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European Identity and Culture

Book Presentation by Rebecca Friedman and Markus Thiel

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As the EU continues its integration process throughout the Eurocrisis, the concepts of culture and transnational European belonging remain ambivalent, whether in the realm of socio-historical representation or mass politics. Engaging with recent scholarly debates surrounding the formation of collective transnational identities, this collection draws on the latest empirical case studies to explore the meaning and composition of European identity, the mechanisms that create and shape it and the question of whom it includes. Each author pays close attention to the cultural aspects of identity formation, whether manifested in official, institutional articulations, such as symbols, coinage, ceremonies and discursive manifestations, or in the cultures of the everyday, such as through new forms of communication networks, consumption or leisure. Exploring attempts by various actors - institutions, groups, individuals - to create transnational European identities, *European Identity and Culture* scrutinizes the cultural formations that have either reignited or emerged in often contradictory relations to the EU project, including local, regional and transnational allegiances.

Rebecca Friedman is Associate Professor of History and Co-Director of the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence, School of International and Public Affairs, Florida International University.

Markus Thiel is Assistant Professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations, School of International and Public Affairs, Florida International University.

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