

ecpr/news

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european consortium for political research /
encouraging the training, research and cross-national cooperation of political scientists

student special



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ecpr constitutional reform

council votes in amendments to the ecpr constitution

by Rudy Andeweg, ECPR Executive Committee member

Following recommendations by the Governance Review Group (a committee set up by the Executive Committee), the Executive Committee proposed seven amendments to the ECPR Constitution. At the same time, the 'Committee of Three' (set up by Council in St Gallen in 2011 and elected by Official Representatives to formulate recommendations concerning situations of the sort experienced by the ECPR following the personnel issues in Central Services in 2010), proposed three amendments to the ECPR Constitution. These ten amendments were put on the agenda of the ECPR Council in Antwerp (April 13, 2012).

During Council, the 'Committee of Three' withdrew one of its amendments. As Council lacked a quorum, the amendments could not be put to a vote. Under Art. 20b of the Constitution, the remaining nine amendments were put to an electronic ballot in which the Official Representatives (ORs) of all full members were entitled to vote. This memorandum reports on the design and outcome of this referendum. It has been approved by the ECPR Senior Returning Officer, David Farrell.

referendum design

The Constitution stipulates that an amendment needs to be approved by a two-thirds majority, and with a turnout of at least 40 percent. Other than that, the Constitution is silent on the design of the electronic ballot. The Executive Committee, at its June 11–12, 2012 meeting, took the following decisions that:

- The referendum will be organised through the ECPR website, in the myECPR area, accessible only to Official Representatives.
- Each of the nine amendments shall be voted on individually. [Voting on individual amendments increases the freedom of choice of Official Representatives. In this particular case, there is no overlap between amendments, and voting on each amendment separately does not jeopardise the coherence of the Constitution.]
- Official Representatives can vote to accept or reject an amendment. [Constitutionally, it makes no difference to the calculation of the turnout for the quorum whether Official Representatives do not vote on an amendment or click on an option to abstain. For technical reasons voters have to indicate whether they want to cast a vote on a particular amendment or not, which is equivalent to the inclusion of an 'abstain' option.]
- The ballot itself will contain only a concise description of each amendment's content. [There is a trade-off between keeping the ballot simple and fully informing the voter. Most amendments involve textual changes in several articles of the Constitution. To mention all these textual changes on the ballot would clutter the ballot. On the other hand, just offering a summary of what the changes are about may confuse the voter as to what exactly she/he is voting on. It was decided to put concise descriptions only on the ballot (the text of which was agreed on by the Executive Committee) with, for each amendment, the possibility to click through to a pop-up with the exact textual consequences of the amendment.]
- Links should be provided to the following documents:
 1. the current text of the Constitution;
 2. the EC Memo containing its amendments;
 3. the report of the Governance Review Group;
 4. the report of the 'Committee of Three';
 5. the draft minutes of the Antwerp Council meeting.
- Official Representatives should receive an e-mail from the Chair of the Executive Committee alerting them to the referendum and inviting them to vote (without any advice on whether to accept or reject the amendments), indicating the time-frame during which voting is possible. ORs should also receive e-mail reminders.
- The time-frame for voting was set from 4 July 2012 to 15 September 2012. [Given the diversity in the length and timing of the summer vacation at ECPR member institutions, it was decided to have a long period during which voting is possible.]

process

Voting in the referendum took place as planned. The only incident was that a technical error allowed Official Representatives from Associate Members to vote. This was remedied and the votes of the few Official Representatives from Associate Members who had already voted were treated as invalid.

outcome

The final results of the referendum are as follows:



| Amendment | # Valid votes | Valid votes as % of all ORs | # Accept | # Reject | Accept as % of all valid votes |
|--|---------------|-----------------------------|----------|----------|--------------------------------|
| 1. To merge the posts of Academic Director and Administrative Director into a single post, to be called 'Director' | 137 | 49.46 | 123 | 14 | 89.78 |
| 2. To clarify the role of the Official Representative in Council | 137 | 49.46 | 135 | 2 | 98.54 |
| 3. To standardise references to the 'Chair' of the Executive Committee | 137 | 49.46 | 136 | 1 | 99.27 |
| 4. To create a position of Speaker of the Council | 136 | 49.10 | 124 | 12 | 91.18 |
| 5. To formalise the procedure for electing the Chair of the Executive Committee | 137 | 49.46 | 121 | 16 | 88.32 |
| 6. To clarify the maximum length of time a member of the Executive Committee can serve | 138 | 49.82 | 129 | 9 | 93.48 |
| 7. To make more precise certain ambiguous points | 139 | 50.18 | 131 | 4 | 97.24 |
| 8. To have annual meetings of the Council | 137 | 49.46 | 126 | 11 | 91.97 |
| 9. To establish procedures for addressing allegations of misconduct by the Chair or members of the Executive Committee | 137 | 49.46 | 124 | 13 | 90.51 |



conclusion

All amendments have met the constitutional requirement of 40 percent of all Official Representatives casting a vote. All amendments have been accepted by more than two-thirds of ORs who cast a vote. All nine amendments are therefore declared as duly accepted and the ECPR Constitution is changed accordingly. The Executive Committee is charged to take the measures necessary to bring into effect the amendments as soon as reasonably possible.

a new functionary: speaker of the ecpr council

In an electronic ballot held in the summer/autumn of 2012 the ECPR Constitution was amended to create a brand new role: Speaker of the ECPR Council. The Council will now meet annually (during the ECPR General Conference) and the Council will have its own Speaker.

The Speaker's responsibilities are:

- To chair meetings of Council;
- To liaise with the Executive Committee over business matters and the formulation of the agenda for Council meetings;
- To serve as Senior Returning Officer for Executive Committee elections;
- To serve as general liaison point for members of Council *vis-à-vis* the ECPR; and
- To draft and propose revisions to the Standing Orders of Council for approval by the Council.

The Speaker, who will serve a three-year term (with the possibility of re-election to a second three-year term), will be elected by the Official Representatives of all Full-Member institutions.

Any Official Representative of a Full Member institution can nominate her-/himself to stand for the office of Speaker. This is an excellent opportunity for an OR to make an important contribution to the work of the ECPR.

We are therefore calling on all Official Representatives who might be interested in serving as the ECPR's first Speaker of Council to nominate themselves!

The nominations stage (1–31 December) will be followed by endorsements (1–26 January) and final voting (1–21 February), using the Alternative Vote system, and with the results being announced on 1 March 2013. Each stage will take place electronically via the myECPR area on the ECPR website (all ORs should have an account already, but please check all details are up to date at www.ecprnet.eu/login).

A full guide to the procedures and deadlines for each stage can be found on the ECPR website (www.ecprnet.eu/login). For more information about the electoral process etc, please contact the ECPR Central Services in the first instance (ecpr@essex.ac.uk).

We look forward to receiving a number of nominations and witnessing a lively election!



For more information about the Speaker of Council election please see the website (www.ecprnet.eu) or contact the Central Services at ecpr@essex.ac.uk.



remembering hanne marthe narud

obituary of former executive committee member

by Maurizio Ferrera and Ursula Hoffmann-Lange, former members of the ECPR's Executive Committee

The ECPR was saddened to learn about the untimely death of Hanne Marthe Narud, former member of the Executive Committee, who died on July 20, 2012, after a long battle with cancer.

Hanne Marthe was born on February 6, 1958, in Furnes, Norway. In 1996, she received a PhD in political science from the University of Oslo. As a student, she had already started working as research assistant at the Institute for Social Research in Oslo, and continued working there as a researcher after completing her studies. Hanne Marthe's main research focus was elections and electoral behaviour, but she also worked on political parties, coalitions, political representation and parliamentary recruitment in Norway and other Scandinavian countries.

Hanne Marthe was widely published and an internationally well-known specialist in these fields. Her last book on political representation in Norway (2007) was co-authored with the late Henry Valen, with whom she had collaborated closely for many years. An article on the recruitment of the Norwegian parliamentary elite ('Ascent of the Young, the Smart and the Professional: Norway's Parliamentary Elite in Comparative Perspective') was published in the December 2011 issue of *Comparative Sociology* when she was already seriously ill. Thanks to her ability to communicate her research results not only to her colleagues and students, but also to a non-academic audience, she became a prominent political commentator on Norwegian parties and elections.

Hanne Marthe served on the ECPR Executive Committee from 2003 to 2009. She received the highest number of votes in the EC elections at the Edinburgh Council meeting. During her first three years, she held the portfolio for the Standing Groups as well as serving on the board for selecting the winners of the Stein Rokkan Prize. She was also very active in dealing with membership issues, promoting the recruitment of associate members from outside Europe. From 2006 to 2009 she was in charge of the portfolio for the Joint Sessions of Workshops. In this capacity she designed a new system for the selection of workshops which greatly improved the efficiency and effectiveness of the procedure.

