

Séminaire

L'Europe et le Politique.

Approches Théoriques et Empiriques

Organized by the Centre d'études européennes and the CEVIPOF

Spitting in the Wind: Democratization and Economic Conditionality in the ENP

Friday 20 March 2015

12.30 - 2.30 pm

Sciences Po
Room B402
56, rue des Saints-Pères
75007 Paris

Speaker



Tom Theuns (Sciences Po, CERI)

Recent scholarship examines the 'realist' agenda of EU self-interest behind the lofty rhetoric of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). This talk will rather focus on the normative coherence of the ENP, developing an immanent critique of the way in which the notion of 'democracy promotion' is understood. The core idea is that with enlargement off the table, democracy promotion in the ENP is self-defeating. The means used to promote democratization are argued to undermine its goal. Preferential access to EU markets is offered as an incentive, but comes with many conditions attached. Further, some of the goals of the ENP - for instance the imposition of a 'European model' of market liberalization, trade relations, private sector development and economic integration - are

argued to be in conflict with the goal of democracy promotion. Two hypothetical cases are explored that relieve this tension. The first strips the ENP back to merely cash-for-democratization, and the second puts membership of the EU back on the table for neighbourhood countries. These two cases offer two possible avenues out of the afore described normative conundrum while maintaining the goal of promoting democracy through "soft power" external governance mechanisms such as economic conditionality.

Tom Theuns is a doctoral student at Sciences Po Paris and a Research Associate at the Center for Political Theory of the Université Libre de Bruxelles, working under the supervision of Justine Lacroix. His doctoral research uses the tools of political theory to examine the justification of EU foreign policy, with a particular focus on the European Neighbourhood.

Discussion

Jacques Rupnik, (Sciences Po, CERI)

Free entrance according to available places

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