

EUSA Prizes

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of EUSA is pleased to announce the recipients of the following EUSA Prizes:

EUSA Book Prize (Best Book on the EU 2005/2006)

Gerda Falkner, Oliver Treib, Miriam Hartlapp, and Simone Leiber, *Complying with Europe. EU Harmonisation and Soft Law in the Member States*, Cambridge University Press 2005

The committee noted that *Complying with Europe* is a milestone in the study of compliance both for its empirical richness and theoretical innovation. The book not only covers compliance with EU (social policy) rules in all member states but, more importantly, it is the only major study (with more than a few cases) that goes beyond the analysis of the transposition of EU law to actual enforcement and application. The study shows that the EU does have a compliance problem. But compliance research has a problem, too. Falkner, Treib, Hartlapp, and Leiber convincingly demonstrate the bias in Commission monitoring and the flaws in compliance studies based on Commission data. On the basis of an impressive body of evidence, they also show the limited explanatory power of the most popular hypotheses on compliance. As an alternative, they put forward an interesting new hypothesis about “worlds of compliance”. In each of these “worlds”, compliance depends on different conditions. In the committee’s view, the book is sure to change our understanding of compliance in the EU and to raise the standards of research in this important field.

Honorable Mention

Stefano Bartolini, *Restructuring Europe. Centre Formation, System Building, and Political Structuring between the Nation State and the European Union*, Oxford University Press 2005

Restructuring Europe is a landmark contribution to the theory of European integration. Starting from the Hirschman-Rokkan model of boundary formation and political structuring in the modern nation-state, Bartolini theorizes European integration as the formation of a new center, which partially redraws the boundaries of the nation-state and thereby creates new (partial) exit options for societal and political actors. Bartolini provides a lucid and convincing analysis of the effects that the imbalance and partiality of the political restructuring of Europe has on actor strategies and behaviors, political cleavages and collective action problems as well as the sustainability of the democratic welfare state and

European integration. Although *Restructuring Europe* is not based on primary research, Bartolini is able to integrate a vast body of research and knowledge into his framework and to put it in the wider perspective of historical political sociology. In the opinion of the committee, the book will make a strong impact on the way we think about European integration and provide a fruitful avenue for further research.

Best Dissertation in EU Studies 2005/2006

Seth Kincaid Jolly, Duke University (dissertation advisor: Professor Herbert Kitschelt) *A Europe of Regions? Regional Integration, Subnational Mobilization and the Optimal Size of States*.

The committee was impressed by the sophistication of Seth Jolly’s study of the effect of European integration on subnational mobilization. Marshalling statistical and case-study evidence, the author demonstrates that European integration creates a more favorable opportunity structure for regional political parties to compete in national parliamentary elections. This is so because European integration makes regional autonomy, even independence, more viable. To assess the veracity of the viability theory against competing explanations, the author follows up with a case study of Scotland, in which he lines up evidence which shows convincingly that both regional elites and public opinion perceive Scottish autonomy to be more viable under the EU umbrella. This is a wonderful example of the merits of combining qualitative and quantitative research. It is well-conceived, well-executed, and it constitutes a theoretically important contribution to the study of multilevel governance in EU studies.

Honorable Mention

Nils Ringe, University of Pittsburgh (dissertation advisor: Professor Alberta Sbragia) *Policy Preference Formation in Legislative Politics: Structures, Actors, and Focal Points*.

The committee was impressed by the conceptual ambition and empirical depth of Nils Ringe’s dissertation, in which he examines how policy preferences are formed in the European Parliament. Building on the literature on focal points, Ringe proposes that ideology acts as an informational focal point for legislators seeking to form policy preferences. Ideological frames shift attention toward particular aspects of a legislative proposal, thus shaping the dominant interpretation of its content. Ideological focal points are not fixed by individual predispositions or by institutional rules, but are open to manipulation, especially by rapporteurs, who, in highlighting a particular ideological frame, are able to affect voting. Using both qualitative data (from inter-