

SEMINAR FOR YOUNG RESEARCHERS IN CONTEMPORARY HISTORY. EUROPEAN INTEGRATION: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY DEBATE

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Valentín de Foronda Institute and the University of the Basque Country/Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea are organizing this research seminar with the aim of bringing together young predoctoral and postdoctoral researchers and master's students interested in the study of contemporary Europe and, especially, the processes of European integration from the beginning of the 20th century to the present.

This seminar presents a particularly valuable opportunity for those working on the European integration process who wish to share their research in an open, demanding, and stimulating forum. At a time when research on Europe is facing new historiographical, political, and institutional questions, the seminar seeks to offer a discussion forum for researchers interested in analyzing, from diverse and interdisciplinary perspectives, the major processes, transformations, and challenges that have shaped contemporary Europe.

Conceived as a meeting point for diverse disciplines, methodologies, and academic traditions, the seminar aspires to become a vibrant space for intellectual exchange, fostering contrasting approaches, sharing preliminary results, and mutually enriching ongoing lines of research. Beyond a simple series of presentations, the objective is to encourage collective reflection on the political, social, economic, cultural, and institutional processes that have shaped the evolution of contemporary Europe, promoting dialogue among

researchers from history, political science, law, international relations, sociology, and other related fields.

Suggested Thematic Areas

1. States and Political Transformations in Contemporary Europe: Democratization, authoritarianism, political transitions, the welfare state, and the reconfiguration of European political systems.

2. Violence, War, and European Reconstruction: Armed conflicts, political violence, occupation, resistance, postwar periods, and reconstruction processes in contemporary Europe.

3. Institutional Architectures and Multilevel Power Dynamics: Formation, evolution, and functioning of European institutions; tensions between supranationality and intergovernmentalism; multilevel governance and decision-making processes.

4. Political Economy of European Integration: Construction of the common market, economic and sectoral policies, monetary integration, structural asymmetries, and the historical management of European crises.

5. Constitutionalization and Normative Production in Europe: Treaties, the juridification of the integration process, the role of the Court of Justice, relations between legal orders, and debates on sovereignty and constitutionalism.

6. Europe and the International Order: European integration in the context of the Cold War, the transatlantic relationship, decolonization, globalization, and the transformations of the global order.

7. Transnational Networks and Non-State Actors: The role of experts, administrative elites, think tanks, businesses, trade unions, lobbies, and social movements in shaping the European project.

8. Memory, Identities, and European Narratives: Political uses of the past, memory politics, identity discourses, and the symbolic construction of Europe.

9. Citizenship and Democratic Legitimacy: Public opinion, political participation, representation, Europeanism, Euroscepticism, and European identities in historical perspective.

Submission of Proposals

The seminar is provisionally scheduled for **11 and 12 March 2027**, in the Auditorium of the Micaela Portilla Building, next to the Faculty of Arts in Vitoria-Gasteiz. The dates and final duration of the seminar may be slightly adjusted depending on the volume and nature of the proposals received. The deadline for submitting papers will remain open until **23 October 2026**.

Once this period has ended, the proposals will undergo an evaluation process by the scientific committee, with a maximum of one month estimated for the decision on the papers. The decision will be notified on **20 November 2026**. The final seminar program will be announced on **4 December 2026**.

The seminar will be held exclusively in person and is open to the participation of young researchers from all backgrounds, disciplines, and levels of training, from master's students to predoctoral and postdoctoral researchers. Accepted papers will be organized and presented in thematic panel sessions, with individual presentations of between 10 and 15 minutes

followed by a group question and answer session and discussion. The working languages will be Spanish, English, and Italian. The organizers also plan to select a number of the submitted papers.

The program includes an opening and a closing lecture, as well as, if applicable, other invited presentations, all by renowned researchers in the field of the history of European integration and contemporary European history. The names of the invited speakers will be published along with the final seminar program.

The organizers will issue certificates of participation and attendance to all those who have registered and request them.

Conditions for participation

Registration for the seminar will be free of charge both for those whose proposals are accepted and for the audience. Please note that participation as a presenter in the thematic panels does not entail any financial remuneration, nor will the organisers cover travel or accommodation expenses. However, accepted participants will be provided with all the necessary logistical information regarding the venue and the host city.

Those wishing to attend the seminar as non-presenting participants may do so by registering free of charge via the organisers' email addresses. Registration dates will be announced together with the final seminar programme.

Finally, anyone interested can communicate in advance their intention to participate, either as a listener or as an assistant, to the organization through the following link to facilitate and predict the scale of attendance:

<https://forms.gle/RxUjdfK6yq4dHim46>.

Proposal Requirements

Interested parties should submit their communication proposal including the following information:

- Full name
- Institutional affiliation
- Contact information (postal address, email, and telephone number)
- Title of the communication and abstract of the proposal (between 300 and 500 words)

Proposals should be sent to the following email addresses:

- Beñat Alkain Lazkanoiturburu: **benat.alkain@ehu.eus**
- Iker Otadui Sanz: **iker.otadui@ehu.eus**

Organisers

The seminar is organized by the Valentín de Foronda University Institute of Social History, a research center affiliated with the University of the Basque Country/Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea (EHU) and a reference institution in the study of contemporary social and political history.

CONVENORS

Beñat Akain Lazkanoiturburu e Iker Otadui Sanz

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- Jose Maria Portillo Valdes
- Asier Odriozola Otamendi
- Victor Manuel Amado Castro
- Maria Lozano Vicario
- Guillermo Marin Casado
- Erik Zubiaga Arana