

# MESletter

November 2017

Studentischer Newsletter des Master of European Studies

Der **MES** im  
Wintersemester  
2017/18



## Inhalt

Europa rettet sich nicht von selbst! – Ein Beitrag von Linn Selle 4

*Von Linn Selle*

Portraitsreihe der MES-Gastdozenten/innen – Im Gespräch mit Inan Rüma 6

*Von Robert Wortmann*

Portraitsreihe der MES-Gastdozenten/innen – Im Gespräch Mykhailo Minakov 8

*Von Katja Sinko*

Ein besonderer Dank geht an die Autor|Innen dieser Ausgabe.

Redaktion: Katja Sinko

Layout: Katja Sinko

## TERMINANKÜNDIGUNGEN

Gastvortrag: **Europapolitik in der Praxis: Das EU-Förderprogramm »Europa für Bürgerinnen und Bürger«** 22.11.2017, 13.00 bis 14.00 Uhr, Europa-Universität Viadrina, GD 04. Anmeldung [franza@kontaktstelle-efbb.de](mailto:franza@kontaktstelle-efbb.de) bis zum 13. November.

\*\*\*

Die Fotoausstellung "**Inventing Distances. The Aesthetic Fixation of Sociocultural Inequalities in a post-Socialist Society**" von Mykhailo Minakov (DAAD Gastprofessor, Europa-Universität Viadrina/ University of Kyiv) bleibt vom 25.10.2017 bis zum 31.1.2018 in der Galerie im 1.OG der Gräfin-Dönhoff-Gebäude geöffnet.

\*\*\*

Diskussion und Bürgerforum: **„Europäische Solidarität – Welchen Weg geht die EU?“** mit Dr. Christian Ehler, MdEP (CDU / EVP); Susanne Melior, MdEP (SPD / S&D); Helmut Scholz, MdEP (Die Linke / GUE/ NGL); Prof. Dr. Timm Beichelt (Europa-Universität Viadrina, Professur für Europa-Studien). Im Rahmen der Reihe von Bürgerforen EUROPA KONTROVERS der drei Europe Direct Informationszentren im Land Brandenburg. Mit Unterstützung der Brandenburgischen Landeszentrale für Politische Bildung. Im Anschluss Imbiss. Anmeldung erbeten Tel. 0335 5004101, [europedirect@euroregion-viadrina.eu](mailto:europedirect@euroregion-viadrina.eu), 01.12.2017, 18.00 Uhr, Ort: Hauptgebäude, Große Scharrnstraße 59, Senatssaal, Raum 109.

\*\*\*

IFES Lunch Lecture: **Gegenwartsanalysen #2 – Über die neue Mittelklasse der Einzigartigen und die Krisen der Gegenwart: Die Gesellschaft der Singularitäten. Zum Strukturwandel der Moderne** mit Andreas Reckwitz, Professor für vergleichende Kultursoziologie an der Viadrina, spricht mit Dr. Estela Schindel (IFES) und Prof. Timm Beichelt (IFES) über sein neues Buch. Moderation: Dr. Anja Hennig (IFES), 13.12.2017, 13:00-14:00 (s.t.), Ort: GD HS 8

\*\*\*

### „Scheitert die Weihnachtsfeier, scheitert Europa!“

Der reanimierte MES-Beirat lädt alle Studierenden und Dozierenden des Masters "European Studies" zur Weihnachtsfeier am 12.12.2017 um 16 Uhr im Stephan-Saal im Alten Postgebäude (Raum 257, Logenstr. 9-10). Sollten sich bei Euch zu Hause schon die Stollen stapeln, könnt Ihr gerne Weihnachtsgebäck oder Getränke (Stichwort: Glühwein) zum kollektiven Konsum mitbringen.

