

**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND AN EUC SEMINAR ON:**

Topic:	The Perceptions of the European Union among Tertiary Education Students in Singapore
Speaker:	Assoc Prof Barnard Turner, Senior Fellow, European Union Centre, Associate Professor, Department of English Language and Literature and Academic Convenor for European Studies, FASS, NUS
Date:	5 November 2008, Wednesday
Time:	11.15am to 12.45pm
Venue:	Seminar Room 2, Level 7, Central Library Annexe Bldg Centre for Development of Teaching and Learning National University of Singapore, Kent Ridge Campus 21 Lower Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 119077
Map:	<a href="http://www.cit.nus.edu.sg/nusfacilities/map/images/cit_cdtl.jpg">http://www.cit.nus.edu.sg/nusfacilities/map/images/cit_cdtl.jpg</a>

**ABSTRACT**

The Perceptions of the European Union among Tertiary Education Students in Singapore project is an expansion from the well-regarded Perceptions of the EU in East Asia work organised by the NCRE in New Zealand and supported by ASEF and the European Studies in Asia (ESiA) consortium to which the principal investigator, Assoc Prof Barnard Turner, and Mr Ma Shaohua (a PhD candidate at NUS) contributed. The higher education survey aims to consider empirically student attitudes to (and to a certain extent, knowledge of) the EU; to this end, a target number of 650-700 students (roughly 1% of the students at the three universities) is being surveyed, at NTU, NUS and SMU, and at least one polytechnic. Initial results, which are already being tabulated, will be presented at the seminar, and should give an interesting glimpse of how the vital constituency of the rising generation perceives an important partner. Since perceptions, stereotypes and opinion [doxa] often inform actions [praxis], and since students are at once both acted upon (by the media, general social and cultural awareness) and the source of their individual and/or group action, it is important to gauge where their perceptions of the EU come from, how these may be similar to or differ from those of the general population, thus to offer a more focused attention to the conceptualisation of Europe in general, and the EU in particular, in Singapore.

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER**

Barnard Turner is Senior Fellow at the EU Centre. A native [near-] Londoner, he studied in the UK, Germany, Canada and the USA, and came to Singapore to work at NUS in 1989. Most recently, he has been Associate Professor in the Department of English Language and Literature and Academic Convenor for European Studies a position now held concurrently with at the Centre. With a background in European modernism and a range of academic contributions to the field, he now balances this interest with those in political rhetoric (especially the ongoing EU Constitution/Lisbon Treaty debate), cultural [including multi- and intercultural] policy and perceptions of the EU in ASEAN.