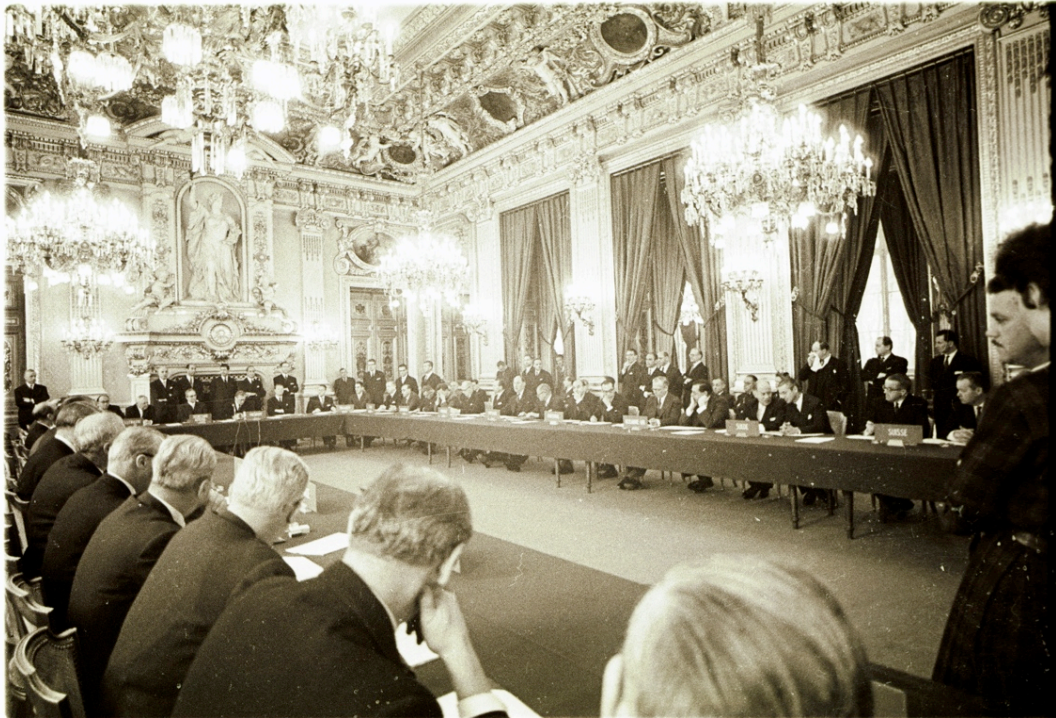


# An elusive warden of global capitalism

## The OECD between prosperity and crisis, 1961-1985



Signing of the initial OECD convention  
Quai d'Orsay, Paris, 14 Dec 1960

source: [www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org)

ESSHC, Glasgow, Friday April 13, 2012

co-organizers **Matthieu Leimgruber** (University of Geneva)  
**Matthias Schmelzer** (European University Viadrina, Frankfurt-Oder)

*The OECD elusiveness seen from the inside...*

«Dialogue of deaf persons at the Committee on Invisible [Transactions] at the Château de la Muette [Castle of the Mute]... Here is the formula used when [OECD] reunions end up without tangible results»

in: Henri Chavranski, [former OECD official], *L'OCDE. Au coeur des grands débats économiques*. Paris, Documentation française, 1997

# The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in the postwar context

key period of change and turbulence  
for industrial societies!

«the long 1970s» (Maier)

	1948-1960 Reconstruction: Marshall Plan (OEEC)	1961-1969 Re-foundation: monitoring growth	1969-1984 Transition: from monitoring growth to crisis management			1984-1996 Consolidation: warden of the new economic orthodoxy	Since 1996 The OECD in the age of globalization	
Secretaries general	R. Marjolin & R. Sergent (FRA)	Thorkil Kristensen (DK) 1961-1969	Emile Van Lennep (NL) 1969-1984			Jean-François Paye (FRA) 1984-1996	D. J. Johnston (CAN) 1996-2006	A. Gurria (MEX) 2006-
	1955	1961	1969	1975	1980	1984	1996	2010
Members	18	20	21	24	24	24	31	34
Scope	European	Euro-Atlantic	triadic				global	
OECD share of World GDP (%)		53.2	58.5				50.5	



postwar division of Europe  
early European integration  
(EEC vs. EFTA)



first oil crisis,  
end of Bretton Woods  
economic recession



global extension  
of capitalism,  
recurring crises



internationalization of Keynesianism  
and industrial growth



crisis of Keynesianism and neo-liberal ascendancy  
crisis of industrial societies

