Propositions

regarding the dissertation

TRANSNATIONAL NETWORKS AND THE COMMON MARKET:
BUSINESS VIEWS ON EUROPEAN INTEGRATION, 1950-1980

Ruud Geven, Maastricht 2014

1). The reasons for European companies to demand in the 1980s the completion of the Single Market can, contrary to Sandholtz’s and Zysman’s views, be traced back to the broad experience of European corporate adaptation problems caused by increased competition following American investments in Europe since the mid-1950s.

2). Considering that the combination of the "American challenge" and a lack of political integration and legal harmonization of the Common Market complicated European industrial restructuring since the 1960s, a Chinese challenge within the Transatlantic Free Trade Area that is currently under negotiation may have similar consequences.

3). By teaching students of European Studies to juxtapose and interpret the various historiographical narratives and debates on European integration, their capacity for reflection on the future direction of the European Union will be enhanced.

4). Those that attempt to define the essence of the comic-strip fail to appreciate the extent to which media are permanently reshaped by cultural, social and technological change.

5). Prosopographic comparisons of transnational networks can strongly contribute to the understanding of the history of the European transnational political sphere.

6). Contrary to Green Cowles’ assertion, the founding of the European Round Table of Industrialists in 1983 did not mark a discontinuity with the past by forming the first European transnational business network; in fact it followed up on the work of the in 1947 founded European League for Economic Cooperation, which was also a European transnational business network.

7). The shake-out of hundreds of small breweries between 1920-1939 in the Dutch provinces of Limburg and Noord-Brabant was the deliberate result of a cartel between the country’s three largest breweries, Heineken, Amstel and Oranjeboom.

8). The economic, monetary and energy crises of the 1970s resulted in a call by European multinationals for several supranational interventions that as a whole took on the shape of an industrial policy: support for research and development, strategic external economic policies and Community representation in global policy debates.