Hanne Marthe's ability to communicate with people was remarkable. She had a clear vision of what the mission of the ECPR should be and during her time of service the Executive Committee had to confront a number of delicate issues regarding the Consortium's governance, the launch of new initiatives and the reorganisation of the ECPR Press. Hanne Marthe always made precious contributions towards identifying and balancing options and for reaching consensus both within the EC and the Consortium at large. She not only had a strong scientific interest in politics, but also a personal passion for the challenges of dealing with collective problems and reconciling different views about them.

She was a strong and open-minded personality who was always cheerful. She loved her work as much as sitting together with a glass of beer and just talking. During the Joint Sessions in Nicosia, we made a trip together to the seaside, visiting the beautiful mosaics of the Roman Villa in Paphos. It was a splendid opportunity for relaxing and chatting about work and life, walking on the beach and having a quiet drink at a café. Hanne Marthe's friendly smile in the sunset, holding her glass, is still very vivid and dear in our memory. We deeply deplore that she is no longer with us and will always remember her as an outstanding colleague and a good friend.

Hanne Marthe with ECPR EC colleague, Dirk Berg-Schlosser, at the Joint Sessions in St Gallen in 2011.



ecpr news – student special

In the ECPR's 2012 Strategic Review, the outgoing Executive Committee (EC) set out a roadmap for the incoming EC to follow over the coming three years. Of the twelve key points they identified, two deal specifically with the services the ECPR offers to students.

As the Strategic Review states, 'Academic curricula across Europe are becoming more comparable (thanks also to the Bologna Process) and a veritable European academic market is evolving. These developments require a commensurate effort on the ECPR's part to help European graduate students acquire the right skills to compete in such a market.' Alongside this, a further section is dedicated to 'teaching and training' with recommendations to continuing the expansion of the ECPR's remit into these areas. Together, these two sections demonstrate the ECPR's commitment to investing in the future of the discipline.

The ECPR began to shape its services to students in 2006 with the launch of both the Graduate Student Conference and the Summer School in Methods and Techniques. Both events were a great success and so the pattern for an annual SSMT and biennial Graduate Student Conference was set.

Together, these two sections demonstrate the ECPR's commitment to investing in the future of the discipline.

The goal of the Graduate Student Conference (GSC) was to deliver an event both organised and attended by students; from the academic convenors (alongside members of the ECPR's EC) to section and panel chairs, paper givers and observers. The hope was that this would create an environment where students could get their first taste of presenting their work to peers in the context of a large academic conference, but in the company of other delegates who would all be at roughly the same stage in their career. The feedback was that this was indeed an invaluable experience, especially when coupled with a plenary and social programme which focussed on roundtables discussing subjects pertinent to students (getting published, finding their first academic job...), lectures by high-profile speakers and social events aimed at networking this new generation of political scientists.

Seven years and four GSCs on, the format remains largely unchanged and the event continues to go from strength to strength; the next one will be held at the University of Innsbruck in 2014.

Alongside the GSC, the Summer School flourished too, so much so that it was agreed that an expansion of methods training was required. In response to this, the ECPR established its Methods School in 2011 to encompass both the SSMT and the new Winter School in Methods and Techniques (WSMT). The WSMT, held every February, is designed to offer introductory and advanced courses, while the SSMT focuses on intermediate-level teaching. Whilst these are two very separate events, there is the possibility for students to follow a '3 step' process through the two events in order to run the full gamut of methods training. As such, discounts are offered on this basis.

Both the GSC and the two methods schools are available to all political scientists, worldwide, regardless of their affiliation to the ECPR. However, ECPR members do receive discounted rates



and can apply for funding towards some of their costs for both events, making them particularly accessible to the membership.

Coming back to the ECPR's strategic vision for the next three years, there is a good deal of focus on students, with the following key recommendations on the table for the current EC to take forward:

graduate matters

- A closer linkage between the GSC and teaching and learning initiatives should be developed.
- The Graduate Student Network should be further strengthened by creating a dedicated space for it on the ECPR website.
- Graduate students should become more fully integrated into the ECPR through consideration of the possibility of creating a 'Junior OR' for each institutional member.
- The possibility for European departments to advertise positions (post-doctoral positions, junior positions, etc.) through the ECPR should be developed, and consideration given to organising a 'job placement' service at the Graduate Student Conference and/or through the website.
- A review of the Central Services provision for graduate events should be conducted after the 2012 Graduate Student Conference in Bremen.

teaching and training

- Every Annual General Conference should host a Section dedicated to Teaching & Learning.
- The feasibility of running an ECPR Teaching & Learning Conference should be explored, either alone or in conjunction with APSA, whose model should be considered.
- Consideration should be given to developing and funding an ECPR Teaching Award.
- The Winter School should be fully consolidated as a standard ECPR activity.
- A single ECPR portfolio area for all Graduate Matters should be considered.

The following pages aim to provide a taste of the student-focused services provided by the ECPR, from the SSMT and GSC through to the WSMT and the re-launch of the Graduate Student Network.



seven years of ssmt sun

For the seventh year running, graduate students and junior researchers came together in the Slovenian city of Ljubljana for the ECPR Summer School in Methods and Techniques. Once again the sun shone on the participants and a productive and enjoyable experience was had by all.

ECPR School in Methods and Techniques

Good research requires a solid methodology; a belief key to the aims of the ECPR and the reason for the creation of its Methods School.

Launched in 2006, the ECPR's Summer School in Methods and Techniques quickly became established as one of the leading events of its type for students of political science and the related disciplines, paving the way for the Winter School to be established in 2011.



SSMT host 2013–16

The ECPR is delighted to announce that a further three-year agreement has been signed with the University of Ljubljana to host the Summer School in Methods and Techniques – covering the period 2013–16 inclusive. The ECPR therefore looks forward to three more highly successful SSMTs in Slovenia.

By combining the two events, students and junior researchers can follow, over a period of two years, a full range of training at introductory, intermediate and advanced levels; the full scope of methods training. The Winter School in Methods and Techniques (WSMT), comprises both introductory-level courses (step 1) and advanced courses (step 3), in an intensive one-week format, while the Summer School in Methods and Techniques (SSMT) provides the 'step 2' intermediate-level courses.

The School comprises an intensive programme of seminars and lab sessions which require a strong commitment from participants. The teaching language is English, and therefore all participants must be fluent in spoken English.

The courses offered at the WSMT (steps 1 & 3) and at the SSMT (step 2) are designed in such a way that courses from the three levels offer much complementarity and cumulateness. In other words, several different 'training paths' are offered, depending on the type of specialised or more diversified qualifications the participants wish or need to acquire.

For more information about either the WSMT or the SSMT please contact Denise Chapman at Central Services (dchap@essex.ac.uk).



teaching on home ground

two years of fruitful experiences as a teaching assistant

by Pika Založnik, University of Ljubljana

This summer saw the ECPR Summer School in Methods and Techniques (SSMT) take place at my home university for the seventh year in a row. Working as a Teaching Assistant with Alenka Jelen on her course Expert Interviews for Qualitative Data Generation, for the second year, meant that I had greater confidence in the task at hand and knew I was in for a treat with my high-spirited and hardworking team.

Being a TA at a summer school taking place at your home faculty does have its advantages: you can graciously unlock the doors of classrooms for your colleagues; you already know some of the local staff; and you can never underestimate the value of your own bed. Nevertheless, the amenities did put me at a disadvantage with regard to the other participants – in the afternoons I was not on a mini vacation, my workplace was always two floors up, and my friends and family were in the same postcode – all of which can seriously limit your time for mingling with the participants, instructors, and TAs in other courses.

In addition to my team and the general environment, the participants in the course were also similar to those from last year, in that they came from disparate research fields, universities and countries, were at different stages in their academic or professional careers and had varying experiences in conducting (expert) interviews.

The course lasts only a week and perhaps 22 students might not seem like much in other situations, but the schedule is quite heavy, for the participants as well as for us. Besides the somewhat regular structure, this course has two characteristics that are, in my opinion, necessary in order to get as immersed in expert interviewing as a method in the social sciences as one can in only one week. First of all, the

atmosphere in the classroom is very open to questions and discussions about the underlying theories, epistemological positions and different practices, as well as about the experiences (good and bad) of everyone involved. It also gives everyone the opportunity to critically reflect on qualitative research methods and, in particular, expert interviews, which tend to be thought of as something you 'just go and do'.

Second of all, a strong 'learning-by-doing' component features prominently throughout the week, with participants running through the steps of preparing for, actually doing an interview and later transcribing and reflecting critically on the procedural aspects and generated data. For some this meant their first run, and for others an opportunity to see where they could improve and fine-tune their research. Two of the course participants also had the opportunity to carry out an interview with an expert; although it was done in an artificial setting with an audience it was an invaluable experience for the interviewers and also for the rest who could observe and later discuss the proceedings. This year the interview was an added bonus for me – the Slovenian expert who kindly donated her time works in my field of communication studies and is someone whom I admire in her role as the tenacious and principled Information Commissioner – Ms. Nataša Pirc Musar.

