

Narrative Report

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First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude for having been granted the Graduate Travel-Research Fellowship to facilitate my recent research/conference trip associated with my PhD research. The dissertation is provisionally titled '*Global Governance: Nationalism, Gender and the World Trade Organization*' and it includes a significant component concerning the interaction of the European Union within the global trade regime and the WTO. The entire trip consisted of stays in the United Kingdom, in Belgium and in Switzerland. Details are provided below on the British and Belgian segments of the trip, which enjoyed the generous financial support of the Centre.

First, I presented my paper entitled '*The Legitimacy of the Mulier Economicus: APEC, WTO and the EU*' at the CSGR/GARNET conference entitled '*Pathways to Legitimacy? The Future of Global and Regional Governance*,' which was a major international conference concerning the building of legitimate authority in global and regional governance, held at Scarman House at the University of Warwick, UK, between 17 and 19 September 2007. My panel was entitled '*Legitimacy and the Institutions of Global Governance*'. I was pleased with how the presentation turned out. The audience was very engaging and diverse, and included representatives of NGOs and academics from diverse disciplines such as Political Science, Law, IPE, and Economics. Numerous countries were also represented, including both developed and developing, and the audience ranged from graduate students to senior academics. This diversity provided an excellent environment for introducing and discussing my work, since my research draws on all the disciplines mentioned above and is global in scope. Importantly, my presentation was followed by a lengthy discussion and I received questions and comments that were very helpful in further shaping and focusing my work and thinking. Two people at the end of the panel called my work seminal and the panel generated discussions beyond both itself and the conference.

While in Brussels, I visited a number of the European Institutions, conducted interviews with members of the European Commission (DG-Trade), identified and made contacts at the EU Parliament and at EESC (European Economic and Social Committee), and identified and made further contacts at the EU Commission (including DG-Trade and DG-Agriculture). In identifying some of my first contacts, the Delegation of the European Commission to Canada provided me with invaluable help.

The experience was very useful, both in terms of having learned a great deal about the institutional culture of the Commission and some of the other EU Institutions, and in terms of my investigation concerning the relationships between, and current research and policy regarding, gender and trade, nationalism and trade, and the European Union and the World Trade Organization. With respect to the connection between gender and trade, my findings point my dissertation in a slightly different direction than what I anticipated prior to conducting the interviews. More specifically, I was made aware of the particular nature and extent of the challenges facing the visibility of gender in DG-Trade. The findings will make the dissertation clearer in focus and will contribute to the dissertation being a more prominent contribution both to academia and to the politics of the "real world." Most importantly, much of the information I have received would have been impossible (or extremely difficult) to find without going to the source in Brussels and talking to the people who are, for example, involved in actual negotiations. My stay in Brussels also provided me with valuable contacts for future research at NGOs, other lobby groups and institutions that are in touch with DG-Trade. Further, DG-Trade has very generously provided me with up-to-date internal materials (non-classified) and EU publications.

Again, I thank the Center for European Studies at Carleton University kindly for having supported my activities. The trip was enormously useful to my research and the contacts and research directions this trip has opened for me have the potential to be influential upon my work for many years to come.