

MA European Studies

Dr Hylke Dijkstra
Programme Director
7 March 2020





70 students coming from 20 different countries!

MA Programme in European Studies

1. One programme

A coherent curriculum where courses logically build on each other toward the MA thesis

2. Three Specialisations

- Public Policy and Administration;
- International Relations;
- Global Challenges.

3. Problem-Based Learning in Small Seminars

4. Professional Skills Trajectory





MA European Studies: Public Policy and Administration

- Period 1: **Post-War Europe** (common)
- Period 2: **The European Policy Process**
- Period 3: **EU Budget and Economic Governance** (4 weeks)
- Period 4: **Europeanisation and Domestic Change**
- Period 5: **Civil Society and European Integration** (4 weeks)



MA European Studies: International Relations

- **Period 1: Post-War Europe (common)**
- **Period 2: International Relations and Global Governance**
- **Period 3: EU Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy (4 weeks)**
- **Period 4: EU Foreign and Security Policy**
- **Period 5: EU External Economic Policy (4 weeks)**



MA European Studies: Global Challenges

- **Period 1: Post-War Europe (common)**
- **Period 2: International Relations and Global Governance**
- **Period 3: Europe, Multilateralism and Multipolarity (4 weeks)**
- **Period 4: Europe and International Migration**
- **Period 5: Europe and the Global South (4 weeks)**





Thesis trajectory (full year)

- Original research;
- Thesis skills training (September-January);
- Individual supervision (January-June);
- Thesis conference (May);
- Submission of 12.000-15.000 words thesis (June).



The Maastricht Treaty and public debates about European integration: the emergence of a European public sphere?*

Christiane Barth  and Patrick Bijsmans 

Department of Political Science, Maastricht University, Maastricht, The Netherlands

ABSTRACT

The Maastricht Treaty has widely been identified as a turning point in European integration. However, little dedicated research has been done into how 'Maastricht' affected media discourses about Europe. In this article, we aim to shed more light on this matter by means of a qualitative frame analysis of media discourses in Britain and Germany, two countries that have traditionally had different perspectives on European integration. We show that in the course of the debate about the Maastricht Treaty the media discourses in the two countries gradually converged along the same aspects of European integration and increasingly used negative values to evaluate these aspects. This convergence of debates can be seen as representing a nascent transnational public sphere for the discussion of EU affairs.

KEYWORDS

European public sphere;
media discourse; Maastricht
Treaty; Britain; Germany

Introduction

It has been over 25 years since European leaders signed the Treaty on European Union, better known as the Maastricht Treaty. This treaty represented a significant deepening of the integration process, but also stimulated more critical public engagement with European integration and debates about the European Union's (EU) democratic nature (Schrag Sternberg 2013). One topic of debate has been the necessity of a European public sphere—a publicly accessible communicative space in which European affairs can be critically discussed—for a democratic European polity. Studies have explored normative considerations and the empirical reality of such a public sphere (Koopmans and Statham 2010; Risse 2010). However, despite their assigned significance for the emergence of a European public sphere, mediated debates on European integration in the early 1990s have hardly been studied.

The importance of studying media representation of European integration has been highlighted by Britain's recent decision to leave the EU. Brexit triggered debates regarding Europe's future, but also about the media's role in shaping British perceptions of the EU (Bijsmans, Galpin, and Leruth 2017; Startin 2015). Similarly, the early 1990s are generally seen as an important turning point in European integration. Media coverage of the ensuing debates is indicative of the meaning and rationale of the entire discourse about a united



Problem-Based Learning

- **We focus on actual problems**
 - Why does the EU have a democratic deficit?
 - How can Europe deal with the refugee crisis, populism, Russian aggression or the emerging powers?
 - What are the relations between Europe and the UK after Brexit?
 - Will there be an European army?
- **We discuss them in tutorial seminars (max 15 students)**
- **We consider different (academic) perspectives**
- **We provide state-of-the-art insights through lectures**





Alumni profiles

- Government & Politics / Governance (national, provincial and local) 28%;
- European Commission / European institutions 17%;
- Marketing and communications 8%;
- Education and Teaching 7%;
- NGOs 6%; Research 6%; Consultancy 6%; Sales 6%;
- Journalism & Information 4%; Film & Media 4%;
- IT & Computers 3%; Legal Affairs 2%;
- Business & Finance 2%; Management & Administration 1%.



Virginijus Sinkevičius, European Commissioner 2019-2024
MA in European Studies 2012-2013

Admissions

- **Deadlines:** EU/EEA students: 1 June (Non-EU/EEA students: 1 May)
- **Documents required for admission**
 - Relevant academic undergraduate degree + list of grades
 - English language proficiency
 - Curriculum vitae + motivation letter
 - One academic paper of 2000 words
- **Admissions tips and tricks**
 - Apply now – not on 1 June;
 - Submit full dossier (e.g. also list of grades from Erasmus exchange)
 - Motivation letter
 - Why European Studies in Maastricht?
 - Which specialisation? What (possible) thesis topic?
 - Why are you qualified? Highlight undergraduate theses/papers and research methods courses

For further information:

www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/masters

Email:

master-fasos@maastrichtuniversity.nl

or:

h.dijkstra@maastrichtuniversity.nl