Wir freuen uns auf einen gemütlichen Nachmittag mit Euch!  
Mit weihnachtlichem Gruß,  
Euer Beirat

\*\*\*

Nach längerer Zeit ohne einen aktiven Beirat hat sich ein **neuer MES-Beirat** mit neuen, aktiven MES-Studierenden konstituiert. Für den Sommer ist eine Exkursion geplant. Wer Lust hat, dabei zu sein und das neue Team zu unterstützen, meldet sich unter [mes\\_students@europa-uni.de](mailto:mes_students@europa-uni.de).

## Sehr geehrte/r Leser|in, liebe MES'ler

Liebe MES'ler, liebe Leserinnen und Leser,

wir freuen uns, Euch den aktuellen MES-Newsletter des Wintersemesters 2017/2018 zu präsentieren.



Zu lesen ist ein Beitrag von MES-Alumna Linn Selle, die 2014 mit dem Preis „Frauen Europas“ für ihr ehrenamtliches Engagement ausgezeichnet wurde. In ihrem Beitrag wirft sie einen Blick auf den derzeitigen Stand der Europäischen Union und ruft dazu auf, die Zukunft Europas aktiv mitzugestalten. Nur „für Europa“ zu sein, reicht nicht aus, vielmehr brauche es kritisches Denken und eine Auseinandersetzung mit den derzeitigen Herausforderungen. Um uns Gehör zu verschaffen, werden wir laut Linn Selle nicht drum rum kommen uns einzubringen.

Die aktuelle Ausgabe beinhaltet zwei spannende Interviews: Nach dem Sommersemester 2017 hat Gastdozent Inan Rüma der Istanbul Bilgi Universität mit uns seine Erfahrungen mit dem Doppelmasterprogramm geteilt. Einer der größten Vorteile für ihn: aus der EU Bubble hervorzutreten. Lest außerdem, wie aus seiner Sicht die EU-Türkei-Beziehungen verbessert werden können.

Nach einem halben Jahr haben wir mit unserem Gastdozenten aus der Ukraine, Mykhailo Minakov, gesprochen, um herauszufinden, wie er die derzeitige Situation in der Ukraine einschätzt. Für ihn ist der Friedensprozess die neue Europäisierungsstrategie der ukrainischen Gesellschaft. Am Leben im Frankfurt (Oder) reizt ihn besonders der Austausch mit anderen Dozierenden und Studierenden.

Am studentischen Newsletter kann jede/r von Euch mitmachen und einen Beitrag leisten! Wenn Ihr selbst einen Artikel zu einem bestimmten Thema schreiben möchtet, Themenvorschläge, Kritik und Anregungen habt, zögert nicht und schickt Eure Ideen einfach an [mes\\_students@europa-uni.de](mailto:mes_students@europa-uni.de).

# Europa rettet sich nicht von selbst!

## Ein Beitrag von Linn Selle

Von Linn Selle



Quelle: vzbv

*Linn Selle hat von 2010-2012 den Master „European Studies“ an der Viadrina studiert. Danach war sie Doktorandin am Lehrstuhl von Prof. Timm Beichelt. In ihrer Promotion, die sie Ende Mai verteidigt hat, beschäftigte sie sich mit der parlamentarischen Haushaltshoheit bei den EU-Budgetverhandlungen. Linn arbeitet heute beim Verbraucherzentrale Bundesverband (vzbv) und ist Mitglied im Vorstand der überparteilichen Bürgerbewegung "Europa-Union". 2014 bekam sie den Preis „Frauen Europas“ für ihr ehrenamtliches Engagement verliehen.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Europa, oder besser die Europäische Union, hat einige düstere Jahre hinter sich: Begonnen mit der Euro- und Bankenkrise, dem Verlust von Solidarität (zwischen Mitgliedsstaaten und ihren Bürger/innen, zwischen Nord und Süd) und dem zum Teil renitenten Aushebeln rechtsstaatlicher Prinzipien in einigen Mitgliedsstaaten - um nur

die drängendsten Probleme zu nennen. Doch wird nicht jetzt alles wieder gut? Die Populisten scheinen auf dem Rückmarsch (nach den Wahlen in den Niederlanden, Österreich und Frankreich), der Brexit scheint den Zusammenhalt Europas gestärkt zu haben und in Deutschland und Europa gehen Menschen „für Europa“ auf die Straße.

