

Presentación

Twenty years after the introduction of the concept of European Citizenship by the Treaty of Maastricht, this first issue of 2013, the year officially named “The European Year of Citizens”, addresses the highly contested notions of cultural Citizenship and European identity in the context of the European Union. Most of the articles presented here originate from keynote speakers at the Erasmus Mundus MA in Euroculture Intensive Programme “Europeans between Europeanisation and Globalisation. European identity and Cultural Citizenship: Envisaging challenge” held at the University of Deusto in June 2012. Though some are more theoretical in nature than others, all critically envisage new readings and a new comprehensive understanding of the notions of cultural citizenship and European identity.

The first article, **John McCormick**’s, suggests that the idea of cultural citizenship has been underdeveloped and underemployed and looks at its political dimensions in the context of the European Union. According to McCormick it is in the articulation of the very concept of cultural citizenship at large that problems seem to arise. McCormick sets to test the adequacy of cultural citizenship in today’s Europe as a means to establish shared approaches to the ways in which government is conducted. Accordingly, this author believes that European integration has enhanced the move from an “association with states or cultures towards an association with ideas of a political cultural nature”.

Janny de Jong’s article ponders on what she regards as the usefulness and potential risks of the very concept of cultural citizenship. By adopting a chronological perspective to citizenship de Jong examines how the original notion of citizenship in Europe was based on primary ideals of inclusiveness and diversity, thus taking into account the rich diversity within Europe and the European Union. De Jong analyses the many different views the concept of cultural citizenship seems to be offering now, which have made many Member States of the European Union question the adequacy of this concept. For de Jong, only through a “comprehensive” understanding of the notion of cultural citizenship can the usefulness of the concept and its applicability in today’s Europe at large be explained and adopted as a means to reflect the multiple “ties between the citizen and the polity”.

Daniel Innerarity's article, as its title suggests, addresses the European Union as one of the greatest political innovations in recent history, stressing that this is precisely what needs to be understood if a stronger European identity is to be achieved. Innerarity's analysis of the European Union in regard to its geographical and historical reality, its original governance tools and its integration into the broader process of globalization reveals that this political innovation can only make sense if the categories inherent to the national state are abandoned. Professor Innerarity strongly believes in the possibility of shaping "something like a democracy beyond the nation state" and new relationships between the stakeholders involved in global governance.

Nick Stevenson is concerned with questions of freedom in a European "cultural" social democracy. By looking back at thinkers like Fromm, Orwell and Roselli of the 1940s and after, who were much influenced by a clear reaction against totalitarianism, Stevenson sets out to find how those lessons from the past could enhance our understanding of today's Europe with regard to freedom and other global concerns. In this sense, Stevenson's reading of the "cultural" socialist writings of those years can produce new understandings of how neoliberalism can bear a close resemblance to certain traits of the totalitarian Europe of the past. After examining the validity of cosmopolitanism within the European context, Stevenson engages in showing how rethinking questions of freedom anew might be the plausible answer to help socially in discourses of crisis.

Lucian N. Leustean's article first examines how the Lisbon institutionalisation of religious dialogue builds on a long history of relations between institutions and religious/convictional actors, and how European officials have engaged in religious dialogue since the very first days of the European Community. Then, Leustean analyses functional breakdown of religious dialogue in the European Union and proposes four types of relations between religious/convictional representations and European institutions, namely, private-public, experimental, proactive and institutionalized. This article concludes that, though religious issues remain under the legal jurisdiction of the EU member states, the increasing diversity of the functional breakdown of religious/convictional representations in dialogue with European institutions suggests a shift from the national to supranational approach towards religion.

The paper presented by **Aitor Ibarrola and Eduardo Ruiz Vieyetz** examines the concept of citizenship in Spain at the beginning of the 21st Century from two seemingly contradictory perspectives. On the one hand, the regional autonomy promoted by the 1978 Spanish Constitution in specific social domains such as the health system, education or the management of the cultural heritage has had a significant influence on "the kind of citizenship fostered in the region". On the other, the norms

and regulations issued by supra-national entities such as the EU, the UN and Human Rights organizations have had a significant impact on our understanding of the concept and have eroded traditional views that linked citizenship to the Nation-State. Thus although local and global processes are creating new potential to develop forms of civic engagement, “these new forces shaping contemporary citizenship(s)” do not necessarily push in the same direction.

Susan Collard’s contribution provides an analysis of the impact of European Citizenship on citizens twenty years after its introduction by the Treaty of Maastricht. Focusing on the right for non-national European citizens to vote and to stand as a candidate in local elections in their Member-State of residence, this article addresses the lack of empirical research into the actual take-up of this right by non-national EU citizens. Collard’s research carried out in two Member States, the UK and in France, reveals that national institutions and procedures impact on levels of participation. The relevance of this study lies in the fact that similar criteria could be used to extend the analysis across all EU Member States. Only then will we “have a clearer sense of the full impact at grass roots level of the introduction of voting rights for NNEUCs by the Treaty of Maastricht”.

Finally, as is usual in *Cuadernos Europeos de Deusto*, two chronicles close this issue. The first by **David Ordóñez Solis** relates to jurisprudence and the second by **Beatriz Iñarritu Ibarreche** covers a relevant current issue within the EU.

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University of Deusto, January 2013