



Global Awareness Lecture  
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# The European Constitution, and the Trouble with Democracy

## Craig Parsons

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Craig Parsons' research interests include comparative politics, political economy, European politics, European Union, culture, ideas, and institutions, and democratization. Parsons' said, "I am interested in the ideas and institutions that came together to construct today's Europe." Before joining the University of Oregon faculty in 2004, he was an assistant professor of political science at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University. His first book, *A Certain Idea of Europe* (Cornell University Press, 2003), focused on how certain political principles out-battled others in the construction of the European Union. His second book, *Logics of Explanation*, is about how to organize political theories. At the same time, he is also leading three edited-book projects on EU politics, immigration in Europe, and "constructivist" political economy, respectively. His next major research project topic will move back in history to trace ideas about democracy in Britain, France, and Germany in the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, titled the *Cultural Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. He received a BA in international relations summa cum laude from Stanford (1992), a CEP (certificat d'études politiques) from the Institut d'Études Politiques in Paris, France (1993) and an MA and PhD in political science from the University of California—Berkeley (1994, 1999).