Also alles in Butter?

Klar ist, es sieht nicht mehr alles so schlimm aus wie noch vor einem Jahr. Aber trotzdem sind viel zu viele junge Menschen in Europa arbeitslos. Das Wohlstandsgefälle in der Europäischen Union ist meinem Verständnis nach immer noch zu hoch, genauso wie Solidarität zwischen den EU-Staaten nicht genug ausgeprägt ist. Vielleicht nicht ganz zu Unrecht sind viele Europäer/innen nicht restlos davon überzeugt, dass „Europa“ ihnen Vorteile bietet und einen Teil zum „guten Leben“ beiträgt.

Kurzum: Nur „für Europa“ auf die Straße gehen reicht meiner Meinung nach nicht aus. So wichtig die pro-Europa Demos von „Pulse of Europe“ und Co waren (und immer noch sind!), um zu zeigen dass die schweigende Mehrheit hinter der europäischen Einigung steht: Es reicht nicht aus sonntags Fahnen schwenkend auf dem Gendarmenmarkt zu stehen. Europa steht vor riesigen Herausforderungen - gerade für junge Menschen und für unsere Zukunft. Da sollte mehr drin sein.

Was will ich damit sagen? Wir alle bekommen – zum Glück! – im MES eine gute Portion kritisches Denken mit. Wir beschäftigen uns mit

gesamteuropäischen Fragen – sei es kulturpolitik- oder geschichtswissenschaftlich. Diese Ideen für und die Kritik an derzeitigen Entwicklungen müssen wir nutzen. Wir müssen uns einbringen, denn sonst machen es andere für uns.

Viele von euch engagieren sich sicherlich schon – sei es in der Flüchtlingshilfe, im Kiez oder bei politischen Organisationen. Gerade wird in der Europäischen Union und in den Mitgliedsstaaten intensiv über die Zukunft Europas diskutiert. Im Rahmen des „Weißbuch zur Zukunft der EU“ werden Optionen aufgezeigt in welche Richtung Europa sich entwickeln könnte. Warum sollten wir da nicht auch mitmachen? Warum sollten wir nicht auch in unseren Freundes- und Engagement-Kreisen über die Zukunft Europas diskutieren und die Ergebnisse in die öffentliche Debatte einbringen und Politiker/innen darauf ansprechen?

Darum: bringt eure Ideen und Kritik ein – in Parteien, gegenüber der Politik oder in Vereinen. Wir müssen uns vernetzen und die Perspektiven jüngerer Menschen auf Europa und von Europa sichtbar und hörbar machen. Denn nur durch renitentes Nerven und Einbringen wird sich etwas ändern!

## Kurzinterview

*Wie bist du zur Viadrina gekommen?*

Ich hatte zuvor ein Jahr in Paris studiert und wollte eigentlich nicht zurück an eine deutsche Uni. Aber die Internationalität der Viadrina, die Möglichkeit in verschiedenen Sprachen „European Studies“ zu studieren fand ich spannend. Außerdem auch die Tatsache, dass es eine kleine, familiäre Uni ist.

*Was ist Europa für dich?*

Freiheit und Vielfalt. Und das nicht nur rein geographisch, sondern auch was die Freiheit von Lebensentwürfen, Vielfalt von Sprachen und Kulturen angeht.

*Warum engagierst du dich für Europa?*

Es gibt für unsere Generation kein besseres Projekt, das Zusammenwachsen unseres Kontinents, den Austausch und eine Demokratie jenseits des Nationalstaats zu erreichen. Auch wenn die EU viele Schwächen hat, wir sollten sie reformieren statt abschaffen.

