

Protest Movements in European Integration History (1950-2000)

Online Workshop of the Jean Monnet Chair EU-CONV (Sciences Po Rennes)

22-23 May 2025

The history of protest movements and the history of European integration have long been written separately from each other and largely disconnected. Political science studied extensively the Europeanisation of social movements in reaction to European policies since the 1990s. However, the diversity of social mobilisations related to the various EC/EU policies and to the accelerated process of long-term European convergence have only been examined in short-term and sectoral studies. This research project will reconsider the role of protest movements in the history of European integration from the 1950s to the 1990s. It will thereby make a contribution to the social history of the European project.

As a preparatory stage for an international conference scheduled for 2026, this workshop brings together specialists in protest movements and European integration from different disciplines to discuss four main types of movement:

- 1) transnational reactions to EC/EU policies;
- 2) national reactions to EC/EU policies;
- 3) transnational movements calling for more European integration or policies;
- 4) national movements protesting against state policies resulting directly from European integration processes (opening up of markets, enlargement, external constraints, convergence criteria).

The subject will be delimited by a repertoire of actions corresponding to movements involving different kinds of protest (demonstration, occupation, petition, contestation, etc.). Actions involving simple lobbying will not be considered.

Workshop Organisation

The workshop will offer two types of activity:

- brief presentations (10') of research perspectives followed by discussions
- general discussions on the key themes of the topic

Contact

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Timetables are set to Europe/Brussels time (GMT+2)

Thursday 22 May

1:30 pm *Connection*

1:45 pm Opening session

2:00 pm **Panel 1: Transnational Reactions to European Policies** (Panel Chair: Francesco PETRINI)

Nicolas VERSCHUEREN (Brussels): *Disaster, Decline and Demonstration: European Institutions and Coalminers' Mobilization (1956-1964)*

Stefan BERGER (Bochum): *Saving European Steel? Protests Against EU Plans for the European Steel Industry from the 1970s to the 1990s*

Carine GERMOND (Trondheim): *No Big Tractors, No Big Arms? Farm and Rural Women's Contestation in the EC*

3:00 pm *Break*

3:15 pm **Panel 2: National Reactions to European Policies** (Panel Chair: Carine GERMOND)

Luca ALTERI / Alessandro BARILE (Rome): *Protesting Against European Union, but Challenging the Nation-State: The Case of COBAS Latte in mid 1990s Italy*

Vincent PORHEL (Lyon): *The Last Conflict of the Breton Forges: Between Regionalism and the Perception of Europe in Hennebont (1957-1966)*

Matthieu TROUVÉ (Bordeaux): *From Euro-Enthusiasm to Euroscepticism? Anti-European Criticism and Protest in Spain (1980s-1990s): The Origins of Spanish Euroscepticism*

4:15 pm *Break*

4:30 pm **General Discussion 1**

Limited Protests in Reaction to European policies: Between Mobilisation Strategy and Belated Awareness

Friday 23 May

8:45 am *Connection*

9:00 am **Panel 3: Calling for More European Integration** (Panel Chair: Nicolas VERSCHUEREN)

Micheal J. GEARY (Trondheim): *The Anti-Apartheid Movement and the European Community in the 1970s and 1980s*

Frieda OTTMANN (Munich): *Testing the Waters: Social Protests and the Search for a Receptive Europe in Environmental Governance*

Stephen GAFFNEY (Brussels): *Trans-European Politicisation of Unemployment and the 1997 Euromarch to Amsterdam*

10:00 am *Break*

10:15 am **Panel 4: Protests and European External Constraint** (Panel Chair: Stefan BERGER)

Francesco PETRINI (Padua): *There is an Alternative! Worker Protests and the European External Constraint in Italy in the 1960s and 1970s*

Sergio MOLINA GARCÍA (Madrid): *It's the Fishing, Stupid! Fishers' Social Movements and European Enlargements*

Mathieu DUBOIS (Rennes): *The Completion of the Common Market: An Indirect Cause of May 68 in France?*

11:15 am *Break*

11:30 am **General Discussion 2**

External Constraints in Protest Movements: European Liberalisation or Globalisation?