

University of Pittsburgh



The monetary aspect of the European Union has recently come under severe stress, following global problems of finance and economics generally. The stress has impacted the central institutions of the EU and its monetary policies. It has also been accompanied by considerable social unrest and political protests in those countries most adversely affected. In the past there have been problems of legitimacy for the EU, especially vis-a-vis its constituent nation-states and their populations. The latest crises hit at the heart of this problem of legitimacy in terms of one of the core symbols at stake, that is the Euro currency itself, and the mechanisms for supporting it. News coverage tends to focus on the centralized aspects of such a problem, but it is vital to know how all this affects the practical lives, sentiments, and aspirations of people, including those in positions far from the centers of power or in countries at the edge of effective power.

A grass-roots or bottom-up view of how the currency is viewed in a number of EU countries would provide valuable perspectives on EU problems in general. Examples could come from the Baltic States, e.g. Estonia, which is just about to enter the Euro currency structure, Belgium, Denmark which remains outside of the Euro currency, Poland, especially Greece, and potentially also Portugal or Spain. Views from the peripheries often tell us much also about centers, and the conference will aim to tap in to local, ethnographic, historical, and anthropological expertise to obtain pictures of these views of what has rapidly become a very urgent problem for the future of the EU as well as an important topic for anthropological analysis. Ireland is a significant case study, because of the difficulties which have emerged in Ireland after the collapse of the so-called Celtic Tiger economy.

*Challenges to Union and Dilemmas of Diversity:
The Euro as a Central, Contested Symbol in the E.U.*

July 7 - 9, 2011

**European Union Center of Excellence and
European Studies Center,
University Center for International Studies**

**Pittsburgh Athletic Association
4215 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213**

Thursday, July 7, 2011

7:00-9:00 p.m. **Welcome Reception**
Pittsburgh Athletic Association
Johnny Majors Room, Second Floor
4215 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh

Friday, July 8, 2011

8:30-9:00 a.m. **Continental Breakfast**
Pittsburgh Athletic Association
Patrician Crown Mural Room, Second Floor

9:00-10:00 a.m. **Conference Overview and Discussion
of Issues, with special reference to
Ireland and Scotland**
Professor Strathern and Dr. Stewart

10:00 -11:00 a.m. Professor Lila Leontidou - Greece

11:00-11.30 a.m. **Discussion**
Light Refreshments

11:30-12:30 p.m. Professor Dimitris Sotiropoulos - Greece

12:30-1:00 p.m. **Discussion**

1:00-2:00 p.m. **Luncheon**
Johnny Majors Room

2:00-3:00 p.m. Professor Jaro Stacul - Poland

3:00-3:30 p.m. **Discussion**

3:30-4:30 p.m. Professor Rasa Balockaite - Lithuania

4:30-5:00 p.m. **Discussion**
Light Refreshments

5:00-6:00 p.m. Professor Panayotis Glavinis -
Greece/Transatlantic Contexts

6:00-6:30 p.m. **Discussion**

6:30-7:00 p.m. **Summary of Papers and Discussion**
Professor Strathern and Dr. Stewart

7:30 p.m. **Dinner - Lucca's**
317 South Craig Street

*Lucca's is within walking distance to the hotel and the
Pittsburgh Athletic Association*

Saturday, July 9, 2011

8:30 a.m. **Continental Breakfast**
Pittsburgh Athletic Association
Patrician Crown Mural Room, Second Floor

9:00 a.m. **Conference Roundtable** - All conference
participants to discuss conference themes with
general observations by Professor Douglas
Holmes and Professor Strathern and Dr.
Stewart will offer an overall conference
summary.

12:00 p.m. **Luncheon and Concluding Remarks**
Johnny Majors Room