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Laurier welcomes EU ambassador for European integration conference

WATERLOO – Ambassador Matthias Brinkmann, head of delegation of the European Union to Canada, will discuss European integration at an interdisciplinary conference hosted by Wilfrid Laurier University April 30 and May 1. Academics from throughout Europe and North America and researchers from European central banks will participate in the conference, “European Integration: Past, Present and Future.”

Of particular interest is the panel discussion “Financial Crisis and the Euro” where academics will explore, among other issues, the rapidly changing fiscal crisis in Greece.

In addition to Brinkmann’s European integration talk, plenary presentations will include “Membership and its Politics in Europe” by Saskia Sassen, Robert S. Lynd professor of sociology at Columbia University, and “European Integration: a Work in Progress” by Joshua Aizenman, presidential professor of economics at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

“Post-war Europe is rapidly becoming ‘whole’ again with great economic and political strides such as the expansion of the European Union, but the process of integration is not finished,” said Jerzy (Jurek) Konieczny, Laurier economics professor and one of the conference organizers. “This interdisciplinary conference focuses on the development of European integration and its future, in particular on economic, regional and migration issues.”

Broad topics will cover immigration, labour migration, politics, economic policy, transnational mobilities and identities. Participants and presenters include economists, sociologists, geographers and political scientists.

The conference is sponsored by the Centre for International Governance Innovation and organized by The Rimini Centre for Economic Analysis *in Canada*, Laurier’s Viessmann European Research Centre and Laurier’s International Migration Research Centre.

The conference will be held in Laurier’s Schlegel Centre for Entrepreneurship and is open to the public. For the complete conference schedule and to register, please visit www.europeanintegration.org or email jurek@wlu.ca.