'Being a TA at a summer school ... at your home faculty does have its advantages ... and you can never underestimate the value of your own bed.'

All in all my experience of being a TA at the summer school has been great. I was given another opportunity to be involved in a hands-on teaching experience, to learn more about expert interviews and witness a great teaching style from an intriguing Instructor, and to meet a diverse group of participants from all over the world. And at the Instructors and TAs' dinner I saw that besides being capable of critical theoretical discussions and generating great insights from their vast coffers of knowledge, professors can be as goofy as the rest of us!



an academic adventure

exploring statistics and slovenia at the ssmt

by Kerry Lynne Tannahill, Concordia University

As a Master's student studying the European Union while living in Canada, I leapt at the opportunity to attend a Methods School hosted by the ECPR in Ljubljana. Initially drawn by the variety of both entry-level and advanced courses on offer, I suspected that the SSMT would not only offer opportunities for me to learn new skills crucial to my upcoming PhD and meet other researchers involved in similar fields to mine, but also to explore a part of Europe uncommon to most Canadian travellers. In short, I was anticipating an adventure but my experience far exceeded all my expectations.

When I arrived in Ljubljana after quite a long trip from Montreal, I made it easily from the airport to the ECPR SSMT dormitory. The dorm was situated only a few minutes' walk from the University of Ljubljana's Faculty of Social Science. Upon arrival I got acquainted with the friendly dormitory staff, settled into my room and began preparations for my Refresher Course that began the following morning.

The course I chose was taught by Anton Cedilnik, a former professor of the University of Ljubljana, who set out to review basic notions of linear algebra and calculus. After three days of intense learning from Friday to Sunday, Professor Cedilnik successfully instilled in the attendees a clear understanding of a topic many of us had not explored since high school. Even more surprisingly, a rapport between the participants was established that would blossom throughout the next two weeks into what promises to become lifelong friendships.

Regular classes began on the Monday with a series of introductory sessions offered by the many Instructors teaching at the Summer School – the 'Monday Mix'. This presented everyone with a chance to look at other research methodologies and explore topics that may be of interest for future Methods Schools. I was pleasantly surprised by the variety and several subjects caught my eye for future years.

My full two-week course, 'Multivariate Statistical Analysis and Comparative Cross-national Surveys Data', was led by Bruno Cautrès. Our mornings were occupied with lectures, discussions, and lab sessions, covering all forms of multivariate analysis from descriptive statistics to logistic regression and factor analysis. Regardless of the student's prior knowledge of statistics, the sessions were productive and fruitful; the two weeks culminating in a group presentation and final exam. The course was demanding and the material was dense, but the results were phenomenal. Many participants, who had little knowledge of the topic going into the class, emerged not only able to conduct the many types of analyses but also able to communicate their results with ease and confidence.

Above and beyond the methods courses, Ljubljana and the ECPR provided a rich social and cultural environment that contributed substantially to my unforgettable experience. There were several free attractions to be explored in the city. The castle in town showed open air movies every night and the Trnfest presented free concerts with music of all styles from all over the world.

'... a rapport between the participants was established that would blossom into what promises to become lifelong friendships.'

Outside of the courses, the ECPR also organised a series of social activities: a pub crawl, historical city tour, and a multitude of planned excursions in and around Ljubljana. The opening barbecue in particular brought together all participants to share their stories and these somewhat awkward but standard introductory greetings were quickly replaced by relaxed laughter and bonding among friends. By the time the garden party rolled around in the beginning of the second week of courses we had formed strong connections, spending every day together both in class and out.

There will be a Winter School in Vienna in February 2013 and I look forward to attending once again, to seeing my new European friends, to learning about multilevel modelling, and to creating new and wonderful memories that I am sure will last forever.

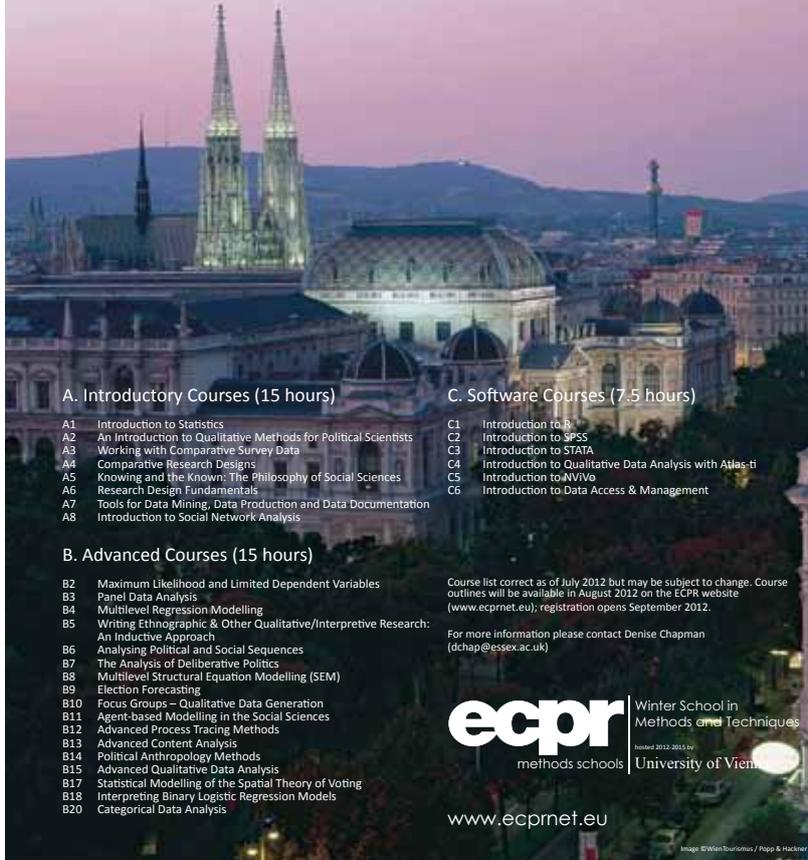




develop your skills at the...

ECPR Winter School in Methods and Techniques

University of Vienna, 17-22 February 2013



A. Introductory Courses (15 hours)

- A1 Introduction to Statistics
- A2 An Introduction to Qualitative Methods for Political Scientists
- A3 Working with Comparative Survey Data
- A4 Comparative Research Designs
- A5 Knowing and the Known: The Philosophy of Social Sciences
- A6 Research Design Fundamentals
- A7 Tools for Data Mining, Data Production and Data Documentation
- A8 Introduction to Social Network Analysis

C. Software Courses (7.5 hours)

- C1 Introduction to R
- C2 Introduction to SPSS
- C3 Introduction to STATA
- C4 Introduction to Qualitative Data Analysis with Atlas.ti
- C5 Introduction to NVivo
- C6 Introduction to Data Access & Management

B. Advanced Courses (15 hours)

- B2 Maximum Likelihood and Limited Dependent Variables
- B3 Panel Data Analysis
- B4 Multilevel Regression Modelling
- B5 Writing Ethnographic & Other Qualitative/Interpretive Research: An Inductive Approach
- B6 Analysing Political and Social Sequences
- B7 The Analysis of Deliberative Politics
- B8 Multilevel Structural Equation Modelling (SEM)
- B9 Election Forecasting
- B10 Focus Groups – Qualitative Data Generation
- B11 Agent-based Modelling in the Social Sciences
- B12 Advanced Process Tracing Methods
- B13 Advanced Content Analysis
- B14 Political Anthropology Methods
- B15 Advanced Qualitative Data Analysis
- B17 Statistical Modelling of the Spatial Theory of Voting
- B18 Interpreting Binary Logistic Regression Models
- B20 Categorical Data Analysis

Course list correct as of July 2012 but may be subject to change. Course outlines will be available in August 2012 on the ECPR website (www.ecprnet.eu); registration opens September 2012.

For more information please contact Denise Chapman (dchap@essex.ac.uk)

ecpr Winter School in
methods schools Methods and Techniques
University of Vienna

www.ecprnet.eu



ecpr winter school in methods and techniques

last chance to register for the 2013 school

The ECPR provides a 'three step' approach to methods training through its Methods School. Whilst all intermediate level courses are taught at the Summer School in Methods and Techniques each July/August, all introductory and advanced courses are taught at the Winter School in Methods and Techniques (WSMT) held every February, currently at the University of Vienna.

Participants have up until February 6 2013 to register for the 2013 Winter School in Methods and Techniques. For more information, including a full course list, fees, discounts for Summer School participants and funding opportunities, please see www.ecprnet.eu. ECPR members receive discounted fees and can apply for funding to attend this event.