# What is the profile/purpose of the OECD ?

«economic NATO», i.e. «Holy Alliance» of capitalist economies

> strategic rallying point for the West

expertise workshop, «talking shop», global think tank

> monitoring, consensus building function

How did these roles evolve over time?

> focus on the «long 1970s»

How did the OECD contribute to the mutations of contemporary economics?

> focus on OECD expert staff

These sessions

- highlight the history of a neglected, international organization
- explore the mutations of industrialized societies during the «incubation period» of globalization
- constitute a first step for a larger collaborative research effort

# The emerging research field on the OECD

Mahon, R. & S. McBride, eds., **2008**, *The OECD and Transnational Governance* (University of British Columbia Press, Vancouver)

**Woodward, R., 2009**, *The Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation* (Routledge, London)

Martens, K. & A. P. Jakobi, eds., **2010**, *Mechanisms of OECD Governance. International Incentives for National Policy-Making?* (Oxford University Press, Oxford)

Trondal, J., et al., **2010**, *Unpacking International Organisations. The Dynamics of Compound Bureaucracies* (Manchester University Press, Manchester)

**Gayon, V., 2010**. *L'OCDE au travail. Contribution à une sociologie historique de la "coopération économique internationale" sur le chômage et l'emploi, 1970-2010* (PhD, Université Paris Dauphine)

Carroll, P. & A. Kellow, **2011**, *The OECD. A Study of Organisational Adaptation* (Edward Elgar, Cheltenham)

Clifton, J., & D. Diaz-Fuentes. **December 2011** "The OECD and phases in the international political economy: 1961-2011," *Review of International Political Economy* 18/5: 552-69. + three other OECD-related articles in the same issue

**Schmelzer, M. 2012** "The Crisis before the Crisis: The 'Problems of Modern Society' and the OECD, 1968-1974", *European Review of History* (forthcoming)

**ESSHC 2012** + a series of ongoing **PhDs based on archival research**

**Aug 2012** a **4-year research project on the OECD** at the University of Geneva

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## **Panel I 8:30-10:30 AM**

Chair/intro **Matthieu Leimgruber** (Geneva)

A 'Temple of Growth' in Crisis? The Production of Economic and Environmental Policy Norms Within the OECD during the 1970s  
**Matthias Schmelzer** (Frankfurt-Oder/Berlin)

The OECD and the "Crisis" of Keynesianism: the McCracken Report, 1975-1980  
**Vincent Gayon** (Paris-Dauphine, EUI Firenze)

The OECD Roadmap for Global Finance, 1962-1985  
**Floriane Galeazzi** (Rouen)

## **Panel II 11:00 AM-13:00 PM**

Chair: **Matthias Schmelzer** (Frankfurt-Oder/Berlin)

Discussant: **Richard Woodward** (Hull)

The Embattled Standard-Bearer of Social Insurance and its Challenger: The ILO, the OECD, and the «Crisis of the Welfare State», 1975-1985  
**Matthieu Leimgruber** (Geneva)

First Come, First Served? The Struggle for a Code of Conduct for Multinational Enterprises and OECD Guidelines during the 1970s  
**Thomas Hajduk** (Frankfurt-Oder/Berlin)

### **Wrap up discussion: new directions for OECD research?**

*sample of issues to be addressed*

*(I) dynamics of OECD development (e.g. periodization, key junctures)*

*(II) role and functioning of the OECD*

*(III) OECD interactions with other actors/institutions*

*(e.g. national bureaucracies, IOs, NGOs, organized business/labor interests, etc.)*