In recent years, the European Union (EU) has endured severe economic crisis, internal and external migratory pressure, the rise of anti-system political parties, and the British vote to leave. Despite a broader economic recovery accompanied by a range of reforms, tensions within the EU over economic policy, border security, and national sovereignty remain. This conference brings together ongoing research that contributes to the debate about whether recent developments lay the foundations for continued fractionalization, or whether contrariwise, the EU is newly positioned to move its remaining member-states—and associated partners—forward together.

The conference brings together political scientists, legal scholars and colleagues from related disciplines to address questions related to European integration, European Union (EU) affairs, and the Swiss-EU relationship. It intends to foster a critical understanding of the Member-States, historical development, institutions, processes, policies, programs, issues, and problems of the European Union (EU). Targeting primarily colleagues at Swiss and neighboring universities, it seeks to contribute to the development of a community of persons in the region interested in the EU and to raise the level of knowledge about the EU.

The aim of the ECSA network is to promote European studies, both in Europe and beyond. This includes the exchange and provision of information in the areas of research and teaching, as well as the creation of forums in which new projects can find their starting point. ecsaswiss.ch is the platform for European Studies in Switzerland.
Thursday, 14th November 2019
4:30-5:30pm ecsasuisse Board Members Annual Assembly

6:15-7:30pm Public Panel Discussion (room: 01-011)
Die Schweiz und Europa nach den Wahlen – wie weiter?
Janos Ammann (Operation Libero), Tobias Gafafer (NZZ), Matthias Oesch (Europarecht, UZH), Stefanie Walter (Politikwissenschaft, UZH)
Moderation: Tina Freyburg (Politikwissenschaft, HSG)

8:00pm Dinner, Lokremise St.Gallen

Friday, 15th November 2019 (room: 52-6120)
8.15am Welcome Coffee and Opening Words

8.30-9.30am Public support for the European (fiscal) Union
• Support for the fiscal union: Does knowledge matter? [Klaus Armingeon, Uni Bern]
• Regional Inequality and Trust in the European Union [Jana Lipps, ETH Zurich & Dominik Schraff, ETH Zurich]

9.45-10.45am Populism and parties
• Chasing the „Populist Zeitgeist“? European mainstream parties and the rise of right-wing populism [Michael Bayerlein, Uni Kiel]
• Is populism here to stay? Voters of populist parties and basic human values in European democracies [Hugo Marcos-Marné, HSG]

Coffee Break

11.10-12.40am Politicization, differentiated integration & disintegration
• Brexit domino? The political contagion effects of voter-based disintegration [Stefanie Walter, Uni ZH]
• Does Differentiated Integration strengthen the democratic quality of the EU? [Dominik Schraff & Frank Schimmelfennig, ETH Zurich]
• Upgrading the CJEU’s Public Relations Toolbox - Between Politicizing and Legitimizing the Court [Julian Dederke, ETH Zurich]

Lunch Break

1:40-2:40pm Lessons from the 2015 refugee crisis
• External borders and internal freedoms: Did the refugee crisis cause a backlash against a borderless Europe? [Philipp Lutz, Uni Geneva & Felix Karstens, ETH Zurich]
• Keep them out at any cost? Reconsidering the EU-Turkey deal in light of reason, norms and rhetoric [Lorenz Wiese, Uni Konstanz]

2:40-3:40pm The external dimension of European policies
• Network Power Europe: Participatory Requirements in the European Electricity Market [Philipp Thaler, HSG]
• From the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership to the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements. What’s at stake with the EU trade policy towards Mediterranean countries? [Octavia Cerchez, Gicel Geneva]

Coffee Break

4:00-5:30pm EU decision-making and -shaping
• The various forms and constraints of EU decision-making—Lessons from the EEA [Christian Frommelt, Liechtenstein Institut]
• The power of expertise: Assessing the influence of technocrats in intergovernmental euro crisis negotiations [Silvana Târlea, Uni Basel]