Our theme for 2014-15 is ‘Ideas of Europe’. How do the geographical boundaries of Europe relate to its conceptual boundaries, to questions of intellectual history, and to European identity? How do the disparate constituents of Europe respond to these broader European ideals? What are the genealogical origins of these ideals, and how do they inform - or fail to inform - recent debates about the ‘European Project’? What is the role of Europe’s various languages, of interrelated but distinct vocabularies and syntaxes? Is there a European poetics? And how do all of these concerns inform the most important annual celebration of the European vision – the Eurovision Song Contest?

Meetings are normally held at 8.30pm (unless otherwise indicated) in the Parlour, G Staircase, Peterhouse. Wine and refreshments are served. All are welcome.

The invited speakers this year are:

Monday 20th October. 8.30pm. Professor Brendan Simms (Politics and International Relations, Cambridge). “European Unions, Past and Present”.

Monday 3rd November. 8.30pm. Professor John Foot (Italian History, Bristol) and Jan-Jonathan Bock (Anthropology, Cambridge). “Social Change and Activism in Italy: Two Perspectives”.

Monday 2nd December. 8.30pm. Professor Simon Glendinning (European Philosophy, LSE). “A Philosophy of Europe?”.

Monday 26th January. 5.30pm [note earlier time]. Peter Stothard (Editor, TLS). “Alexandria, a European City”. A conversation and reading.


Tuesday 10th March. 8.30pm. Dr. Ed Kessler (Director of the Woolf Institute, the centre for Interfaith relations, Cambridge). “Jewish and Christian Cultures in Contemporary Europe”.

Tuesday 12th May. 8.30pm. Dr Catherine Baker (20thC History, Hull). “The Eurovision Song Contest”.

Convenors: Dr Jennifer Wallace (English)  
Prof Steven Connor (English)  
Giles Waller (Theology)  
Jan-Jonathan Bock (Anthropology)  
Jack Clearman (Psychology)