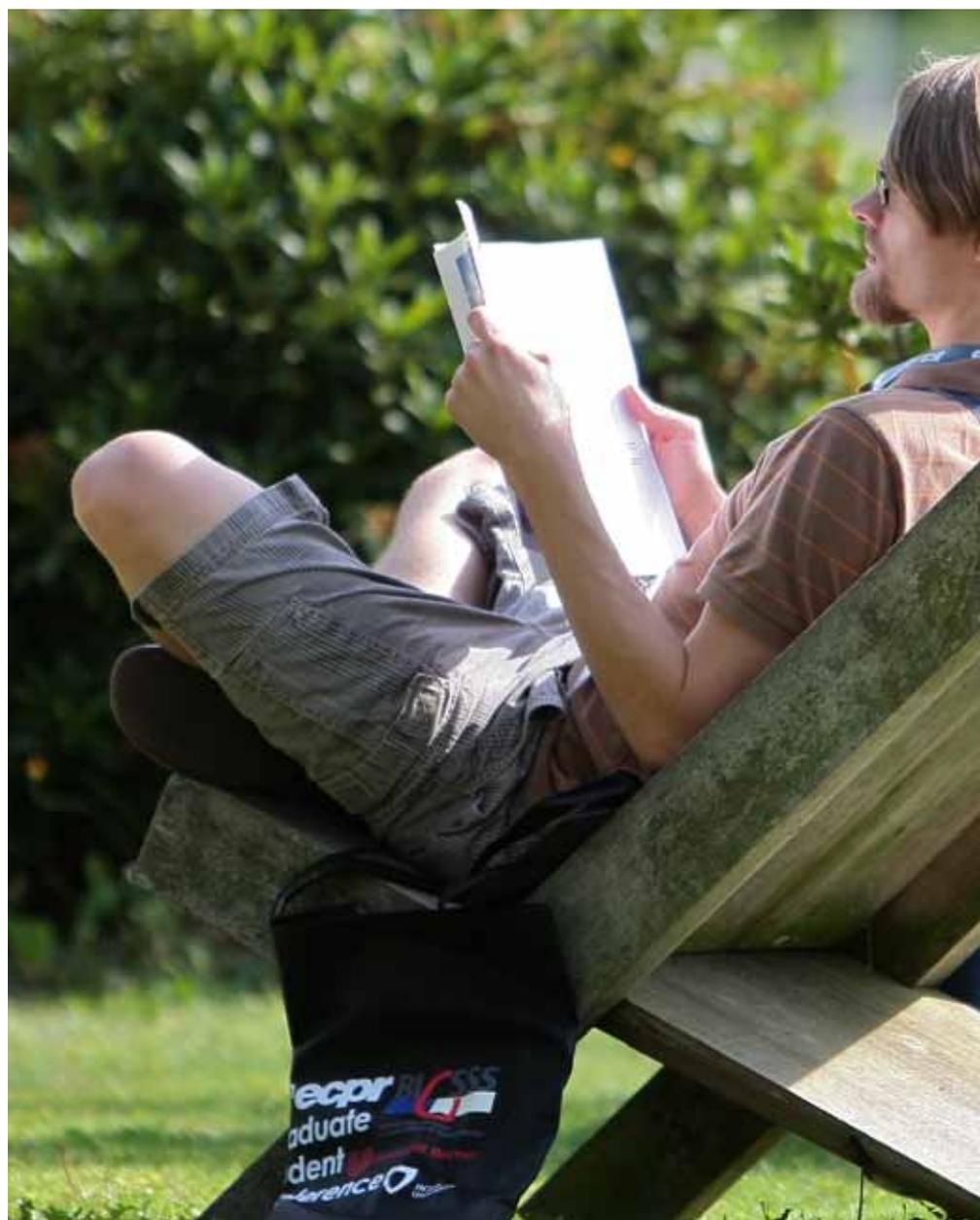
For more information please contact Denise Chapman at Central Services: dchap@essex.ac.uk

bremen hosts 4th graduate student conference

Some 400 students from across the world came together in Bremen this July for the ECPR's fourth Graduate Student Conference. Held biennially, the GSC has fast become a key event in the calendar for students keen to get their first taste of presenting their work at an academic conference. But the experience doesn't end there; students are invited to shape the content of the conference too by acting as Section and Panel Chairs, as well as discussants, or simply observers.

Any good conference, though, also has an engaging social programme, and this is a strong element of the GSC too. Roundtables focussed on themes pertinent to those about to embark on a career in academia (such as the ever-popular 'How to Get Published' or topical 'Getting an Academic Job in Asia') are organised around stimulating keynote lectures and well-catered receptions, perfect for all-important networking. A book exhibition also ran throughout the event, providing the opportunity for participants to buy discounted books and speak to publishers (including the ECPR Press) about future publishing opportunities.

The next GSC will take place in Innsbruck and we look forward to welcoming many more future leaders of the profession along to that event. Further information can be obtained from Sandra Thompson (slthomp@essex.ac.uk) at the ECPR's Central Services.



this is how it starts...

a short memoir of bremen

by Manuel Abrantes, Technical University of Lisbon

Every now and then, someone comments on how lonely and isolated you can get when you are a full-time academic researcher. This may be something we say because we overemphasise teamwork and social intercourse in many other occupations. In fact, my experience as a researcher has been far from loneliness or isolation; much to the contrary.

Scientific meetings are always good news to me. As soon as I read a call for papers, I look forward to learning from, and with, other researchers; their distinct analytical angles, their ideas on methodology. For all these reasons, I was delighted to learn that the results of my research in sociology could be presented and discussed at the 4th ECPR Graduate Student Conference. Soon enough, I realised I was not alone in bringing a contribution from a neighbouring academic field – and that all contributions were widely appreciated and welcomed.

Perhaps ironically, the title of my presentation was *The comfort of strangers: The European directive on long-term migrants and its transposition into Portuguese law*.

The paper was integrated in a panel session dedicated to recent dynamics in migration and asylum seeking in the European Union. Diversity in theoretical traditions and approaches proved to be a major challenge but a general feeling of passion about our work pervaded the session – and indeed the whole conference.

This conference allowed plenty of time and space to get to know fellow

delegates. Coffee breaks were long enough for substantial conversation yet we still managed to begin all sessions on time. Did it matter that one woke up at 8am and would be still debating research concepts and methods ten hours later? Not at all; it was wonderful that we had the time to do it.

And then, the brilliant lawns at the Jacobs University campus and the mystical streets of Bremen... Sitting down at a café with people you have met only a couple of hours before yet feel able to tell your life story and discuss whatever is going through your mind...

'Did it matter that one woke up at 8am and would be still debating research concepts and methods ten hours later?'

Debate during the conference panels often touched upon the ongoing economic crisis, as did the conversation during coffee breaks. This is hardly surprising, yet there is something very beautiful – as much as difficult – about grounding our theoretical thinking in the observation of what is happening around us; confronting the glass wall of past abstractions; documenting the pain and the struggle and not getting caught in the panic broadcast by some of the media or particular political representatives; trying to make a significant, novel contribution to public debate. This is how it starts...



taking the chair

a first experience of being a panel chair

by Clara Sandelind, University of Sheffield

The Graduate Student Conference in Bremen was the first time I have chaired a panel in an academic setting. It was an altogether enjoyable experience and I would recommend anyone who is attending the 2014 conference to get a panel together and chair it. It's a great way of practising chairing in an environment that perhaps is less intimidating than one with more experienced academics. In addition, chairing a panel makes you engage more in the papers than you would do normally when just attending a panel, which makes the entire session much more stimulating.

Planning the panel involved contacting old acquaintances working in similar areas as myself, as well as making new contacts by searching for PhD students in my field. It is not uncommon for PhD students to work in slight isolation in their departments, so it is great to get to know people from all around Europe with similar research interests. The more bureaucratically minded might want to call this 'networking'.

In Bremen, the organisers of the conference had reshuffled the panels slightly, which meant that I was chairing a panel including only one of the original papers that I had put together. This was good news, as it meant that I didn't have to chair the panel at which I was presenting my own paper, allowing me to focus on giving my paper and chairing the panel without swapping between roles.

The panel I chaired had three papers, which made the task of chairing more relaxed than for those who had to chair panels with up to six. We could dedicate half an hour to each paper, which was enough time to explore some of the issues raised, and thankfully I didn't have to use my newly gained authority to brutally cut off any interesting discussions! I also acted as

discussant, and while my layman's questions perhaps didn't enhance the quality of the discussion, they at least enriched my understanding of the papers and the topics they covered.

The theme of the panel was 'Immigration Discourses in an Age of Globalisation' (or, in less grandiose language, 'citizenship'). Though all papers were very theoretically and methodologically different, they all came together nicely to explore the meaning of citizenship.

The best evidence that chairing isn't by any means onerous is probably that I left the panel thinking very little of my role as a chair, and very much about the interesting issues that had been raised in the papers and discussion.

'It is not uncommon for PhD students to work in slight isolation in their departments... The more bureaucratically minded might want to call this 'networking'.'