*Vielen Dank für deinen Beitrag, Linn!*

# Portraitsreihe der MES-Gastdozenten/innen

## Interview mit Inan Rüma

Von Robert Wortmann



**Inan Rüma**

visiting professor  
from the Istanbul  
Bilgi University  
Aziz Nezin visiting  
professorship in the  
summer term 2017

He specializes in the field of Balkan Politics, International Organisations, International Peacekeeping and International Political Economy. His seminar „Current Turkish Foreign Policy“ focused on Turkey’s relations with other regions such as the Balkans, Middle East, US, Russia and others.

*In your opinion, what are the differences in teaching in Germany and in Turkey?*

It is better to evaluate in terms of universities rather than countries that are not monolithic at all, so: there is not much difference in teaching in Istanbul Bilgi University and Viadrina European University. There are much fewer students here and the town is much smaller and quiet, so I could have more time, this is the biggest difference. Additionally, to be in another country, so being out of one’s own country’s bubble is often to increase motivation and performance.

*What was the most memorable event during your time in Frankfurt (Oder)?*

The dinner we had with the students after the very last class.

*Which experiences will you carry with you from your stay as a guest lecturer?*

I feel positively regenerated in many senses. The positive, productive and friendly mood in the

department including its corridor as the physical manifestation of this mood and in the one of the International Office; productive and cheerful time I had with the students both in classes and out; the quiet town with more trees than human beings, are the experiences I carry with me. I have been happy here.

*Are there any differences in the everyday life at the university in Turkey and Germany?*

Comparing Bilgi and Viadrina, not much; our campus is more physically defined with outer fence and large inner square without cars, which provides more cohabitation to and with the students in the university. The students are more talkative in the class here in Viadrina: they are better informed about world affairs, their country and also their university and they better express themselves, which can be observed also in the everyday life.

*For those who haven't visited your lecture: Could you please explain what the course was about?*

The course was about Turkish foreign policy, including its politics, within the framework of World politics and political economy. Main elements and discussions of Theories of International Relations and Foreign Policy analysis are also explained.

*How did your stays (i.e. Kosovo) abroad influence you? (Maybe some examples?)*

To work in an international organization in a post-conflict zone influences on the following: to learn more the price of life; to feel more human suffering; to develop more (international) workplace experience, ability and habits including mostly the positive meaning of professionalism and particularly a humane and humanitarian one; to have good (international) friends with whom solidarity under hard conditions is shared as well as good cheerful time and both mean and worth a lot; and finally, after all, to be more mature and to stick more on the motivation to be a good person.

*What do you think about the double-degree program of the Viadrina with the BILGI University? Why should students participate in it?*

I am very positive about double degree programs. I think the students should participate because studying and living in Istanbul Bilgi University will help them to experience life and think beyond the EU bubble while still keeping the basics about a contemporary university with academic substance, integrity and freedom.

*How do Turkish people perceive the European Union?*

It depends on which part of the Turkish society is in question: rather disappointment on liberal and liberal left while rather indifference and occasional reactions on the nationalists and/or conservatives. Overall, the state and social reform process in the country within the framework of the EU integration is unfortunately stalled. This has been mostly due to the problems in the interstate framework rather than the issues of integration, while that malicious and notorious refugee agreement could be nevertheless done. That has been a huge disappointment, words do not suffice.

*Do the incidents in Turkey affect the daily work at the universities?*

Yes they do. I hope things will be normalized soon.

*How could the relationship between Turkey and the EU be improved?*

It can be improved by focusing more on the concrete issues of integration and/or cooperation (the EU seems to be interested in rather cooperation than integration as well as the nationalist and/or conservative Turkish elite), rather than being stuck at the full membership discussions including bigger interstate questions.

*Which advice would you give your students for successful studies?*

Learning is exciting and productive particularly when one feels the topic. So I humbly suggest to the students to feel what they learn.

