**Quo Vadis Europa?**

**Reflections on Europe’s Past and Present**

**Programme**

Oslo, Tuesday 4 April 2017

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**Book information**

Hans-Jörg Trenz  
*Narrating European Society: Towards a Sociology of European Integration*  
Lexington Books, 2016  
ISBN: 978-1-4985-2705-7

Bo Stråth  
*Europe’s Utopias of Peace 1815, 1919, 1951*  
Bloomsbury Academica, 2016  
ISBN: 978-1-4742-3775-8

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Organisers: ARENA – Centre for European Studies and Facutly of Social Sciences, University of Oslo.

The seminar is a part of the project ‘Integration and division: Towards a segmented Europe?’ (EuroDiv), financed by the Research Council of Norway and coordinated by ARENA.

*The book discussion is a part of ‘Verden med Trump/the World with Trump’ lecture series.*
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Europe’s history exhibits a profound tension of unity and diversity. Efforts at unification have met with staunch displays of defense of diversity. The various projects have unfolded during periods of peace and war. Today’s Europe has seen an almost unprecedented period of peace coupled with a continent-wide effort at integration driven by the European Union. At present confronted with a panoply of crises, the European Union faces serious questions about its continued existence. The financial turned political crisis; the refugee crisis; the Ukraine crisis; and the prospect of Brexit (and the domino effects it might engender) are cases in point.

The purpose of this seminar is to discuss Europe’s present with reference to two important recently published books that provide us with in-depth assessments of Europe’s past and present. The first book by Professor Bo Stråth provides an essential historical backdrop to the present by discussing Europe’s efforts at developing lasting peace since the Congress of Vienna in 1815. The second book by Professor Trenz provides us with an up-to-date assessment of Europe. How well-entrenched in Europe’s societies is the process of Europeanisation? What kind of process is this?

Both books underline the role of historical contingency and the need to understand the available options as the actors have seen them at different points in time. The authors will briefly present their books. Scholars from different disciplines: history of ideas, law, and political science will comment, followed by a general debate.

Programme

13.00 – 13.10 Welcome
Erik Oddvar Eriksen, Professor and Director, ARENA, University of Oslo

13.10 – 14.00 Book presentations
13.10 – 13.35 Europe’s Utopias of Peace
Bo Stråth, Professor, University of Helsinki

13.35 – 14.00 Narrating European Society: Toward a Sociology of European Integration
Hans-Jörg Trenz, Professor, University of Copenhagen and ARENA, University of Oslo

14.00 – 14.15 Coffee break

14.15 – 14.45 Prepared comments
Ellen Krefting, Professor, Department of Philosophy, Classics, History of Art and Ideas, University of Oslo

Dag Michalsen, Professor and Dean, Department of Public and International Law, University of Oslo

John Erik Fossum, Professor, ARENA, University of Oslo

14.45 – 15.30 Discussion

Chair: Cathrine Holst, Professor, ARENA and Department of Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo