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 itself, however. 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. The questions the 2018 ECSA-CH Annual Conference would like to broach pertain therefore to the state of the European State today.
The state of the European State

ECSA-CH 2018 Annual Conference
University of Fribourg, Salle Jäggi
29.11.2018-30.11.2018

Thursday, 29.11.2018

16:00-17:00  ECSA-CH Members Annual Assembly

17:15-19:00  ECSA-CH Annual Lecture
L’Europe peut-elle éviter de se désintégrer ?
Prof. Paul Magnette (Bourgmestre de la Commune de Charleroi, Professeur à l’Université libre de Bruxelles et ancien Ministre-président de la Wallonie)

19:30  Dinner (Conference Speakers and ECSA-CH Committee Members only)
Restaurant de l’Aigle Noir, Rue des Alpes 10, 1700 Fribourg (see map on the last page)

Friday, 30.11.2018

08:00  Welcome coffee
08:15  Opening words
Prof. Samantha Besson (University of Fribourg)
08:30  Towards a relational understanding of EU Statehood
Prof. Teresa Pullano (University of Basel)
09:15  Are EU member States still States according to International Law?
Prof. Nicolas Levrat (University of Geneva) & Yuliya Kaspiarovich (PhD candidate, University of Geneva)
10:00  Coffee break
10:15  The rise of border middle management
Jean-François Clouzet (PhD candidate, University of Geneva) & Dr Stephan Davidshofer (University of Geneva)
11:00  The European State Facing The Crises: Did The Financial Crisis Reinforce States’ Role In European (Dis)Integration?
Flore Vanackere (PhD candidate, University of Geneva)
11:45  Competition is good, cooperation is better - The crystallization of social order in the European Union
Dr Sean Mueller (University of Bern)
12:30  Lunch

Friday, 30.11.2018 (continuing)

13:15  A Europe of which Peoples? Political Outcomes and National Minorities’ Attitudes towards the EU
Dr Hugo Marcos Marne (University of St Gallen)
14:00  Inequality and EU Trust
Dr Dominik Schraff (ETH Zurich)
14:45  Coffee break
15:15  Member State Signals and the Effectiveness of Conditionality in the EU Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policies
Prof. Tina Freyburg (University of St Gallen)
16:00  Voting against all odds
Prof. Klaus Armingeon (University of Bern) & Philipp Lutz (PhD candidate, University of Bern)
16:45  Concluding words