

***Twenty Years Jean Monnet Project in Canada***

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***Presentation at the JEAN MONNET CONFERENCE***

***20 Years of Support for European Integration Studies:***

***From the Jean Monnet Action to the Jean Monnet Programme***

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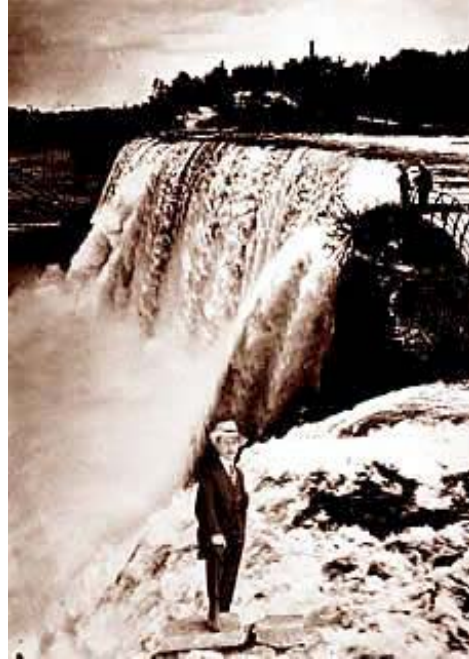
I was asked to reflect on the Jean Monnet Project in Canada. The first thing that came to mind was to ask a few return questions to the audience. I have four questions.

My first question to you all is: Which was the first industrialised 'third country' to sign a Partnership Agenda with the European Economic Community (EEC)? The answer may surprise you. It is: Canada. In 1976 Canada signed a Partnership Agenda with the European Economic Community.

My second question is: Where do you think the first Jean Monnet Chair was outside of the EU? And the answer is: Canada. Professor Panayotis Soldatos was awarded a Jean Monnet Chair Université de Montréal in 1992 (he is currently at the Université de Lyon).

My third question: Where do you think the first North American Jean Monnet Chair Centre of Excellence is located? Answer: Canada. It was awarded to the University of Victoria in 2004.

And my final question (you know the answer though likely not the question), which country did Jean Monnet visit between 1907-1914? CANADA!



Monnet traveled in Canada as a Cognac Merchant between 1907-1914 gaining experience about migration and cultural integration and cooperation. The photo above depicts Jean Monnet in front of the Niagara Falls in 1907 (reproduced by Uglan (forthcoming) credits: Jean Monnet Foundation for Europe in Lausanne, Switzerland).

With these four questions I hope to have demonstrated to you that Europe-Canada collaboration, the Jean Monnet Programme, indeed the very person of Jean Monnet have been very important to Canada.

To provide an overview of the influence of the Jean Monnet Project grants in Canada I have organized my presentation around four further questions:

- 1) What was the state of European integration studies in Canada about 20 years ago?
- 2) What has the Jean Monnet Project funded in Canada?
- 3) What other developments on EU studies have occurred, apart from the Jean Monnet Project, that are synergetic?
- 4) In conclusion, what has the Jean Monnet Project done to develop European Studies in Canada?

To address these four questions I have subdivided my presentation into four parts:

- 1) History
- 2) Jean Monnet Project Grants
- 3) Synergies
- 4) The Future

## 1) Historical Overview

By means of providing a background to the lay of the land in Canada at the start of the Jean Monnet Programme, twenty years ago, let me provide you with an overview of the situation in Canada in 1989 regarding the study of European Integration.

Among the founding fathers of European integration studies in Canada were Panayotis Soldatos of the Université de Montréal and Charles Pentland of Queen's University (Kingston). Their efforts led to the establishment in 1977 of the *Journal of European Integration/Revue d'intégration européenne*, and to the founding in 1980 of the Canadian Council for European Affairs/Conseil canadienne des Affaires européennes. That organization, encouraged and supported by the Delegation of the European Commission in Ottawa, affiliated representatives of industry, universities and government, regularly organised conferences on such topics as "Doing Business with Europe" and subsidised the publication of the Journal, then headquartered in Montreal. By 1983 the Journal, under the co-editorship of Hans Michelmann and Panayotis Soldatos, was headquartered at the University of Saskatchewan, as was the Canadian Council for European Affairs with Professor Michelmann as Director General. In 1997 the editorial office of the Journal, which by then had been published in Canada for twenty years, was moved to the University of Essex where it was located for many years under the editorship and direction of Professor Emil Kirchner. The Canadian connection was maintained because Professor Michelmann remained as an editor and other Canadian remained members of the Journal's editorial board.<sup>ii</sup> The Canadian Council for European Affairs was dissolved in 2002 because by then the European Community Studies Association – Canada (ECSA-C) had been well established as the preeminent organization in the field of EU studies in Canada.

