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During the academic year 2013/2014, Erne is working [as](#) a visiting research fellow at the [Centre for Advanced Study](#) at the Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letter in Oslo as member of the CAS project group 'Globalization and the possibility of transnational actors - The case of trade unions'.

He is a graduate of the FU Berlin and Sciences Po (Paris) and obtained his PhD in political sciences at the European University Institute in Florence.

His work centres on European governance and the social and political implications of transnational movements of goods, capital, services, and people. He is interested in how interest associations and social movements - particularly unions - respond to processes of regional integration and globalization.

In his most important book *EUROPEAN UNIONS, Labor's Quest for a Transnational Democracy* (Cornell University Press 2008) Erne describes the emergence of a European trade union movement that crosses national boundaries and challenges the assertion that no realistic prospect exists for remedying the EU's democratic deficit.