

L'Europe en débat

Le blog L'Europe en débat, fruit d'un partenariat entre ARTE et le Collège d'Europe, aborde en français et en anglais l'actualité européenne sur une base thématique. Son équipe, composée d'étudiants, d'assistants et de professeurs du Collège, privilégie dans ses analyses la comparaison, la mise en perspective et le recul. Elle vous invite à participer à ce travail collectif via les commentaires. Elle cherche ainsi, à dégager dans le débat des intérêts communs aux citoyens européens en dépassant les intérêts nationaux, préalable indispensable à la constitution d'une opinion publique européenne.

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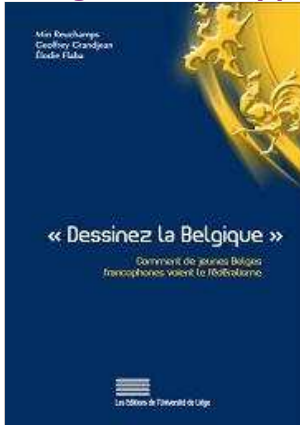
Liens

27 et moi
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**Les partenaires associés de
 Regards croisés :**
 Cafebabel

Draw Belgium: Between Past, Present and Future

This contribution recalls our discussions about how past events influence politics in Europe. This analysis of young Belgian francophones towards federalism does certainly contain interesting material for discussion about attitudes towards European integration. We are grateful to Elodie Faba, Min Reuchamps and Geoffrey Grandjean, who had already analysed the **role of historical memories in Belgian community politics for this blog, for their contribution.**



On 4th December 2008, 234 students in political and social sciences of the Université de Liège, Belgium, were invited to "Draw Belgium" on a blank sheet of paper. No other guidelines were given, so total freedom was left to the students. In addition to this request, the young citizens were asked to fill in a 19-question questionnaire about their federal perceptions and preferences as well as some political and socio-demographic indicators.

The results of this "quasi-experimental" research have been just released and are exposed in a book entitled «Dessinez la Belgique»: Comment de jeunes Belges francophones voient le fédéralisme or in English "Draw Belgium": How Young Francophone Belgians See Federalism. This short book explores the intricate relationships between the federal representations, perceptions and preferences of young Francophone Belgians who grew up in the era of federalism and who will have the task to shape tomorrow's Belgium. If our research design endeavoured to capture the outlook of the young generation on Belgium and its federalism, our results can also shed light on memory process and bear insights in that topic.

Firstly, concerning the "mental maps" (the draws), we have picked out that students only represent Belgium. Some of them have mentioned other countries around this state but a very narrow part of them did it. Historical and political context is clearly forgotten concerning the representation of Belgium. Indeed there are no references to the past and no references to the political – European – context. For example, from a European perspective, Belgium has long been considered at the heart of the European construction. But this view is clearly missing from the students' representations. This observation rises questions if we want to deal with the articulation of past and present. The past is relatively forgotten in the different representations.

Secondly, concerning the questionnaire, we have noticed another very interesting point. For the students, there is an illusion that the previous Belgian political system – a unitarian system – was better than the current federal system. However these students are members of the "*génération P*", this generation which has always known the federal state. This observation arises once again questions concerning the memory process because historical knowledge takes the advantage on current situation. The articulation of past and present reveals a different configuration in this second case.

So, in the one hand, the past is not present at the mental map level and, on the other hand, the past is mobilized but in an illusory way in the questionnaire. In fact, one could not posit that the political actors themselves consciously mobilised the past and more precisely a seemingly "better" past. Rather, this mobilization of the past has probably more to do with a phenomenon which can be characterized, following André-Paul Frogner, Lieven De Winter and Pierre Baudewyns, of "*hystérésis*" using the term coined by the French sociologist,

Presseurop
EurActiv
Les Euros du village
Europa-Digital
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Goethe-Institut
Nouvelle Europe

Les sites incontournables

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EUobserver
Eurotopics
Toute l'Europe
Centre for European reform (CER)
Notre Europe
Mouvement Européen France

Dans la blogosphère

Coulisses de Bruxelles, UE
Le blog de Margot Wallström
The blog of the Centre for European Reform
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Blogactiv
Whatseuropinion, un blog bilingue d'un groupe d'anciens du Collège d'Europe
La oreja de Europa, un blog en espagnol ayant reçu récemment un prix pour sa communication sur l'Europe
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Centre Virtuel de Connaissance de l'Europe
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Transeuropéen - un blog des Euros du village
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Le site d'Eurostat sur la population européenne
The analyses of ELIAMEP on contemporary international migration
Le futur passé de l'Europe : un projet mettant en perspective les débats démographiques en Europe

Elections européennes et espace(s) public(s)

EUdebate2009 - le site de Cafebabel sur les élections européennes
Predict 09.EU : predictions on the next European Parliament
Le site du Parlement Européen sur les élections de juin 2009
27 et moi, une plateforme sur les européennes chez ARTE

Profil

Nom d'auteur : Luis Bouza Garcia

Description : Je suis l'assistant académique du programme d'Etudes générales du

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Pierre Bourdieu. Among the francophone Belgians and including the younger ones (those of the "génération F"), this phenomenon of "hystérésis", which is the persistence of a past attitude even though the conditions have changed, seems to be accompanied, perhaps even unconsciously, by an over-emphasis of the past and clearly in the Belgian case of the unitary period, especially in times of political turmoil or as Belgians usually say in times of "tensions communautaires", as if those days were peaceful and conflicts-free. This situation is quite paradoxical given the fact that the young Belgians have never lived under the unitary regime and it was rotten by linguistic conflicts.

Anyway, it will be interesting to see how the future will be articulated to the past and to the present. From this point of view, these students will choose which configuration is the best one for them and for Belgium.

Grandjean Geoffrey, Reuchamps Min and Flaba Elodie

Find out more about the book:

Min Reuchamps, Geoffrey Grandjean et Elodie Flaba, «Dessinez la Belgique» : *Comment de jeunes Belges francophones voient le fédéralisme*, Liège, Les Éditions de l'Université de Liège, 2009.

On the Internet: <http://hdl.handle.net/2268/12755>

Another book concerning the articulation of Past, Present and Future:

François Hartog, *Régimes d'historicité. Présentisme et expériences du temps*, Paris, Seuil, 2003.

André-Paul Frogner, Lieven De Winter and Pierre Baudewyns, « Les Wallons et la réforme de l'Etat. Une analyse sur la base de l'enquête post-électorale de 2007 », *PIOP 2008-3*, Louvain-la-Neuve, Pôle Interuniversitaire sur l'Opinion publique et la Politique de l'Université catholique de Louvain, 2008.

On the Internet: <http://www.uclouvain.be/209208.html>

Le 12/08/2009 à 10:59

Rédigé par Luis Bouza Garcia | Mémoire historique et politique | Commentaires (0) | ✉ | +

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