2013 events



2nd Winter School in Methods and Techniques 17 – 22 February 2013 / University of Vienna, Austria

Integrated with the SSMT, the WSMT features both introductory and more advanced courses, in a one-week course format, while the intermediate-level courses will continue to be held at the SSMT, in a two-week course format for quantitative techniques and two consecutive one week courses for qualitative techniques. Scholarships and reduced fee places are available for ECPR members.

41st Joint Sessions of Workshops

11 – 16 March 2013 / Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz, Germany

The Joint Sessions of Workshops have taken place annually since 1973 and are both the flagship event of the ECPR, and a 'must-attend' event on the international political science calendar. Workshops are different to a panel-based conference in that participants meet with the same group (15 to 20 people) for the duration of the event (normally around five days), providing a unique opportunity for substantive discussion and creation of new research groups and publications. There is no conference fee for ECPR members and funding is available for travel and accommodation.

3rd Research Sessions

Summer 2013 (to be confirmed)

With a similar format to the Joint Sessions, but aimed specifically at established groups (which must primarily be ECPR members, with priority given to Standing Groups) and with smaller numbers of participants per group and over fewer days, the Research Sessions provide an opportunity for scholars to come together to work intensively on a particular project.

8th Summer School in Methods and Techniques

26 July – 9 August 2013 / University of Ljubljana

The ECPR Summer School in Methods and Techniques (SSMT) provides high quality up-to-date training in a broad range of specially selected methods across the whole spectrum of approaches employed within the social sciences. Scholarships and Travel & Accommodation Grants are available for ECPR members.

7th General Conference

4 – 7 September 2013 / Sciences Po Bordeaux, France

An annual event from 2014, the ECPR's General Conference has fast become its largest meeting, adopting the traditional conference format of sections and panels organised around a common theme and major research questions. Roundtables and a plenary lecture are organised around the academic timetable to make for a full programme with plenty of networking opportunities. A Travel & Accommodation Grant is available for ECPR members.

building the future

your chance to help create the new graduate student network

In November 2012 the ECPR will re launch its Graduate Student Network (GSN) with an online election to vote in six to eight members of the new Coordinating Committee. Tasked with building an organisation that will bring together graduate students and junior researchers from across the world and from within and beyond the ECPR's membership, this group will have an exciting path ahead of them. The GSN is an international association that sits under the umbrella of the ECPR and aims to facilitate postgraduate academic research activity and networking. It is a network specifically designed for young scholars; it will provide a framework for interaction and joint initiatives, a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences between junior researchers in the field of politics and the social sciences, and a range of services and activities will be developed, such as:

- An online database through the myECPR area on the ECPR website (and a Facebook page) which allows you to contact and be contacted by colleagues with related interests;
- Email newsletters providing information about GSN activities, conferences, summer schools, calls for papers etc;
- Web pages containing information about GSN activities and events;
- Graduate development panels and social events at ECPR conferences;
- Promotion of ECPR Prizes;
- Information on the ECPR Monographs series, which publishes outstanding PhD theses;
- Information about the Graduate Student Conference, held biennially.

Membership to the GSN is on an individual basis and any graduate student, PhD candidate or post-doctoral researcher enrolled at an ECPR member institution is eligible to join the Network.

The GSN is directed by a Coordinating Committee (composed of graduate students) that oversees and directs the activities of the GSN and is closely involved in the organisation of the biennial Graduate Student Conference as well as other ECPR activities.





The GSN election will open online via the myECPR area of the ECPR website in mid November, closing on 31 December 2012. All ECPR members (Full and Associate) can vote in the election - www.ecprnet.eu.

the candidates

Stavroula Chrona (University of Surrey) – 'The GSN Committee offers a key opportunity not only to work with established academics and researchers but also to spread communication between graduate fellows.'

Gibrán Cruz-Martinez (Universidad Complutense de Madrid) – 'It is important to all PhD students to be together as a group.'

Clara Egger (Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Grenoble) – 'My vision of the GSN is a lively and participative network that promotes joint initiatives by PhD students all over Europe.'

Åsne Kalland Aarstad (Aarhus University) – 'The GSN has the potential to facilitate and increase mobility and cooperation between PhD students.'

Krystyna Litton (Temple University) – 'I am interested in contributing to the conference coordination efforts... my experience makes me a good candidate for this position.'

Rosa M Navarrete (Universidad Autonoma de Madrid) – 'In a world in which research is in constant progress and rapid change, the existence of a network to discuss and evaluate advances in your research is more important than ever.'

Olanrewaju (Larry) Olaoye (Lincoln University) – 'If elected [I would like to] explore the possibilities of work placements in relevant organisations, organising seminars and workshops focused on the research process, employability and career advancement.'

Marta Paradés Martin (Universidad Autonoma de Madrid) – 'Young researchers want representatives who understand their needs.'

Galya Petrenko (University of Bologna) – 'I would like to help establish academic connections between young scholars, sharing important information, and promoting productive academic work.'

Roxana Maria Proca (Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona) – 'I can provide communication support and dissemination of information on various social and academic platforms.'

Salvador Santino F. Regilme Jr (Freie Universität Berlin) – 'Research should not be alienating; instead, it should be fun and a social pleasure for all of us.'

Darya Torchilina (Moscow State Institute of International Relations) – 'The GSN would be a great opportunity to communicate with interesting people and to grow professionally, acquiring valuable knowledge in political science.'

Ilke Toygür (Universidad Autonoma de Madrid) – 'Being in a network is beneficial not only for joint initiatives (such as projects, workshops etc), but also for improving research in a certain area.'

standing group news

The ECPR Standing Groups listed below will be sponsoring and supporting the following Workshops and Sections at ECPR events in 2013:

Joint Sessions of Workshops, Mainz

| workshop title | standing group |
|--|--|
| Climate Change 2.0? Normative and Political Issues of Geo-engineering the Climate | Environmental Politics |
| Collective Action Online: Theories and Methods | Internet and Politics |
| Electoral Competitiveness in Cross-National Research: Challenges and New Directions | Public Opinion and Voting Behaviour in a Comparative Perspective |
| Green Leviathan, Ecological Insurance Agency, or Capitalism's Agent? | Environmental Politics |
| Legal Mobilisation: Europe in Comparative Perspective | Law and Courts |
| Party System Dynamics: New Tools for the Study of Party System Change and Party Transformation | Comparative Political Institutions and Political Parties |
| Process of Transitional Justice: Towards a More Systematic Approach in Social Science Research | Human Rights and Transitional Justice |
| The Judiciary and the Quality of Democracy in Comparative Perspective | Law and Courts |
| The Transnational Dimension of Protest: From the Arab Spring to Occupy Wall Street | Participation and Mobilisation |
| Understanding Parliamentarians: Individual Goals and Behaviour in European Legislatures | Parliaments |



General Conference, Bordeaux

| section title | standing group |
|---|---|
| Analytical Politics: Linking Theory and Data | Analytical Politics and Public Choice |
| Bridging Research and Teaching Responsibilities of Political Scientists | Teaching & Learning Politics |
| Challenges to Contemporary Party Democracy | Political Parties |
| Comparative Perspectives on the New Politics of Dissent | Participation and Mobilisation |
| Comparative Public Opinion and Elections | Public Opinion and Voting Behaviour in a Comparative Perspective |
| Consequences of Crisis in Southern Europe | Southern European Politics |
| Contemporary Challenges to Local Self-Government and Democracy | Local Government and Politics |
| Environmental Politics and Policy | Environmental Politics |
| Four Decades of Democratic Innovation Research: Revisiting Theories, Concepts and Methods | Democratic Innovations |
| Gender and Politics | Gender and Politics |
| Internet & Politics: Towards New Concepts in Political Science? | Internet and Politics |
| Justification and Application: The Nature and Function of Political Norms | Kantian Political Thought |
| Latin American Politics | Latin American Politics |
| Law, Courts and Judicial Politics | Law and Courts |
| Legislatures and Governments in Assembly Confidence Democracies | Parliaments |
| New Developments in Federalism and Regionalism | Federalism and Regionalism |
| Perspectives on the New Right | Extremism & Democracy |
| Political Economy | Political Economy |
| Political Networks | Social Network Analysis |
| Political Psychology Advances: Public Opinion, Political Preferences, Identity and Conflict | Political Psychology (co-sponsored by ISPP – International Society of Political Psychology) |
| Political Violence in Time and Space | Political Violence |
| Politics and Identity | Identity |
| Politics and the Arts: Towards New Landscapes of the Possible | Politics and the Arts |
| Regulating Private and Public: Between Religion and Secularism | Religion and Politics |
| Regulatory Governance: Dynamics Between the Local and the Global | Regulatory Governance |
| Reviewing Social Order and Change: Field Concepts in Political Analysis | Political Sociology |
| The Politics of Welfare and Social Policy Reform | Welfare Politics and Social Policy |
| Time and Wrongs in International and Transnational Relations | International Political Theory |
| Transitional Justice | Human Rights and Transitional Justice |
| Transnational Organised Crime in a Globalised World | Organised Crime |

Standing Groups and the Research Sessions

In addition to being encouraged to propose Workshops and Sections for the ECPR's Joint Sessions and General Conference respectively, Standing Groups are also given priority when it comes to proposing groups for the annual Research Sessions. A 'mini Joint Sessions' of closed groups either at the beginning or end of a project, the Research Sessions provide a unique opportunity for individuals to come together, supported by the ECPR, to further their research. For more information about the Research Sessions, please see www.ecprnet.eu.

standing group news

a brief update from some of the ECPR's Standing Groups

Standing Group on Latin American Politics

The Standing Group on Latin American Politics organised the second edition of its Summer School on Latin American Politics at the Institute of Social Sciences of the University of Lisbon between 28 June and 7 July 2012, on the theme of The International Politics of Latin America. The third Summer School will deal with The Outcomes of Democratic Regimes and will be hosted by the German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA) in Hamburg between 26 June and 5 July 2013.

