

# The Contemporary EU

Theory Recap  
29 september 2011

# STRUCTURE

- Theory (conceptualising actorness)
- Crises!!!
- Discussion Papers
- Individual Papers



# TheorieS...

- Theory:
  - Causal theorising (why?)
  - Constitutive (what and how?)
- Theory is approximation to reality
- Theory is always there, whether you like it or not!

# Theories

1. Help **understand** an issue or process
2. help **explain** an issue or process
3. **predict** what will happen next
4. are consistent in themselves.



- Events are multidimensional (lectures, meetings and policy-making processes in the Council of Ministers): different types of explanation emerge
- thus we have different theoretical perspectives of European integration, which **produce and reproduce different types of knowledge.**

# European Integration Theories

- Many different interpretations of what is to be studied (the dependent variable)
  - Economics
  - Politics
  - Security?



- is European integration ‘an instance of’ something else? (i.e. can we generalise from the EU?)
  - International Organisation
  - Regionalist bloc
  - Understanding policy-making dynamics?
  - EU as *sui generis*

# Theoretical issues

- actorness
- governance
- power, representation and authority
- legitimacy and democracy
- globalisation



- Thank you for participating
- Remember: always contactable via email
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