Then, as already mentioned, in 1992 came the first Jean Monnet Chair to Canada, to Montreal, as first held by Soldatos; later, when Professor Soldatos left, the Chair was taken over by Professor Nanette Neuwahl.

Another important development in 1994-1995 was the initiative to create a European Community Studies Association – Canada (ECSA-C) undertaken by Professors Steven B. Wolinetz and Hans Michelmann. ECSA-C was founded in 1996, and had Professor Wolinetz from Memorial University Newfoundland serving as its first President for four years.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> ECSA-C is the single most important European studies association in Canada. It holds regular biennial meetings, usually with about 100-150 participants. Its current President is Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly of the University of Victoria. Its next major conference is the 8th Biennial Conference on the theme 'Whither Europe?' will be held in Victoria, BC from 29 April to 1 May 2010. More information on ECSA-C can be found here: <http://web.uvic.ca/ecsac/>.

Until 1996 there were very few courses offer on European integration. Other than some 'minors' in European Studies there were no European integration studies programmes. There were some European Studies Programmes but they were in the humanities and focused mostly on language and culture.

Then in 1998, the Commission of the European Communities, Directorate General I ("DG I" for short, now named "DG External Relations" or "DG Relex) provided funding for a first EU Centre grant to the University of British Columbia (UBC). It was a one-year try out grant. By 1999 a first Canadian competition for EU Centres grants was born.

## 2 Jean Monnet Project

### *2a) Jean Monnet Chairs*

Though the Jean Monnet Project started in Canada in 1992 with the first Jean Monnet Chair, as was mentioned above, the programme only started in earnest in 2001, with two Jean Monnet Chairs being appointed 2001: Professor John Praetschke was awarded a Jean Monnet Chair (Economics) in European Integration Studies, at the University of Guelph and in the same year this author was awarded Jean Monnet Chair in European Integration Studies (Interdisciplinary) University of Victoria (UVic). By 2002 another Jean Monnet Chair was awarded to Professor Armand de Mestral, this time in Law of International Economic Integration, at McGill University. In 2006 another Jean Monnet Chair was awarded to the University of Victoria this time an interdisciplinary Jean Monnet Chair in Politics and History (awarded to Oliver Schmidtke). In 2007 the first Jean Monnet Chair Ad Personam was awarded to Professor and Canada Research Chair holder Finn Laursen (Political Science) at Dalhousie University. York University got its first Jean Monnet Chair in European Integration (Political Science) in 2008 that went to Willem Maas. That same year Nanette Neuwahl was awarded another Jean Monnet Chair in European Union at the Université de Montreal, this time with a clear Law focus. In 2008, the second Jean Monnet Chair ad Personam (Political Science) was appointed, this time at the Université de Montreal to Professor George W. Ross who had just arrived in Montreal from a prior position in the US. Finally, in 2009 yours truly was awarded the third Jean Monnet Chair ad Personam (Interdisciplinary) at the University of Victoria.

### *2b) Jean Monnet Modules*

Since the early 2000s, as many as eight modules were funded in Canada. In 2001, Professor David Long (then the President of ECSA-C) received a grant for an

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interdisciplinary course ‘The European Union in International Affairs’’, taught at Carleton University. That same year, the former ECSA-C President, Steven B. Wolinetz, was awarded a grant to teach at Memorial University the interdisciplinary module ‘European Studies 2000: Europe in the Twentieth Century’. The next year a grant went to Oliver Schmidtke at the University of Victoria for an interdisciplinary course ‘European Integration and the roots of European identity’. The year 2004 would be the year in which four module awards went to four British Columbia courses: in 2004 the first award went to a community college, Kwantlen College: Professor Noemi Gal-Or received funding for her initiative ‘European Integration Visiting Professor’ in Political and Administrative studies, which enabled her to bring professors from all over to co-teach a European integration course. In the same year Professor G. Cornelis van Kooten received a grant for a team-taught course ‘Economics and the European Union’, a purely Economics course taught at the University of Victoria. Simon Fraser University received a grant for a course led by Professor Alexander Moens entitled ‘A Survey of the Politics of the European Union’, (Political and Admin). The fourth grant that year went to Professor Ljiljana Biukovic of University of British Columbia, who was successful with obtaining funding for a Law course entitled ‘External Relations of European Union’. Finally, in 2005 Martha O’Brien, Professor of Law at the University of Victoria, was awarded a grant for her Jean Monnet Module ‘Law of the European Union’.