Standing Group on Extremism and Democracy

The Standing Group on Extremism and Democracy provides a platform and an infrastructure to a broad range of scholars working on various aspects of 'extremism and democracy' around the world. The Standing Group's website (www.extremism-and-democracy.com) contains a searchable database of members' contact information and research interests, and advertises forthcoming workshops and conferences that may be of interest to members. The Group also publishes a quarterly electronic newsletter, e-Extreme, that reports on the Group's activities, reviews books and lists recent publications of interest to members.

Standing Group on Internet & Politics

The Standing Group on Internet & Politics aims to contribute to research work in this field, including the areas of electronic democracy, electronic government, and governance of the Internet. Founded in 2009, it now has about 150 members and nearly 300 people registered to its mailing list (<http://groups.google.com/group/ipoliticsecpr>). In September 2012, the Steering Committee was renewed and new convenors were nominated. More information can be found at <http://internet-politics.cies.iscte.pt/>, on our Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Internet-and-Politics-Standing-Group-ECPR/311268288653>.

Standing Group on Organised Crime (SGOC)

The two main objectives of the Standing Group are to become a driving force in the study of organised crime in Europe and the world and to break down barriers between the academic

world and law enforcement agencies working in this area. It has managed to do both by increasing its membership, meeting regularly at conferences (Grenoble 2001, Marburg 2003, Pisa 2007, Bordeaux 2013) and publishing a newsletter. The Standing Group has now also organised a series of summer schools dedicated to the topic of organised crime (2009 Catania, 2010 Leuven and 2011 Ohrid).

In order to meet the demands of our growing membership we are making extensive use of three communication platforms: a blog to provide interested readers with timely information about new books, conferences, calls for papers and other announcements; two online discussion groups (Facebook and LinkedIn); and a tri-annual newsletter. For more information please see the blog <http://sgoc.blogspot.co.uk>.

Standing Group on Democratic Innovations

The focus of the Standing Group is on innovations that aim at deepening 'thin' representative democracy – for example direct democracy, deliberative procedures or new forms of co-governance such as participatory budgeting. We have organised and are organising Sections at ECPR General Conferences and Joint Sessions and are also active in other international networks, organising, for example, panels at IPSA and APSA meetings, e.g. at the ECPR-IPSA Joint Conference, Sao Paulo, Brazil, 2011, and at the IPSA World Congress, Madrid, 2012. The Standing Group will have several panels at the next ECPR General Conference in Bordeaux 2013.

We welcome students to give presentations at our conferences, panels and sections. Furthermore we cooperate with institutions working on similar topics worldwide and support exchange of fellows, including graduate students. For more information please see www.democraticinnovations.net

Standing Group on Public Opinion and Voting Behaviour in a Comparative Perspective

The Standing Group on Public Opinion and Voting Behaviour in a Comparative Perspective will again sponsor a course at the Oslo Summer School in Comparative Social Science Studies taking place in summer 2013. The title of the course and the instructor will be decided in the next few months.

The Standing Group has previously sponsored the following courses: 2012 Public Opinion and Public Policy (Stuart S. Soroka - McGill University); and 2011 Political Psychology: Citizen Behaviours and Opinions (Patrick Fournier - University of Montreal)

Standing Group on Environmental Politics

Established as the 'Green Politics Standing Group' in 1991 the group has been re named the 'Environmental Politics Standing Group' (EPSG) in 2012 to reflect the maturing and broadening of the field. The new name has been proposed by the three new co-convenors of the specialist group (Brian Doherty, Sherilyn MacGregor and Hannes R. Stephan) who have recently taken over from Graeme Hayes and Adam Fagan.

The EPSG will be holding a PhD summer school on Environmental Politics and Policy at Keele University in June 2013 (provisional dates are 17–28 June). This will be the fourth such summer school to be held at Keele and will bring together PhD students from all over Europe and the world for two weeks of interactive seminars with key academics in the field. Details will soon be available on the Standing Group webpages; for information in the meantime please contact Sherilyn MacGregor (s.macgregor@keele.ac.uk).

Standing Group on Political Violence

The Standing Group on Political Violence is one of the newest Groups, established in 2012. We are currently establishing a blog that will act as a central focus for information sharing and cooperation. The Standing Group will provide a collaborative network and infrastructure for international junior and senior scholars working on aspects of political violence, including riots, guerrilla warfare, insurgency, terrorism, rebellion and civil war.

We particularly welcome the involvement of younger scholars and PhD students. To become a member of the group and to be included in all updates on Standing Group activities please send the following information to: lorenzo.bosi@eui.eu: Name; Academic affiliation (please include department institute); Email; Research homepage, if any; and Research interests.

Standing Group on Political Parties

The Standing Group on Political Parties (<http://ecprsgpp.wordpress.com/>) is one of the ECPR's oldest and most active Groups. Membership is open to all those who research within the broad field of party politics. We are especially keen, however, to encourage membership from junior researchers.

Graduate students are likely to be interested in the Group's highly successful annual PhD Summer School on Political Parties which first took place in 1990. Throughout its life, the Parties Summer School has been taught by a team that has included many of the world's most eminent party scholars.

The success of the Standing Group's Summer School is indicated *inter alia* by persistently very positive student evaluations, by the fact that many former participants now hold university posts and send their own doctoral students, and by the many lasting networking benefits for junior researchers. From 2013–2015, the Parties Summer School will take place at Leuphana Universität Lüneburg (Germany) on the theme of 'Parties and Democracy'. The 2013 Summer School will run from 7–22 September 2013. Full details will be available in January 2013.

Joining the Standing Group is simple. Please complete the form at <http://ecprsgpp.wordpress.com/members/> and email it to the Convenor Kurt Richard Luther at r.luther@keele.ac.uk.

Standing Group on Participation and Mobilisation

Recently the Standing Group on Participation and Mobilisation integrated social movement research more forcefully into its themes and aims. This amalgamation of scholarly approaches to social and political action reflects developments across the world as well as the particular interests of graduate and younger scholars. Our focus highlights the plurality and territorial levels of participation and mobilisation, and the role of mediation and communication processes in it. More recently the effectiveness of citizen efforts in affecting change has emerged as a central issue in scholarship. We encourage, therefore, younger scholars to study the influence and consequences of different forms of action for individual citizens, political systems and policy implementation.

The Standing Group also informs about publication opportunities and encourages particularly younger scholars to 'advertise' themselves by adding their projects to our member project page. More information can be found at <http://www.statsvet.su.se/forskning/ecpr.html>



ECPR Standing Groups

The ECPR currently has over 40 Standing Groups, covering all areas of political science. These Groups offer rich resources and in some cases training, alongside access to well-established and growing networks of other scholars in the field. Extremely beneficial at all stages of your career, joining a Standing Group is particularly valuable for younger members of the profession.

For more information about all ECPR Standing Groups please see www.ecprnet.eu.

introducing the *pdyi*

the ecpr and wiley blackwell launch the online version of the *pdy*

The *EJPR Political Data Yearbook* has long been regarded as the journal of record for annual political data and analysis, and the PDYi brings the last 20 years of data alive in an easy-to-use, interactive and graphically rich format that works on computers, tablets and even smartphones. Following in the footsteps of the print and online editions of the PDY (which will continue to provide strong contextual analysis to help readers understand what the data means), the PDYi will become a go-to source for data on elections, parliaments and governments in the world's advanced industrial democracies.

Transforming two decades of printed *PDY* articles into an online database has been a rich and complex process that ECPR members and *PDY* readers may find relevant for their own data management projects. Beginning in 2011, the co-editors of the *PDY* (Daniele Caramani, Kevin Deegan-Krause and Rainbow Murray) worked with a large team of *PDY* chapter authors, colleagues and graduate and undergraduate students to extract data from each of the 600 *PDY* chapters written during the last two decades; to clean and organise it and to weave it together into a single comprehensive database. The data extraction alone required the project leaders to develop a standardised framework for over 20 kinds of data from 36 countries, each with its own unique and changing political system, and then to fill the framework with data from files in a wide variety of formats – including some that were merely photographs of old issues. The next

challenge was to string these snapshots into a coherent moving picture of political change over time.

