



PUBLIC LECTURE

co-organised by the Department of Methods in the Social Sciences at the University of Vienna, the Department of Political Science at the Institute for Advanced Studies and the Section "Comparative European Politics" of the Austrian Political Science Association (ÖGPW)

Tim Haughton
University of Birmingham

Vulnerabilities, Accession Hangovers and the Presidency Role: Explaining New EU Member States' Choices for Europe

Wednesday, 28 April 2010, 16:30
IHS, Stumpergasse 56,
1060 Vienna, Conference Room, 6th floor

What shapes a European Union member state's preferences and why do some states seem much more enthusiastic about further integration in some policy areas than others? This paper examines the factors which shape the preferences of three of the 2004 entrants: Slovakia, Slovenia and the Czech Republic. Based on a detailed study of government and party documents complemented by a series of 40 semi-structured interviews, I argue that whilst there is merit in many of the explanations used to explain national preference formation in the longer-established member states, the key to preference formation lies in vulnerabilities and perceived weakness.

Tim Haughton is Senior Lecturer in the Politics of Central and Eastern Europe at the University of Birmingham. In addition to his work on National Preference Formation he is currently undertaking research on party politics in Slovakia and the Czech Republic, the electoral fortunes of 'new' and 'populist parties' and is beginning work on a project examining the role of the communist past in the politics of the present in Central and Eastern Europe. In addition to numerous articles published in a range of journals such as *Party Politics*, *West European Politics* and *Europe-Asia Studies*, he is the author of *Constraints and Opportunities of Leadership in Post-Communist Europe* (2005), the editor of *Party Politics in Central and Eastern Europe: Does EU Membership Matter?* (2010, forthcoming) and the co-editor of the *Journal of Common Market Studies Annual Review of the European Union*.