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UNIVERSITÉ DE FRIBOURG
UNIVERSITÄT FREIBURG

ECSA Switzerland Annual Conference
University of Fribourg
29-30 November 2018

Call for Papers

The state of the European State

When European studies scholars discuss the European Union (EU)'s institutional structure, they usually stress its *sui generis supra-* or *trans*-national nature, and sometimes even indulge in a *post*-national trope (reminiscent of a broader de-nationalization and de-territorialization trend in international relations). Provided they look at the State and do not disparage it as a thing of the past, it is usually as a static political unit, acting as an agent of EU law, and sometimes, albeit more rarely (even among federalists), as a model for the institutionalization of the EU itself. European integration would not have been possible without a simultaneous evolution of the State, however: the development of EU institutions and European politics *lato sensu* has gone hand in hand with important changes in the nature and organization of European States. This is true of EU Member States as much as of other States participating in the broader project of European integration, like Switzerland. This mirroring relationship has been famously exemplified in discussions pertaining to the EU's and States' sovereignty, constitutionalism or democracy. Interestingly, the European State has now returned to the fore in European debates : it has been the case post-Brexit with the question of the future status of Scotland, Northern Ireland or even Gibraltar, and of the secessionist movement in Catalonia, of course, but also in other controversies pertaining to the development of citizenship-by-investment programmes in Malta, to territorial and maritime disputes between Slovenia and Croatia, to the nationalization of major companies by France or to the exploitation of natural resources and energy in Germany.

The questions the 2018 ECSA Annual Conference would like to broach pertain to the state of the European State today. They are, among others: European States' territory and boundaries, nationality/citizenship, jurisdiction, authority, sovereignty, equality, democracy, but also: traditionally state-centred matters like security, defence, taxation, migration, welfare, education or the public/private divide in Europe.

**Please send your paper proposal, together with an abstract of 200 words,
by 1st September 2018
to Mr Adrien Folly: adrien.folly@unifr.ch**

The conference intends to reflect the best of current Swiss multi-disciplinary research in European studies (whether in law, political and social sciences, history, philosophy or economics). It will start on 29th November, 2018 in the afternoon with the ECSA Switzerland annual assembly, followed by a Keynote conference by Prof. Paul Magnette (Université libre de Bruxelles & Commune de Charleroi).

Doctoral students are strongly encouraged to submit a proposal. CUSO doctoral students may apply for reimbursement of their travel and accommodation costs by the respective CUSO doctoral programme (Law or Political science), provided the conditions are fulfilled (please contact the respective programme coordinator directly to enquire about those conditions).

Prof. Samantha Besson, President of ECSA Switzerland