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## **Narrative Report**

Graduate Travel-Research Fellowships on the European Union,  
European Integration or EU-Canada Relations 2013-2014

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With the generous help of a research-travel fellowship on the European Union from the Centre for European Studies (CES) I was able to travel to Dublin, Ireland to complete my fieldwork for my dissertation titled: "The Euro Debt Crisis in National Discourse: A Catalyst for EU Politicization." My dissertation aims to track changes in political and public discourse on the European Union in the context of the Euro debt crisis, with a focus on civil society in Ireland. It seeks to measure the levels and nature of EU-related content in the external and internal communications of Irish civil society and grass roots groups and asks to what extent has public discourse on the EU changed as a result of the crisis.

Studying attitudes toward the EU, especially within national discourses is to a great extent facilitated by the opportunity to become embedded within these discourses and speak directly to those who participate in them. The quality of my research depends on a combination of interviews as well as textual sources; the collection of which involved networking through interviews to obtain. Without the travel-research fellowship from CES, this would have been impossible to accomplish.

While in Dublin, I conducted interviews with members of 10 civil society groups representing industry/business, social issues, the environment, political movements, and charity organizations as well as two major Irish Trade Unions: Services Industrial Professional and Technical Union (SIPTU) and Ireland's largest public and services trade union, IMPACT. I was also able to individuals responsible firsthand for organizing public campaigns on behalf of these groups, as well as witness a couple of live austerity-related protests in Dublin. While I contacted a number of the individuals from these groups prior to my arrival in Dublin, the majority of these contacts would not have been possible without the face to face networking that I engaged in while there in person. Additionally, while in Dublin, I was able to conduct secondary research at Trinity College as a guest reader with its network of libraries.

This trip provided me with invaluable insight into the society that I am studying and firsthand observations and experiences that will lend to explaining what I observed as the very passive nature of the civil society in Ireland. I would like to sincerely thank the Centre of European Studies for making this very valuable part of my research a reality.