### *2c) Jean Monnet Project - Other*

Not only did Canada gain a lot of support through the Jean Monnet Programme per se (the Jean Monnet Chair and Jean Monnet Module part of the programme), a number of grants also went to Canada through the programme that now is clearly identified as the Jean Monnet Project but at the time was referred to as budget line A-3022 grants. These included grants to ECSA-C (for example in 2002 a National ECSA Network Activities; a five year grant for ECSA-C). ECSA-C also received support for its conferences in the 1990s, generous conference grants throughout the 2000s. Soon these A-3022 grants were folded into the general Jean Monnet Project programme, so that they became an integral part of it. Canadian scholars still applied (and won) grants for various conference and network activities throughout the world, for instance European Studies activities that took place in China and Japan.

By 2004 the first Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (JMCE) was awarded to the University of Victoria, and in 2006 the UVIC JMCE secured a research grant with two other Jean Monnet partner for a project on ‘Governance and Policy-making in the European Union’.

### 3) Synergies

The Jean Monnet Project was not the only programme to support European Studies’ activities in Canada. As was already mentioned, in Canada funding of European

integration studies also was provided by another Commission Directorate-General; the DG for external relations (which was first named DG-I later renamed DG-Relex).

Relex EU Centres Grants: In 1998 came the first try-out EU Centre Grant given to UBC. By 2000 four EU Centres Grants were awarded in Canada, namely, Carleton, McGill/Montreal, Toronto/York, UBC (with UVic and Simon Fraser University (SFU) as minor partners). In 2003, the Commission awarded five EU Centres Grants: Carleton, McGill/Montreal, Toronto/York, UBC, UVic. In 2006 only four EU Centres Grants were made available. They went to Carleton, Dalhousie, McGill/Montreal, and Toronto. Now, in 2009, the competition has been called and five Centres have won their bids: Carleton; Dalhousie, Montreal, a consortium of the University of Toronto and the University of Victoria, and the fifth one went to York University.

Besides these Centres grants, Canadians have benefitted from other funds. They have been supported with occasional grants from DG Relex, in particular the Canada-EU Public Diplomacy Grants. These grants are directed to Canadian institutions of higher education for media dissemination, conferences, youth mobilisation, study tours, et cetera. There have also been Canada-EU programmes 'Canada-EU Cooperation in Higher Education and Training programme' (funded on the Canadian side by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) and on the European Commission side DG Education and Training). Also, Canadians participate in EU Visitors' programmes. Furthermore Canadians participate as external experts in Framework Programmes (research). Finally, Canadians have been able to leverage the EU support by coordinating efforts and apply for major Canadian funding through other sources (both within and outside their home university). Most notably, perhaps, is a grant won by a large cross country mostly Canadian group of European Studies scholars, representing current and former EU Centres as well as individual researchers, who have been awarded a grant for 2.1 million Canadian dollars from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council for the creation of a seven year pan-Canadian 'knowledge cluster'.

#### 4) How has the Jean Monnet Project helped develop European Studies?

The Jean Monnet Project has been instrumental in developing European Studies in a number of ways. It has created various Jean Monnet Chairs, who have increased the standing of EU teaching and research in Canada and abroad. It is perhaps noteworthy that the programme itself has, on the one hand, enhanced the ability to teach European integration in one's own university. The reason is that a Jean Monnet Chair has an obligation to teach 120 hours of European integration. On the other hand, this requirement to teach 120 hours of European integration every year over five years is sufficiently restrictive that a number of scholars (Chairs, Deans, to name but a few) but also those who need to teach other courses because of the demands in their department, cannot be that focused on teaching that many hours of European integration. Thus, even if they are outstanding scholars of European integration they will thus no longer be bothered with applying if they do not even meet that basic criterion.

The Jean Monnet Module part of the programme created various Jean Monnet Modules that enabled things to happen that would not have been possible without that support. This support is particularly useful for those scholars who have been unable to teach (almost) exclusively European integration courses (as in the case of the Jean Monnet Chairs). In some cases instructors would simply not have been allowed to teach that much EU stuff. In other cases, it would have not been possible to provide the content it now offers. Another result is that there are now more courses on EU related topics than before. These courses stay on the books years after the grants are over.

European Studies have also been developed via the funds for research and associations that facilitate research dissemination, cooperation, networking by Canadian on non-Canadian scholars and graduate students. Networking is particularly costly in Canada because of the large (wide geographical) size of the country and therefore the fact that many European studies scholars are spread out across the country as well as the fact that there are so many time zones. In other words the Jean Monnet support has brought Canadians closer to one another thereby facilitating knowledge about one another's research, teaching and outreach.

