

## **Seminar “Narrating Europe” (*NarratEur*) organized by the Institute for European Studies of the Université Libre de Bruxelles (IEE-ULB).**

The seminar coordinated by [François Foret](#) is part of the [partnership agreement](#) signed in 2023 by the European University Institute and the ULB. It received a label « Culture » and funding from the [Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU](#) and includes a media partnership with the newspaper [Le Soir](#).

In practice NarratEur is organized as an “open course” with ULB students and interested members of the wider public (EU practitioners, members of European civil society, journalists, citizens). Speakers include academics, politicians, journalists, and artists sharing their views about the production, circulation and reception of European narratives in various social sectors.

The 'storytelling' of European integration is an increasingly salient bone of contention in intellectual and political debates, to the extent that some refer to a 'narrative turn' in the legitimisation of the EU.

On the one hand, it highlights the efforts made by European institutions to develop policy and communicative narratives that are effective, attractive and compatible with democratic imperatives (particularly in terms of transparency, justice, accountability and sustainability). Still, despite constantly renewed versions, the advocacy for European integration seems to remain in a constant oscillation between two mainstream paradigms of justification: the 'grand narrative' inspired by the stato-national model; and a more utilitarian claim in terms of results and public goods offered to citizens by the EU policy-machine.

On the other hand, critical analyses highlight the elite-driven, abstract and technocratic dimensions of EU narratives. Doubts are expressed regarding the obsolescence of the notion of 'narrative' itself in European societies characterised by political disenchantment and religious secularisation. Narratives are framed as shifting into ephemeral 'stories' told in an individual and frequently conflictual mode, particularly in the digital sphere.

A last challenge is to take into account the role of European narratives as outcomes, solutions or aggravations of multiples crises in EU governance, and the resistances, backlashes and counter-narratives that they may encounter. A pending question is the extent, meaning and effects of their politicisation.

This seminar aims to bring together *different perspectives and disciplinary approaches* (political sociology, public policy, political theory, comparative politics, international relations, law, history, arts) to address these issues. The EU is analysed as a multi-level governance system with a focus on the *interactions between the national and the supranational*. The main interest is in the *internal dynamics of European politics*, while taking into account the constant exchanges between the European and the global spheres.

Activities will be held both in French and English, both languages being welcome in the discussion.

All the sessions take place at the Institute for European studies, (IEE-ULB), 39 avenue Roosevelt, in one of the two conference rooms (Spaak or Geremek), first hall when entering the building.

### **Programme of the seminar**

- 15/2/2024 (14-16h, room Spaak): [Olivier Roy](#), Joint-chair at the RSCAS and SPS department of the EUI, « Récits européens et déculturation »

- 22/2/2024 (14-15h, room Spaak): [Saskia Bricmont](#), MEP, « Comment dire l'Europe aux citoyen-ne-s. Retour d'expérience sur un premier mandat »

- 29/2/2024 (14-16h, room Spaak): [Erik Jones](#), Director of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, EUI, « Telling the story of Europe: Manipulation, misperception, and the 'vision' thing »

- 1/3/2024 (18-20h, room Spaak) : [Kalypso Nicolaïdis](#), Chair in Global Affairs, School of Transnational Governance-EUI, convenor the EUI Democracy Forum, « Citizen Power Europe »

- 7/3/2024 (14-16h, room Spaak): [Bruno Freyssinet](#) (compagnie Transplanisphère/[Le CAKE-Common. Art. Knowledge. Europe](#)), « New Bauhaus : quand l'UE stimule le récit de la transition environnementale par la création artistique ».

- 14/3/2024 (14-16h, room Spaak): [Noé Debré](#), creator of the TV series [Parlement](#), « L'Europe à l'écran. Raconter, filmer, partager une histoire européenne »

- 21/3/2024 (14-16h, room Geremek) : [Claudio Radaelli](#), Professor in public policy, School of Transnational Governance-EUI, "Analyzing and using policy-narratives. Lessons from the narrative policy framework "

- 28/3/2024 (14-16h, room Geremek): [Loïc Azoulai](#), Chair in Law and Social Europe, European University Institute, « Droit européen et récit du grand remplacement »

- 18/4/2024 (14-16h, room Spaak): [Emmanuel Mourlon-Druol](#), Professor of History of European Cooperation and Integration, twentieth century to the present, EUI : « Narratives of European Integration since 1945: challenges and promises of exploring 75 years of newspapers' archives »

- 22/4/2024 (14-16h, room Geremek) : [Louis Colart](#) et [Joël Matriche](#) (Le Soir), « Journalisme d'investigation, rapport aux sources et controverse en milieu européen. L'exemple du 'Qatargate' »

- 25/4/2024 (14-16h, room Spaak): [Nimis Group](#): theater workshop on Europe and migration

Event in the context of the 60th anniversary of the IEE-ULB:

- 27/2/2024 (14:30 – 16:30, salle Spaak) : "Teaching, Researching, Debating: on, with, for, or against Europe".