*Thank you very much for the interview!*



# Portraitreihe der MES-Gastdozenten/innen

## Interview mit Mykhailo Minakov

Von Katja Sinko



**Mykhailo Minakov**

*born 1971  
Leninsk, Volgograd  
oblast, USSR*

*political  
philosopher living  
in Kyiv and Milano*

*His major philosophical investigations focus on human experience, social knowledge, political system, historical consciousness, and multiple modernities. Since April 2017 he is a DAAD- visiting Professor at Viadrina.*

*Why did you choose to visit the Viadrina? What is special about the Viadrina and the MES?*

I had my previous experience in cooperating with the colleagues from the Viadrina. Recently, together with Timm Beichelt and Susann Worschech from Viadrina Institute for European Studies, we published a book on “Transitional Ukraine.” I find the Viadrina scholars open for cooperation and interested in the same area of research: post-Socialist societies and political cultures and systems of Eastern Europe.

I also like Frankfurt/Oder and its surroundings. I bike around Marke with pleasure (some photoalbums can be seen [here](#) and [here](#)). This city provides me with good balance of calm life and access to Berlin fun-chaos.

*What are your research interests? How can you relate them to European Studies?*

Today’s Europe lives in times of re-establishing its unity, when East and West start sharing new common era. Now, the old differences remain, but new ones arrive and make Europe a new creative cultural space. Europe now faces one common fate both with Brexit and Donbas war, Catalonia secessionism and German reunification.

Eastern Europe is a laboratory of ideologies today. Unimaginable populism, postmodern conservatism, demodernizing fascism and many more political religions grow here and produce new forms of subjection. Western Europe immerses into unexpected socio-political reactions to welfare state and rule of law. Together they constitute new cultural and political landscape. This is what interests me, and this is an emerging subject for European Studies.

*What are you currently working on? Do you feel an influence of the EU policy towards Ukraine within your field of research? How do you think about it?*

Due to my stay in Frankfurt and work in the Viadrina, I managed to finish my book “Development and Dystopia. Studies in post-Soviet Ukraine and Eastern Europe.” Here I review the socio-political development of post-Soviet societies as viewed from Kiev. What interests me, is how late Soviet Human invents capitalism, democracy and nationalism.

In this context, EU and bigger West's role was hugely important. European integration was an ideology that was driving progressive parts of post-Soviet societies towards rule of law and political pluralism. However, these societies were also using this ideology to cover new injustices of socio-economic, linguocultural and legal-political inequalities. Altogether, the post-Soviet Europe became a source of vital threats for all European countries.

What concerns the current situation in Ukraine, EU remains one major player that keeps all warring sides under pressure of the peace agenda. Peace is the common interest of EU, EU member-states and pro-peace groups in Ukraine. In a way, the peace process is the new Europeanization strategy of Ukrainian society. As UNDP Ambassador of Peace in Ukraine, I find EU's role critical for the peaceful future of my country.

*Last summer semester you led four workshops at the Viadrina. In your opinion, what are the differences in teaching in Ukraine and in Germany?*

Even though four workshops constitute a big workload for one professor, the number of hours is 3-4 times lesser than a Ukrainian professor has to teach per semester. So, in a way, I enjoyed more freedom for research and writing. I am grateful to DAAD and Europa University Viadrina for giving me an opportunity to write one scholarly book (which I mentioned before), one art-philosophy book (Photosophy, to be published in December 2017 in Kiev), and edit one collection of papers dedicated to the global demodernization (to be published in Germany in April next year).

I also have time for more communication with colleagues at IFES due to our on-going methodological seminar. The debates in this seminar provide me with many ideas, and inspire for more fruitful research. My university lacks this kind of debate.

Here and in Kiev, the students are the same: critical, inquiring, and creative. However, I enjoy bigger cultural diversity at the Viadrina. Due to this diversity, the workshop in Soviet Philosophy, for example, turned out to be a global study of Marxism. Or the workshop on the study of post-Soviet non-recognized states turned into polilogue of students from societies that would never meet in their homelands (Georgia and Abkhazia, Moldova and Transnistria). At the Viadrina international context these workshops were not only about education and science, but also about understanding each other and cultural therapy.

