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PUBLIC LECTURE

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Thursday May 28, 2015, 5:00 pm
IHS, Stumpergasse 56
1060 Vienna, Lecture Room SZ6 N601

The European Commission: Facing the Future

Together with Sara Connolly

ABSTRACT

Recent years have seen the European Commission confront a series of important challenges. In this lecture, Hussein Kassim and Sara Connolly report findings from a large-scale project conducted in 2014 on the attitudes and responses of Commission personnel to how well the Commission has fared, how it has been affected, and the changes that have taken place. They examine how staff interpret the impact of the financial and economic crisis on the place of the Commission within the EU system, assess the extent to which ten years after the 'big bang' enlargement the Commission has a common culture, and consider the views of personnel on presidentialization, reform and the Commission as a workplace. Furthermore, using the data from their research to test established positions in the scholarly debate, they challenge dominant wisdoms concerning the socializing power of the European Commission as an international organization.

Hussein Kassim is Vincent Wright Chair 2015, Sciences Po Paris and Professor in Politics in the School of Politics, Philosophy, Language and Communication, University of East Anglia. He was Principal Investigator of 'The European Commission in Question' and co-convenor of the 'European Commission: Facing the Future'. His research interests lie in the EU institutions, EU policy, and relations between the EU and the member states, on which subjects he has published widely. He is currently working on projects on the European Commission, the European Competition Network, the regulatory state, and the UK and 'Europe'.

Sara Connolly is Reader in Personnel Economics in the Norwich Business School, University of East Anglia. She is an economist, specialising in gender in the labour market, including the effect of part-time employment on women's careers. She was a co-investigator for 'The European Commission in Question' and co-convenor of the 'European Commission: Facing the Future'. She is also co-investigator in an ERC funded project which explored the careers of scientists across the EU and investigated the extent to which non-standard careers and limited geographic mobility contributed to the gender gap in rates of application and grant success with the ERC, and an ESRC funded project exploring fatherhood in the 21st Century.