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Conference

« How to write a history of Europe since 1945 ? »

Tuesday March 27th 2012

At 6 :00 pm

Amphitheater SIMONE WEIL
5 allée Jacques Berque, Nantes

By

Hartmut Kaelble,

Senior Professor at the Humboldt
University in Berlin and a member of
the Scientific Advisory Board of the
Nantes Institute for Advanced Study.

Biographical elements

Following his PhD on the "Centralverband Deutscher Industrieller - 1890-1914" at the Free University of Berlin, Hartmut Kaelble was Professor of Social and Economic History at the Free University of Berlin between 1971 and 1991, and Professor of social history at the Humboldt University in Berlin between 1991 and 2008.

He was invited several times for research and teaching positions at the EHESS, in CIERA, at the MSH - Paris, in Paris I - Sorbonne, in Harvard University, at the St. Antony's College in Oxford, at the Erasmus University Rotterdam and the College of Europe in Bruges between 2005 and 2010 as Visiting Professor.

His main research themes: the comparative social history of Europe, the history of European integration, European identity and European public space.

Hartmut Kaelble is currently Senior Professor at the Humboldt University in Berlin and a member of the Scientific Board of the Nantes IAS.

Among his publications:

- *Les chemins de la démocratie européenne*, Belin Paris 2005 (également en versions allemande et espagnole)
- *Les relations franco-allemandes de 1945 à nos jours*, Thorbecke Ostfildern 2004 (brochure)
- *Sozialgeschichte Europas 1945 bis heute*, München: Beck 2007 (Version française et anglaise à paraître)
- *The 1970s in Europe. A period of disillusionment or promise?* London German historical institute 2010
- *Hartmut Kaelble, Kalter Krieg und Wohlfahrtsstaat. Europa 1945-1989*. Beck München 2011.

Themes of the conference

“ How to write a history of Europe since 1945? Many good summaries and university textbooks have been written, especially since the fall of the Wall. We can deduce that the main prospects have already been addressed by very good authors.

However, we can raise four issues not adequately covered in published books:

- How to write a political history of expanded Europe by including also the social history, cultural and economic life of the continent?

- How to avoid the false choice between a history of Europe seen as a kaleidoscope of thirty individual countries and a history limited to common trends in Europe?

- How to write a history of Europe that is not limited to geographical boundaries as do almost all the literature, but rather a history open to world relations of Europe, without writing a world history?

- How to deal with periods and upheavals in Europe since 1945: by only considering the two major turning points, 1945 and 1989 or looking at other turning points, 1947-1950, the years 1970, 2001 or 2008-2009? ”

Hartmut Kaelble