*What is the attitude of your Ukrainian students towards the EU? Is there something you have learned from your German students?*

My students in Kiev are divided into two camps: left liberals and radically conservative. However, the both groups use pro-European rhetoric. For the first, Ukraine's future is with the united Europe with EU as a source of political and social development. For the second group, EU (as part of West) provides Ukraine with the means to fight back Russia and Russia-backed separatism. So, the general attitude is positive towards EU, however on different grounds.

With the German students, it is much more diverse. I cannot find these striking group differences. And I see much more individual perspectives, more desire to understand subject before making conclusions.

I was also happy to learn from my students. Last month, Prof. Dr. Beichelt, 15 Viadrina students and I organized a study tour to Ukraine. The topic of this voyage was “Emotional aspects of Russian-Ukrainian conflict.” For a week we were traveling in Kiev, Kharkiv and Donbas, talking to local intellectuals, politicians, artists and priests. Although I travelled often to these lands, this time I did look at my country through the eyes of my students. And I saw so many new, unexpected things which were hidden from me as an insider. One of the most striking things for me was our huge tolerance to inequalities, which our Ukrainian social perspectives and language does not let to see and articulate. I really recommend to look at the [blog](#) that our students made during this study tour.

*How do you estimate the current relations between Ukraine and the EU? Do you expect the Ukraine to be a member of the EU in 2040?*

I belong to intellectuals that support European integration. However, I see that Ukraine’s political and business class is too far from values and practices that can make Ukraine an EU member state. The same opinion shared the heads of EU member states who, in a way, denied EU membership future to Ukraine [last December 2016](#).

Ukrainian society should stop inventing more and more inequalities, discriminate large and small minorities, and establish effective democratic institutions. If this is achieved, I would change my pessimistic standpoint.

*How do you argue that the spread of the feeling of insecurity changes the value of freedom and meaning of war in post-Soviet societies?*

As I said above, Eastern Europe is the source of conflicts for entire Europe. Our region is getting immensely militarized. Both West and East invest into future big war, while trying to contain the small Donbas war. For over two decades our societies – in Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, as well as in non-recognized states – educated youth with hate and suspicion to neighbors. And we now see the fruits in growing ethnonationalism, spread of racial and confessional intolerance, popularity of non-democratic political practices and secessionism in old and new EU member states and in non-EU Europe.

Altogether this produces the feeling of insecurity. And it is not only feeling; it is a rational, well-grounded conclusion. Our regions is insecure, and becomes more and more so.

This is the reason why the militarization of our region – and our future – must be stopped. New security and conflict-prevention mechanisms must be created. Any attempt of borders’ change, as well as any type of minority discrimination must be collectively made impossible in entire Europe, whether EU or not.

*On 24 October 2017 you are organizing a photo exhibition “Center, Periphery and the Distance: Aesthetic Discrepancies of Socio-cultural Inequality” at Viadrina. What will be seen and how did this idea come about?*

In the era of visual dominance, photography can be a legitimate language of ‘philosophieren.’ This is why I try to do the philosophical work of social critique also by the means of photography. This

what I do, for example, in my book on 'Photosophy' that I finished this year in Frankfurt.

The up-coming exhibition is dedicated to post-socialist societies' invention of inequality. The real socialist societies, in USSR, Eastern Block, and Eastern Asia, were/are enormously unequal.

However, the social and cultural distances were hidden, invisible.

In societies that survived the fall of socialism, 1990-ies and early 21st century was dedicated to re-inventing inequalities and distances. Inequality

is fetishized and symbolically present, especially in post-Soviet societies. This experience I try to show in the photos that are to be shown in this exhibition.

*Thank you very much for the interview!*

