

International Relations & Politics Speaker Series



Adjunct Professor/
Organizational Behavior, CMU;
AudeatInternational;
formerly SVP International Affairs/
Robert Bosch GmbH

“ Understanding Europe and the EU: Basics, Essentials, Trends ”

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

4:30pm, Margaret Morrison Carnegie Hall 103 (Breed Hall)

Dr. Eva Maria Höller-Cladders

Abstract/ Europe and the European Union: Looking from outside in, this geographical entity and political union is prone to lend itself to all kinds of misconceptions and criticism on the one hand and esteem and appraisal on the other. For the latter, the European Union is a powerful and unique achievement of political and human reconciliation, economic growth and social progress in countries which fought each other in several wars during the 20th century; for the former it is a bureaucratic, diffuse, and slow apparatus of seemingly undemocratic checks and balances. Dr. Höller-Cladders' talk seeks to elucidate a field of frequently obscured judgments by going back to basic assumptions and facts. She presents the historic milestones of how the EU developed into what it is today, she introduces essential EU institutions, explains how the EU works and sheds light on what diversity means in and for Europe. In doing so she sensitizes her listeners to the political why and wherefore of the EU and encourages her listeners not to overburden the Union with expectations it cannot live up to. Dr. Höller-Cladders concludes by discussing some of the challenges the EU encounters currently.

<http://www.cmu.edu/uls/october/holler-cladders.html>

Dr. Eva Maria Höller-Cladders is a cross-border individual and professional, both in terms of international exposure as well as academically and functionally. A native of Germany, she has studied, worked and lived in Germany, the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States. Business travels took her to Asia. She studied at the universities of Cologne, Exeter, Toronto and Munich. While her educational background is in the Humanities and Liberal Arts with an emphasis on Philosophy and English Language and Literature (in which field she took her doctorate at the University of Cologne), she has worked in business for twenty years. She has been and still is engaged in knowledge creation and knowledge sharing processes throughout her career, her endeavor being to encourage people to work and learn by leaving their expert silos and to be inspired by the best - both ethically and technically - of different professional and social communities. She is currently setting up a centre of competence in this very field.