



Seminar Event

School of Public Administration University of Victoria

Thursday, March 1, 2007

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: MacLaurin Building
Room D287
University of Victoria

Cascadia: A Geopolitical Approach

**By: Dr. Bruno Dupeyron, Visiting Scholar, Local Government Institute,
School of Public Administration, University of Victoria**

Please register for this FREE seminar
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For more information, please
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The Cascadia cross-border region may be studied as a dual world, both “Welt von Gestern” (Stefan Zweig, *The World of Yesterday*, 1943) and “world to come”. In his work, the Austrian writer describes the astonishing material, intellectual and moral comfort of the European elite before the WWI. Blind beliefs in the superiority of Western values, scientific progress and the ineluctability of history had led Europeans to ignore many signals of the lasting European splits yet to come.

Cascadia, though hardly defined and widely unknown, is a fascinating area that shares similar tensions between past and future, and where current signals may be received and studied geopolitically. Thus, climate change and new environmental concerns are reflected in the social construction of a “landscaped utopia”, maybe borrowed from a fallacious perception of Northwest Coast Native peoples’ practices. Economic relations are based on a standpoint in which regional, cross-border, national and international interests are superimposed and in conflict with other community priorities. The 2010 Olympic Games represent a Western-centric perspective of a socio-political global event, partly organized on a cross-border basis, while borders in Cascadia itself are subject to paranoid security adjustments toward perceived and renewed world threats (terrorism, pandemics, pollution, etc).

Dr. Dupeyron is a visiting scholar at the Local Government Institute, School of Public Administration, University of Victoria and teaches in the Department of Sociology. He holds a B.A. in Political Science and an LLB from the Robert Schuman University of Strasbourg (France), an M.A. in Political Science from the University of Paris (France), and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the Robert Schuman University of Strasbourg (France) in conjunction with the Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain). He specializes in comparative regional integrations (European Union, Mercosur and NAFTA), multi-level governance and cross-border politics.