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# GERMAN EUROPEAN POLICY: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE



**DOUGLAS WEBBER**  
INSEAD

**DOUGLAS WEBBER &  
RÉMY DAVISON**

**24TH SEPTEMBER**

12:30pm – 2:00pm

**RMIT, CITY CAMPUS**

Council Chamber, building 1,  
level 2. 124-126 La Trobe St,  
Melbourne VIC 3000

**RSVP**

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Crises have occurred regularly in the history of European political integration. The crisis that the European Union (EU) has been traversing since 2010 is, however, its deepest, most intractable and most protracted. The uniquely high level and scope of political integration that has developed in Europe over the last 60 years is primarily attributable to the strong support that successive German governments have given to this process. Whether, how and to what extent the EU survives the current crisis is therefore likely to depend heavily on the orientation of German European policy. Douglas Webber will describe the historical evolution of this policy, explain why Germany has so long been 'pro-European' and analyse how and why its European policy has shifted since the end of the Cold War and the onset of the global financial and Euro zone crises. He will argue that, as Germany has increasingly become the EU's 'hegemonic' power, its commitment to European integration has weakened and become significantly more brittle and uncertain. With the end of the Euro zone crisis not yet in sight, Europe today is thus perched perilously between (closer) political integration and disintegration.

**DOUGLAS WEBBER** is Professor of Political Science at the international business school, INSEAD, based at its Europe campus in Fontainebleau, France. Before joining INSEAD Douglas worked at Essex and the universities of Strathclyde and Sussex as well as at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies at Cologne. From 1995 to 1997 he was a Robert Schuman Fellow at the European University Institute, Florence. He has published several books and edited volumes and numerous journal articles in social science journals in Britain, Germany and the United States on issues of German politics and foreign policy, Franco-German relations, EU politics and European and Asian regional political integration.



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In 1990, John Mearsheimer argued in *Foreign Affairs* that we would "soon miss the Cold War". Germany, Mearsheimer asserted, would grow closer to Russia; Germany's solidarity with the NATO alliance would no longer be as stable and predictable; and German governments would become more assertive in advancing their national interests, both within and outside Europe. A unified Germany, no longer entirely dependent upon Washington for its security, would also have fewer reasons to be committed to the EU integration process. The post-Cold War period also saw German governments re-orient their foreign economic policy towards the EU's eastern periphery, as well as East and South Asia and the Americas. The German industrial and financial sectors have become increasingly integrated with emerging markets, thus reducing Germany's level of interdependence with its EU economic partners. Remy Davison argues that the fragmentation of the Berlin-Paris-Brussels consensus, combined with Germany's regional hegemonic status, has meant that Berlin's EU partners are increasingly compelled to comply with the German model of European integration.



**RÉMY DAVISON**  
MONASH UNIVERSITY

**DR RÉMY DAVISON** is Jean Monnet Chair in Politics & Economics in the Department of Politics and International Relations at Monash University, and Associate Director of the Monash European and EU Centre (MEEUC). He previously held appointments at the University of Melbourne, Griffith University, La Trobe University and the University of Tasmania. He is the author of *The Political Economy of Single Market Europe* (2011); *Foreign Policies of the Great and Emerging Powers* (2008); and *The New Global Politics of the Asia-Pacific* (2004; 2012; 2016).

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