

You are invited to the next Melbourne Salon at the Alliance Française.

Thursday 8th May 2014, 7pm - 9 pm

France and Germany, Croatia and Latvia: Where next for the European Union?



Over the next four years, there will be considerable reflection, in Europe and many other parts of the world, about the Great War, its consequences and the subsequent development after the Second World War of the European Union. France and Germany have been central to the evolution of a more closely bound Europe, right from the beginning, and their relationship continues to be central to the future of the EU.

What will that future be? The last few years have seen great uncertainty with regular predictions of its demise alongside claims that the EU will emerge from the crisis stronger, and more united than ever. Croatia, the newest member of the EU, and Latvia, the newest member of the Eurozone, clearly believe that closer integration in the EU will be to their benefit. How might that unfold? What role will France and Germany, Italy and Belgium, as key founding members of the European Economic Community, play in shaping the future characteristics of the EU?

Professor Bruce Wilson will explore these issues, touching on key moments in the history of the European Union and drawing out possible scenarios in response to the current challenges which the EU faces. He will be joined by Eva Schwemmer and Dr Natalie Doyle for a Q&A panel.

Professor Bruce Wilson is Director of the European Union Centre at RMIT University, and Australian coordinator for the PASCAL International Observatory. He is responsible for increasing engagement with the EU through academic studies on the European Union, and for building partnerships between Australian universities and organisations, and their European counterparts. He also leads a major project on comparative regional policy in Europe, Australia and Asia.

Eva Schwemmer is German Language Adviser at the Goethe-Institut Australia in Melbourne. The Goethe-Institut maintains 149 offices around the world, many of them in Europe, and aims to connect people through the German Language and culture. In her heart of hearts she is a true European and Francophile and wants to enthuse people in Australia for the European vision.

Dr Natalie Doyle is senior lecturer in French and European Studies at Monash University and Deputy Director of the Monash European and EU Centre. She has researched classical and contemporary French society and politics, as well as broader European and European Union issues. In recent years she has developed a research project on the question of Islam in contemporary European political debates.

Cover charge payable on the night (includes cheese and wine) – cash only please: \$15
Bookings essential: themelbournesalon@gmail.com (numbers limited).