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Rethinking Citizenship

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About the contributors

Nora Trench Bowles, from Ireland, is currently undertaking a traineeship at the European Commission in Brussels, with the Parliamentary Questions Unit of the Secretariat-General. She previously held positions with the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, as a local assistant to an Irish MEP in Strasbourg, and with European Movement Ireland, a European political communications organisation in Dublin, Ireland. In 2010, she graduated from University College Dublin with a BA (Honours) Arts International in History and Politics, having also studied for a year at the Department of Political Science at Lund University, Sweden. She later completed the MA Euroculture programme at Uppsala University, Sweden, and the University of Strasbourg. Her research interests lie primarily with European political cooperation and particularly with Ireland's relationship with the EU. Her Master's thesis was entitled "How were the factors that led to the defeat of the first referendum on the Nice Treaty addressed in subsequent Irish referendum campaigns on the EU?". Having completed the European Commission traineeship, she aspires to continue a career in European political affairs with pan-European institutions and organisations.

Paul-Gilbert Colletaz is from Orléans (France) and graduated in British and American Literatures, Civilisations and Linguistics from the Sorbonne (France) spending the last year of his undergraduate diploma in Edinburgh (Scotland). A Euroculture student from September 2011 to July 2013, he studied at the Universities of Strasbourg (France), Udine (Italy) and Pune (India). He is currently working at the French Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain as Publications and Communications Assistant. His interests go from EU politics and Franco-British relations to Scottish Civilisation and Gender Studies. In the future, Paul-Gilbert would like to pursue his career as a political journalist or within communications.

Anne Kurzweg graduated from Philipps-University Marburg (Germany) with a BA in Social Sciences. With the MA Euroculture studies at Deusto University (Spain) and Uppsala University (Sweden), she deepened her knowledge in identity (trans-)formation processes through social, cultural and political interaction, and started focusing on the relation

between “European” and “local”. Starting with the present article about Liverpool08, she specialized in European Capitals of Culture (ECOC) and finished her studies discussing the chances of ECOC cities to create sustainable relations with Europe in her MA thesis. Since October 2012, she collaborates closely with Donostia-San Sebastián 2016 and works towards establishing herself as expert advisor for European projects.

Syed Rashid Munir, from Pakistan, has a B.Sc. in Politics and Economics from LUMS, Pakistan. While studying for the Erasmus Mundus MA in Euroculture at the University of Deusto, Bilbao, his research interests included post-colonialism, sub-altern studies, cultural and critical theory, and citizenship regimes in Europe. Apart from his love of writing fiction and traveling, Rashid daydreams in his spare time about a job in diplomacy. Rashid returned to Pakistan after the completion of his Masters, and he currently teaches Political Science and International Relations at the University of Management and Technology, Lahore.

Steven Otterman was born in New York City and earned his BA in Philosophy at Cornell University. While earning his MA in Euroculture (University of Göttingen; University of Groningen), Steve also earned an MA in Philosophy (University of Göttingen), with a concentration in ‘Moral and Political Philosophy.’ Within Euroculture, he is interested in European integration and the future of Europe. He plans to return to the United States to pursue further graduate studies.

Bianca Rubino has two nationalities – Italian and Swiss. In 2011 she completed her BA in Humanities for the Study of Culture at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy, with a specialization in Cultural Mediation. Bianca did her Erasmus exchange in Malmö, Sweden, where she studied International Migrations and Ethnic Relations. In 2013 she completed the double Erasmus Mundus MA in Euroculture at the University of Groningen and at the University of Strasbourg. During that time she researched mainly about cultural processes, cultural institutions, cultural citizenship and European cultural policies and programmes. Her MA thesis focused on the Euro-Mediterranean cultural citizenship in the framework of the European Capital of Culture of Marseille-Provence 2013. She foresees to work in the sphere of European cultural project management as well as in the field of cultural policy and international cooperation in which she already completed her first vocational experience.

Alina Charlotte Susan Sepp, from Germany, completed her B.A. in Communication Sciences at the University of Münster in 2010 with a thesis about the Digital Divide in the Sub-Saharan countries of Africa. As a project assistant she worked for several transnational organizations and accomplished internships at editorial offices and in the cultural sector. She started the M.A. in Euroculture at the University of Göttingen, Germany and the University of Deusto, Bilbao, Spain. Her research interests are mainly on the impact of new communication media and online social networks on direct political participation and transnational protest. Consequently, in 2013, she completed her M.A. in Euroculture with a

thesis entitled “Followers, Visitors and Friends in Movement. The Use of Different Internet Platforms for Transnational Activism during the ‘European Spring’ Demonstrations”. She is currently living in Cologne to start her career at the intersection of media and transnational culture or politics.

Juuso Hermanni Tiihonen, from Finland. BA studies: Education: general and adult education (major); Political science: economic and social history, world politics (minor), University of Helsinki. His BA thesis examines the media discussion surrounding the Finnish PISA success. His MA thesis investigates the Human Resource responses to the demographic change in Europe. The ageing population and especially workforce are setting new challenges for societies and organisations throughout the industrialized world. Knowledge possesses the greatest ability for sustainable competitive advantage for organisations and the process of knowledge transfer is a key factor when managing that asset. Ageing workforce necessitates a change in the HR practices that reside a general preference for younger employees with strong age related stereotypes. Through the adoption of an age-inclusive organisational climate and practices supporting intergenerational learning and knowledge transfer the demands of demographic change can be met, along with an increase in organisational performance. M.A. in Euroculture at the University of Göttingen and University of Groningen. His future career will hopefully take-off in the field of international Human Resource Management.

Sina Wohlgenuth is from Germany where she also received her Bachelor in Cultural Anthropology/European Ethnology and French Studies from the Georg-August University Göttingen. She studied the Master Program Euroculture jointly in Göttingen and in Kraków at the Jagiellonian University. Her research interests cover European heritage studies with special focus on Jewish studies and civic engagement in Central Eastern Europe. Sina now continues her interest in heritage related topics and intercultural dialogue by working at the German Commission for UNESCO.

Larissa Wood was born in 1987 and has British, German and Czech nationalities. She holds a Bachelor degree in Psychology from the University of Leeds (UK) and an Master degree in Euroculture during which she studied in Olomouc (CZ), Kraków (PL), Pune (IN) and Goettingen (DL). She has worked for one year at the International Student Office at the University of Leeds. Her research and career interests are in the fields of European integration, international higher education and development.

Peter Gerard Jacob Zwart, from the Netherlands, launched his academic career with acquiring a bachelor’s degree in History at the University of Groningen. During this study, non-western studies attracted his special attention. This interest culminated in a bachelor thesis focused on the universality or cultural relativity of the concept of human rights and how these are perceived in different cultures around the globe. He continued this research during an internship at the political and human rights department of the Royal Dutch Embassy in Costa Rica. The interdisciplinary master program ‘Euroculture: Europe in the

Wider World', attended at both the University of Groningen and the University of Bilbao, triggered his research interest in how cultures interact; especially concerning themes such as democratic transition and politics of memory. So far, his work on these topics had a focus on the case-study of Spain, leaving space for future research to such processes in other cultures dealing with past conflict, where historical amnesia remained an obstacle to reconciliation. In what context such research might be carried out, is yet to be determined.