Finally, the Jean Monnet project funding has increased salience of European integration studies in Canada very substantially. We have witnessed the creation of new programmes; new courses; an increasing number appointments of professors in the area of European integration; even the creation of various Canada Research Chairs on European integration (Dalhousie) or on related topics such as immigration and migration (Toronto). As a former ECSA-C President put it:

*'it is certainly the case that European Union studies have been transformed over the last decade or so - at least if my experience at Carleton is anything to go by. The grants have created an environment where there are consistently speakers coming through, visiting professors, and programs that did not exist previously. The level and nature of the activity is qualitatively different. This means European Studies - and more particularly EU studies - have a profile they did not have 20 years ago. Our university administration knows about our program and values it - I am sure yours does too. This level of awareness at senior levels is a product of the Jean Monnet Project'.<sup>iii</sup>*

## 5) Conclusion: Jean Monnet Project and Canada?

The Jean Monnet Project and related EU programmes have made transformed the higher education landscape of Canada over the past two decades. Canadian researchers have always had an interest in the EU, but the programmes and recent developments have focused the attention of researchers, students and university administrations alike.

Notwithstanding that interest, before listening to this presentation it may have come as a surprise to some to learn that the first Jean Monnet Chair and the first Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence in North America were in Canada – not in the US. Yet, I would argue that it is not so very strange. I mentioned in my introduction that the first

partnership agreement in 1976 was with Canada. It was perhaps a sense of mutual closeness that drew the two entities together. But beyond those high-level institutional, economic and political motivations of cooperation I would argue that Canada has always been very much interested in the EU.

Canada is in many ways closer to the EU than that the US is. This can be demonstrated by making the comparison between Canada and the US on some key issues. Such as Canada has for many decades had general healthcare for all Canadian residents, which is rather different from that of the US before Obama. Canada seeks to have a smaller difference between the rich and poor than does the US. Canada greatly values various characteristics of social fabric of society such as a functioning welfare state, ensuring that there is universal education for all through a system of high quality mostly public schools and mostly public universities, finding it acceptable to have a higher rate of progressive income taxation than what the US tolerates, and so on. In other words, on a number of these landmarks, Canada resembles more the EU than it does the US. In many ways one could argue that Canada's choices in governance end up being half way between those of the EU and the US. Given the salience of the US (its geographical location, its 'pull' because of its global power, its economic dominance over the past decades, its leading universities and cutting edge (albeit exorbitantly costly) healthcare, Canada could have easily been veering off in the direction of the US rather than staying where it is – in between the EU and the US. It is therefore most appreciated by scholars, students and university administration that the Jean Monnet Project has offered leverage for Canadian universities, funding agents, students, to maintain that link with EU and not be pulled exclusively in the direction of the US.

Before closing let me leave you with one more picture of Jean Monnet from 1913, which shows him leisurely having coffee in Montreal. I will close with a plea to you all, to read Trygve Umland's absolutely fascinating story about Jean Monnet's travel to Canada, leaving you to guess what relevance his trip may have had for the integration of Europe...



Unpublished photo of Jean Monnet at an out-door restaurant in Montreal in 1913 (Credits: Jean Monnet Foundation for Europe in Lausanne, Switzerland, reprinted in Ugland (forthcoming)).

#### 6) References:

Ugland, Trygve (forthcoming), *Jean Monnet and Canada: The Father of Europe and His Canadian Inspiration*, Book series: European Union Studies (series editors: Jeffrey Kopstein and Amy Verdun) Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

#### Useful websites:

Jean Monnet database: <http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/llp/jeanmonnet/directory>  
[type in "Canada" in the search engine]

European Community Studies Association –Canada:  
<http://web.uvic.ca/ecsac/>

DG Relex website: [http://ec.europa.eu/external\\_relations/canada/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/canada/index_en.htm)

In particular: EU Centres of Canada:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/external\\_relations/canada/eucentres\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/canada/eucentres_en.htm)

#### SSHRC Cluster website:

<http://www.carleton.ca/europecluster/>

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<sup>i</sup> The author wishes to thank David Long, Hans Michelmann, and Steven B. Wolinetz for useful comments and suggestions on an earlier version of this paper.

<sup>ii</sup> When the *Journal of European Integration/Revue d'integration Européenne* eventually moved from Canada to the UK its French name was silently dropped. A couple of years ago the journal moved to the University of Maastricht, and came under the editorship of Thomas Christiansen. When the journal moved to the UK it transferred to Taylor and Francis (after a brief stint from 1998 to 2001 during which time it was published by Harwood Academic). It is currently in its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of publication and will soon be ranked in the ISI Thompson rankings.

<sup>iii</sup> David Long, email correspondence with the author, 2009.