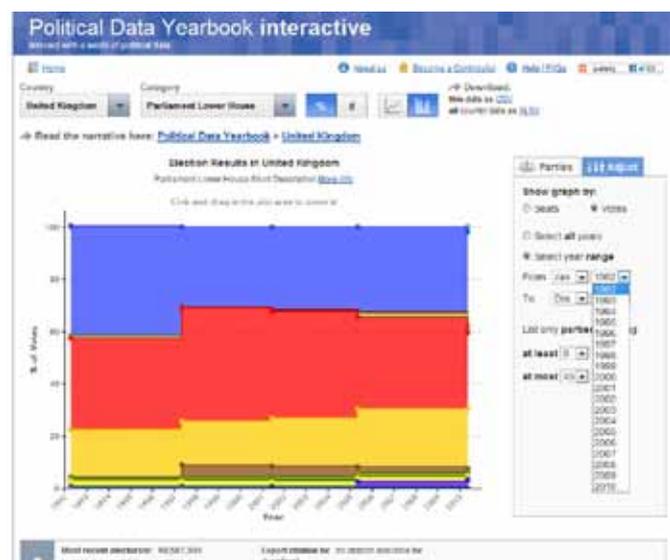
The resulting database includes hundreds of thousands of data points across multiple dimensions, including upper and lower house and EU election votes and seats, presidential votes, government seats and even a day-by-day account of the heads of government ministries, a resource that does not exist in any other available database.

While scholars were extracting the data, project managers, designers, and web experts at Wiley Blackwell were working with the *PDY* editors to develop the best possible user interface. To make sure that the final product would meet all the needs of users, this process included an in-person focus group, telephone interviews with sample end-users, and



We are delighted to announce that the Political Data Yearbook interactive (PDYi) – a free resource – is now live online!

Visit www.politicaldatayearbook.com/ to find out more.

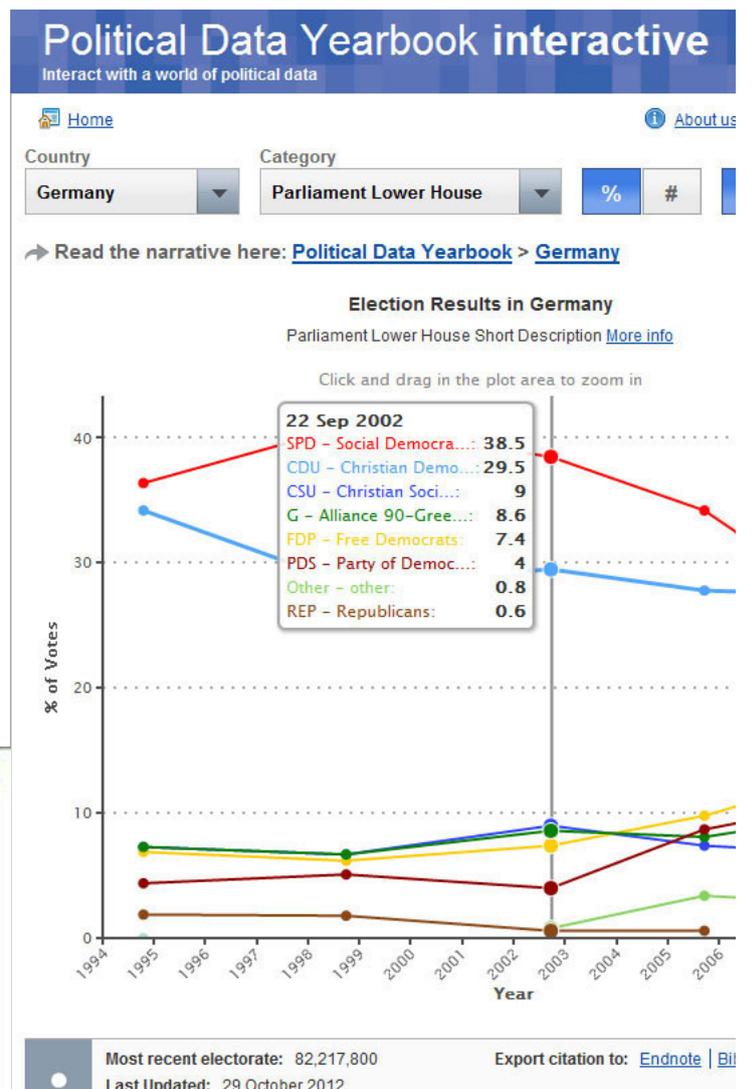


many rounds of testing with PDY country authors and a wide range of likely users.

The resulting website offers a simple and quick interface for viewing election returns, parliamentary seats, turnout, and an innovative display for looking at the heads of individual ministries (along with gender, age and party) and at statistics for the composition of each government. Users can now select to view data by country and produce graphs to show election results by party over time, in terms of votes or seats, by percentage and by actual numbers. Thresholds can be adjusted and users can zoom in to see more detail. The home page screen also includes information about the individual PDY authors, and links through to the *EJPR Political Data Yearbook* for further details and analysis. Users are also able to download the original source files, which include footnotes and additional data such as referendums and parliamentary changes collected by the PDY authors for specific countries.

Although the data team and country authors are still in the process of uploading and scrutinising the remaining data sets, the PDYi will follow the practice of a 'beta' release so that our most eager users can begin to make use of the site and its data right away. Detailed political analysis will continue to be published in print and online within the *EJPR Political Data Yearbook*, edited by Daniele Caramani, Kevin Deegan-Krause and Rainbow Murray, and the 2012 issue will be made available to subscribers shortly. To serve a new audience of PDYi users, Wiley Blackwell and the ECPR have announced that the individual online article price for non-subscribers will be reduced to \$1.99 for a limited period.

Finally, we would like to thank all who have been involved over the last two years in providing feedback on the plans and prototypes. If you have any further feedback or ideas for future development, please contact us (on behalf of the PDYi development team). Kevin Deegan-Krause, PDY co-editor, PDYi project co-leader (kdk@wayne.edu). Rachel Smith, Wiley Blackwell (rasmith@wiley.com)



OR profile

After 17 years as the Official Representative for Göteborgs Universitet, Marie Demker will hand over the reins at the end of this year. We took the opportunity to ask one of the longest standing ORs a few questions about her time in the post.



What is your role/title within your University?

I have been professor in political science since 2004 and was made Pro Dean from 1 July 2012.

How did you originally hear about the ECPR?

I think it was through Bo Särilvik, my supervisor as PhD student.

What was the first ECPR event you ever attended and what other ECPR benefits and services do you use yourself?

I remember meeting Jean Blondel in 1990-ish in Gothenburg when he visited to discuss ECPR related matters with Bo Särilvik. I don't remember precisely the first international event I attended but I think it was in Madrid in 1994. I have now been a member of a Standing Group for a long time; I read the journals and sometimes books; I have an established research network on my own through contacts made in the ECPR; and usually join ECPR events at other international conferences. In addition I plan to attend the General Conference in Bordeaux next year.

How long have you been an OR for Göteborgs Universitet?

I began about 1995 as OR, possibly even in 1994.

How did you come to be the OR?

I was asked by our Head of Department, but also encouraged by my former supervisor Bo Särilvik.

Can you describe what it has been like to be the OR for all these years?

I have always found it very meaningful to be the OR because I value the European networks so highly. Being a researcher with an interest in European political systems and history I have always felt attached to the mission of ECPR. In the beginning the task was largely about how to manage grants and encouraging PhD students to go on summer courses in methods, but lately much more effort has been directed towards prizes and information about conferences, Standing Groups and Joint Sessions. Younger generations seem to know much less about the ECPR and what it is for. In the beginning the Joint Sessions were obvious topics for us all, but now you have to inform and promote these events much more.

How have you used your time as the OR?

Most of my time as OR has been to inform and promote the ECPR within my department, but I have always tried to have someone from the department at Council meetings; a task that over time has been harder to accomplish.



What has been the most important part of the role to you?

I have perceived my role as encouraging and inspiring members of the staff to take part in the ECPR events and to promote the summer courses for doctoral students. I think that has been the focus for me, so that the European research network grows and that there are younger researchers taking part within it.

What are the key benefits of membership to your institution, and why?

The key benefit is to be a part of this European research network with opportunities to attend outstanding courses and excellent sessions/working groups. I think that the European point of view in political science would be easy to forget if there was no such organisation as the ECPR. (We have a Nordic network which is also important.) There are differences in research styles and in interpretations of events on a European level, so getting to know and understand how to work with these is important. It is also very important for international research and theory to have a developed European view on 'new' political phenomena, populism for example.

