Roscoe 2.2**
Speaker: Dr Jean-Christophe Graz (University of Lausanne)
Title: *Standards in multiple authorities: revisiting the transatlantic divide*
- **Wednesday 26 November 2014, 14:00 @ Roscoe 2.2**
Speaker: Dr Toni Hastrup (University of Kent)
Title: *Gender in Interregional Context: a different exploration of EU-Africa relations*
- **Wednesday 3 December 2014, 14:00 @ Roscoe 2.2**
Speaker: Dr George Christou (University of Warwick)
Title: *Constructing Cyber Resilience in Europe: Opportunities and Challenges*
- **Wednesday 11 February 2015, 14:00 @ University Place 3.212**
Speaker: Prof. Catherine de Vries (University of Oxford)
Title: *Losing the Hearts and Minds: Public Euroscepticism and the Future of European Integration*
- **Wednesday 4 March 2015, 14:00 @ University Place 3.209**
Speaker: Dr Sofia Vasilopoulou (University of York)
Title: *The Golden Dawn's 'nationalist solution': Explaining the rise of the far right in Greece*
- **Wednesday 11 March 2015, 14:00 @ Manchester Town Hall**
Speaker: Marc Smith (Jones Kelleher & Associates)
Title: *European Union Citizens or Migrants?*
- **Wednesday 15 April 2015, 15:30 @ 2nd Floor Boardroom, Arthur Lewis bld**
Speaker: Ingar Solty (University of York/Berlin)
Title: *Questioning the Interrelations of Economic and Political Crises in the Eurozone*
co-hosted with the Global Political economy cluster
- **Wednesday 29 April 2015, 14:00 @ 3.213**
Speaker: Gwendolyn Sasse (University of Oxford)
Title: *Polish Migrants in the UK: the determinants and content of social and political remittances*



Marc Smith and Prof. Dimitris Papadimitriou discussing European immigration at Manchester Town Hall



Taking stock of EU enlargement: Dr. Eli Gateva (QMUL) at the JMCE Seminar

4.3. Annual Lectures and Special Lectures

i. JMCE Annual Lecture 2015

Mustafa Ergün Olgun

Chief Turkish Cypriot Negotiator at the UN-sponsored peace talks in Cyprus

Prospects for Peace in Cyprus

Wednesday 18 March, 15:00-16:30, University Place, UoM.



Chief Turkish Cypriot Negotiator discussing the prospects of peace in Cyprus

ii. A Special JMCE Debate



A lively debate on Europe in front of a large audience

What Future for Britain in the EU?

Panelists:

Chris Davies (Lib Dem MEP, 1999-2014)

Gary Tittley (Labour MEP, 1989-2009)

Michael Walsh (Conservative MEP, 1979-1994)

Thursday 11 December 2014, University Place, UoM

iii. A Special JMCE Event

Gianni Pitella

President of the European Socialists in the European Parliament

Alongside North West MEPs:

Afzal Kahn (MEP)

Julie Ward (MEP)

The Benefits of the European Union

Wednesday 14 May, 15:00-16:30, Samuel Alex. Bld., UoM



Debating the future of the Centre Left in Europe

iv. A JMCE-sponsored visit to the University



The Italian Ambassador during his visit to the University

HE Asquale Terracciano

Italian Ambassador to the UK

Stay Italian, Stay Abroad

Monday 11 May, 17:00-18:00, Samuel Alex. Bld., UoM

4.4. Europe Direct Information Centre – Manchester



Following a successful bid to the European Commission, the JMCE, in partnership with the School of Social Sciences (UoM), established a new advisory service on the European Union.

The Manchester Europe Direct Information Centre (MEDIC) was launched in February 2015 and forms part of a network of 17 such centres in the UK and over 500 across the EU.

The new service is located on the ground floor of the Arthur Lewis building and offers a range of information on the European Union, both for individual citizens and local businesses, including:

- publications, brochures and guides on the various areas of activity of the European Union tailored-made answers to questions.
- a range of events and outreach activities aiming to foster a better understanding of how the EU affects our daily life
- a feedback mechanism, which gives citizens the chance to let Brussels know about your concerns, queries and comments on any aspect of the EU's work and how it affects you
- promotional events and documentation tailored to the North West on what is happening in the EU.

For more details visit www.manchestereuropedirect.co.uk; email: europedirect@manchester.ac.uk; or follow us on Twitter: @EuropeDirectMcr

4.5. The JMCE in Public Debate

i. Media work and expert advice



The JMCE Director discussing the Eurozone crisis at the BBC

With the Eurozone crisis raging, the TTIP negotiations still ongoing and the future of the UK's membership of the EU in question, there is an ever growing demand for better information and more debate on Europe. Members of the JMCE have been very active in these discussions.

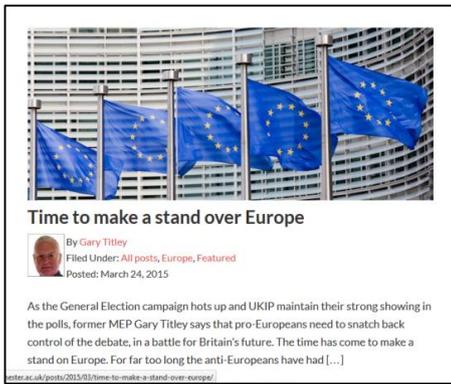


The JMCE Director discussing the UK election and its implications for the EU



Dr. Siles-Brugge giving evidence to the House of Commons on TTIP

ii. Blog on Europe



Launched in 2014 in partnership with Policy@Manchester, the JMCE blog on Europe has now become a very popular platform for discussing topical issues affecting Europe. There have been more than 20 submissions in the past year, attracting significant readership. For more details visit: www.blog.policy.manchester.ac.uk/category/Europe-stream or contact dimitris.papadimitriou@manchester.ac.uk.

iii. Social Media

The Manchester JMCE has a vibrant presence in the social media. We now produce regular tweets on our activities and video recordings of our main events are available on our own Utube channel.



iv. Forthcoming Events & Diary Dates

October 2015: First call for JMCE Funding: Workshops, T&L Activities and PhD Bursaries

Non British EU citizens living in the UK: experiences and prospects (in collaboration with the Institute of Social Policy, University of Oxford)

JMCE The Rhetorics of Comparison and the Europeanisation of LGBTQ Politics (Dr Jon Binnie, MMU)

'Devo Manc' and its impact on Identity communities: European and local perspectives (in collaboration with the LGBT Foundation)

Identifying a consolidated stakeholder position to inform policy debate in relation to the UK's proposed EU referendum (Prof. Lynn Martin, Centre for Enterprise, MMU)

European identity in the Shadow of the Shoah: Contemporary Cultural and Historical Perspectives (Dr. Ursula Tidd, SALC, UoM)

April 2016: Second call for JMCE Funding: Workshops, T&L Activities and PhD Bursaries

