

European Stories: Intellectual Debates on Europe in National Contexts

From LaCroix Justine Nicolaidis Kalypso

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European Stories takes a new look at debates about European Integration by examining the role of "public intellectuals"--political philosophers, scholars, editorialists or writers--who contribute to framing the attitude of European publics to Europe and the EU. While there is an enormous literature on the role of intellectuals considered generally or in their distinct national contexts, there is precious little on their take on European integration in the post-war period. This book is ambitious: it aims to provide an overview of how thinking about Europe is expressed within distinct epistemological contexts and how different ideological configurations are shaped across time and space. Twelve national cases have been selected--including founding and newer member EU members as well as non-member states--in order to offer a wide range of contrasting intellectual contexts. Contributors are all themselves fully immersed in the respective national public spheres although the editors have been careful to choose colleagues who are not strongly identified with a very specific and contested position on the national spectrum.

The expected readership is broad and interdisciplinary, ranging from political philosophy, to political science, history, sociology, and international relations. Hence, the volume should become a reference book for courses on European integration and European identity considered generally, as well as European history, history of ideas, and contemporary political theory. Beyond academia, it should be of interest to journalists as well as a more general readership interested either in European issues or the intellectual debates of our time. *European Stories* is the first book published in English on this topic and will hopefully encourage the development of further research.

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Editorial Review

Review

"This is a brilliant book. It's highly instructive chapters on how issues of European unification have been discussed from different aspects in different countries reveal in each case the strong dependence on national contexts -and the lack of mutual concern and coordination we observe in Europe even among intellectuals."--Jürgen Habermas

"Europe has completed the circle of its 'historical project', gradually healing the wounds and making amends for the errors of its past: Nazism and the Second World War, dictatorships in its Southern countries, Communist control of the East. Europe's great challenge now is to piece together a new identity, to arrive at a shared idea of Europe that is still missing. The volume edited by Justine Lacroix and Kalypso Nicolaïdis is an invaluable contribution to moving this process forward. I urge Europeans across the continent to read and debate it."--Pierre Rosanvallon, Chair of Early Modern and Modern Political History, Collège de France

"The European Union is one of the most mind-boggling political phenomena of our times. All over Europe, public intellectuals have slowly been rising to the challenge of assessing its significance and arguing about its future. But most of the time in their own impenetrable national bubbles. Thanks to an impressive pan-European team, this unusual volume enables us to peep through the opaque walls that separate national debates. Whether you are looking for similarities or for differences, be prepared for many suprises"--Philippe Van Parijs, Professor of Economic, Social, and Political Sciences, Université Catholique de Louvain, and Visiting Professor of Philosophy, Harvard University

"This is a remarkable attempt to capture the full polyphony, not to say cacophony, of different national, sub-national and supra-national versions of the European story, and then to find some underlying tune. It should be essential reading for anyone interested in the intellectual and political future of the European project."--Timothy Garton Ash, Professor of European Studies, Oxford University

"The trajectory of European integration is being decided not in Brussels but in 27 diverse nation-states. Their citizens view Europe in strikingly different ways. Brilliantly combining story-telling and social science, *European Stories* offers a path-breaking analysis of these disparate national visions. Indispensible for anyone who cares about Europe's future."--Andrew Moravcsik, Director, EU Program, Princeton University

About the Author

Justine Lacroix is Associate Professor of Politics at the Universite Libre de Bruxelles. She is the author of a number books and articles which have appeared in numerous journals including *Political Studies, European Journal of Political Theory, Politics, European Political Science, Critique,* and others.

Kalypso Nicolaidis is Director of the European Studies Centre at Oxford University and Fellow at St. Anthonys College. She is also a member of the EU reflection group on the Future of Europe (2020-2030) chaired by Felipe Gonzales, was Associate Professor at the Kennedy School of Government in Harvard University, and has also held Visiting Professorships around Europe. Her publications have appeared in numerous journals including *Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, the Journal of Common Market Studies,* and her books include *The Federal Vision* (OUP 2001), *In the Long Shadow of Europe,* and *Mediterranean Frontiers.*

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