How, and to what level, is ECPR membership used by your staff and students?

Mostly reading journals and going to courses and conferences.

Have you any anecdotes about your time as an OR?

The most exaggerated debate I have had about the ECPR was with some colleagues at the university who – rightfully – argued

that they also were members of the ECPR because it was a university thing, although they were at other departments. It was all about money, or who had the right to ECPR grants. Because of that we had to negotiate and write down a firm policy about who should have the right to grants when there were more candidates than grants. This had not been the case before and after the policy was placed, nobody outside my department ever made any request for grants. So, there we were with a policy to implement but no problem to solve...

Why are you now stepping down as OR?

There is a reorganisation at the department with one person taking the responsibility for research and PhD studies. And at the same time I have accepted a part-time but six-year assignment as Pro Dean at our faculty. I thought that after nearly 20 years it could be a good choice to leave the role of OR.

How do you feel the ECPR has changed over the period within which you have been OR?

The ECPR does not have the same exclusivity for researchers as it had in the 1980s and 1990s; new organisations have competed with it, with other activities. At the same time, improved mobility has made European networking easier to maintain without the ECPR. However, the ECPR has also adapted to a new time with new kinds of events.

Has the ECPR helped you in your career?

Absolutely, through contacts, links and relations. I have contributed with articles, chapters and also a guest research period almost entirely through ECPR contacts.

Is there any aspect of the ECPR, or its benefits or services that you would like to change/develop/see added?

It would be useful if the ECPR could have more resources for smaller European pro-meetings and shorter stays, to develop research applications; smaller conferences and opportunities for participation in ECPR activities, both for doctoral students and seniors.

The ECPR would like to extend its thanks to Marie for her time and commitment to the organisation.



ECPR membership survey 2013

The ECPR will be undertaking a comprehensive survey of its membership and users at the beginning of 2013. The aim of the survey is to gain a greater understanding of how the ECPR and its benefits and services are perceived and used, and how these could be improved and developed to meet the changing needs of the profession. Look out for more information about how you can take part, in January.

funding opportunities

The opportunity to network with colleagues from across the world is one of the key benefits of ECPR membership. This is facilitated through the range of events the ECPR offers throughout the year, and the funding it makes available to members. Below is a summary of the grants and scholarships available each year from the ECPR; for more information see www.ecprnet.eu.

scholarships

The ECPR's Scholarships are intended as a contribution towards the cost of fees of self funded (i.e. who receive no financial support from their institution to attend the event in question) students from ECPR member institutions who are accepted to participate in one of the following:

- ECPR Summer School in Methods and Techniques
- ECPR Winter School in Methods and Techniques
- Cologne Spring School
- Oxford Spring School

travel and accommodation grants

The Travel and Accommodation Grant is designed to contribute towards these costs when attending the ECPR events below. Funding is for three applicants per institution, per event and in any one year and is specifically for students who are self funded:

- ECPR Joint Sessions of Workshops
- ECPR Summer School in Methods and Techniques
- ECPR Winter School in Methods and Techniques
- ECPR General Conference
- Standing Group Summer Schools
- ECPR Graduate Student Conference

workshop directors' grants

One Workshop Director (from a full ECPR member institution) per workshop is eligible to receive a grant to put towards travel and accommodation costs to attend the Joint Sessions. This could (depending on the figure set for that year, and the location of the event) cover both the travel costs and up to five nights' accommodation.

joint sessions professional grants

The Grant replaces the general reimbursement payments. The purpose of the Grant is to assist newer or retired members of the political science profession and members of the profession who are on temporary contracts in particular. The Grant is to put towards travel and accommodation costs.

standing group grants

The ECPR provides funding to Standing Groups to support their activities, such as: newsletters, maintenance of websites, setting up and maintaining email discussion lists, maintaining membership lists, etc.

standing group summer schools grants

The Standing Group Summer School Grant is designed to contribute towards costs associated with organising summer schools run by Standing Groups. Several Grants are available each year upon application.





membership benefits

As a member of the ECPR, a university is part of a network of hundreds of other institutions and thousands of individuals concerned with the teaching and research of political science throughout the world. The ECPR formalises these networking opportunities through its extensive calendar of events, but more tangible benefits of membership include:

- print copy of *EJPR**
- print copy of *EPSR**
- print copy of *EPS**
- online access to *EPS* via both the Palgrave Macmillan and ECPR websites
- 30% discount on all titles in the ECPR/OUP Comparative Politics series and 20% off all OUP politics titles
- 30% discount on all titles in the ECPR/Palgrave Macmillan Research Methods series
- significant discounts on ECPR Press titles
- no conference fee to attend the Joint Sessions of Workshops
- full members can apply to direct a Workshop at the Joint Sessions (Associate Members can Co-Direct)
- reduced conference fees to attend the General and Graduate Student Conferences
- reduced fees to attend the Summer and Winter Schools
- funding and scholarships to attend ECPR and ECPR-supported events
- the opportunity to establish a Standing Group (and receive funding)

* delivered to the OR for departmental use only

keeping you informed

myECPR – This online resource, accessible via the ECPR website, is the key to ensuring that every individual that wants to, can get the most out of their membership to the ECPR. myECPR users can track and keep a record of all their ECPR activities, from conference proposals and registrations, to funding applications and accessing member-only benefits such as journal content.

EC alerts – As a more immediate compliment to the Newsletter, the ECPR will be sending emails out to all members immediately after the Executive Committee meets (normally twice a year, at the Joint Sessions and General/Graduate Student Conference) with a brief update of all business discussed and decisions taken.

Social media – The ECPR has a Facebook and Twitter page where members can stay up to date on all news, events, deadlines and special offers.

not sure who your official representative is?



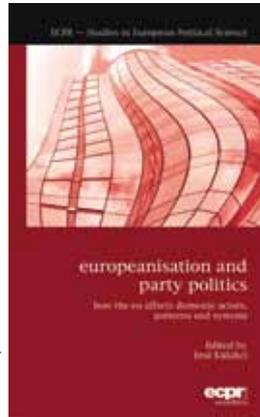
Please contact Central Services
(+ 44 (0) 1206 872501 / ecpr@essex.ac.uk) and we will let you know.

Europeanisation and Party Politics

Edited by Erol Kūlahci
 RRP: £65.00
 ISBN: 9781907301223
 Page extent: 228pp
 Pub date: May 2012

This book provides a sophisticated theoretical framework and an up-to-date analysis of the Europeanisation of domestic party systems and political parties' policy stances.

It covers a range of contemporary topics: party systems, policy stances of political parties, opposition/co-operation over European integration in party systems, cleavage theory of party response to European integration, domestic depoliticisation and EU representation.



Political Participation in France and Germany

Edited by Oscar Gabriel, Silke Keil, Eric Kerrouche

RRP: £65.00
 ISBN: 9781907301315
 Page extent: 330pp
 Pub date: July 2012

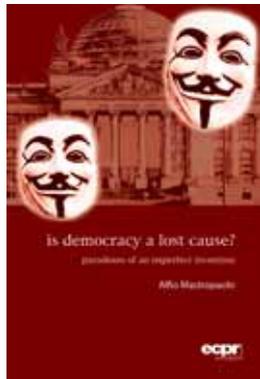
This book presents an overview of various aspects of political participation in France and Germany, ranging from electoral turnout to participation in legal and illegal protest activities. Beyond describing patterns and trends, the authors also examine the most important explanatory concepts in order to discover the differences between political participation in the two countries.



Is Democracy a Lost Cause?
 Alfio Mastropaolo

RRP: £24.99
 ISBN: 9781907301384
 Page extent: 258pp
 Pub date: November 2012

Is Democracy a Lost Cause? explores the current debate on democracy. It starts by discussing the meaning of 'democracy' and how the understanding of this important political concept has either broadened or contracted, depending on changing political circumstances. Mastropaolo then poses the question of what it means for democracy to be the 'government of the people'. He deals with the way in which democratic government has been affected by changes in the fabric of society, by the evolution of democratic theory itself, and by the transformations affecting the state and political parties. Political class and citizens' attitudes towards democratic politics, increasingly characterised by resentment and often taking the form of an anti-politics, are analysed in the concluding chapters.



Seats, Votes, and the Spatial Organisation of Elections

Graham Gudgin and Peter Taylor
 With a new introduction by Ron Johnston

RRP: £34.00
 ISBN: 9781907301353
 Page extent: 314pp
 Pub date: September 2012

Seats, Votes and the Spatial Organisation of Elections provides a convincing, rigorous analysis of this disproportionality which has not been improved on since its publication over 30 years ago. Its formal analysis, illustrated by empirical examples from a range of countries, stresses the importance of three geographies as key influences on how votes are translated into seats: the geography of partisan support (where people with different political persuasions cluster); the homogeneity of those clusters; and their relative size. Its re-publication makes this classic piece of spatial (political) science available to contemporary audiences.

