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Newsletter of the ECPR Standing Group  
on Extremism & Democracy



# Newsletter of the ECPR Standing Group on Extremism & Democracy

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The *e-Extreme* is the newsletter of the ECPR Standing Group on Extremism & Democracy. For any enquiries about the newsletter and book reviews, please contact the managing editors ([newsletter@extremism-and-democracy.com](mailto:newsletter@extremism-and-democracy.com)).

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# STANDING GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

## REMINDER: REGISTER AS AN E&D STANDING GROUP MEMBER

In order to join our Standing Group (always free of charge!), you can join the Extremism & Democracy Standing Group at the click of a button, [via the ECPR website](#). If you have not already done so, please register as a member so that our list is up to date and complete.

In order to join, you will need a MyECPR account, which we assume many of you will already have. If you do not have one, you can [create an account](#) in only a few minutes (and you need not be from an ECPR member institution to do so). If you are from a non-member institution, we will need to accept your application to join, so your membership status (which you can see via your MyECPR account, and on the Standing Group pages when you are logged in to MyECPR) will be 'pending' until we accept you.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

## STANDING GROUP CONVENORSHIP CONFIRMED

Following the announcement of Steering Committee elections in September 2017, the convenorship of the Standing Group has been confirmed for another mandate, starting January 2018. Elections were called at the ECPR General Conference in Oslo and publicly advertised through relevant Standing Group channels. We, as incumbent convenors, had contextually expressed our wish to run for another mandate, feeling that we still had the right motivation to enhance the role of the Standing Group within the broader scholarly community, and beyond. As no other candidates stepped forward to set a formal election procedure in motion, we were automatically elected as per Art. 5 of the Default Constitution for Standing Groups. We would like to consider this as a recognition of the dedication to the growth of our network and a promising new start for exciting things to come. We feel that the organisation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Summer School of the Standing Group in June 2018 (see below) is a concrete testimony of that. *Ad majora!*



## **1<sup>ST</sup> SUMMER SCHOOL OF THE ECPR STANDING GROUP ON EXTREMISM & DEMOCRACY ON 'CONCEPTS AND METHODS FOR RESEARCH ON FAR-RIGHT POLITICS'**

As part of a sustained effort to engage the scholarly community with the concepts and practices of research on the issues of extremism and democracy, the Standing Group will hold its first Summer School in June 2018. The ECPR Standing Group on *Extremism & Democracy*, the Centre for Research on Extremism (C-REX), and the Centre on Social Movement Studies (COSMOS) invite applications for the upcoming Summer School on '**Concepts and Methods for Research on Far-Right Politics**', which will be held at the Scuola Normale Superiore in Florence, Italy, from Monday 25 to Friday 29 June 2018. Confirmed keynote speakers include Prof Kathleen Blee (University of Pittsburgh) and Prof Cas Mudde (University of Georgia), co-founder of the ECPR Standing Group on *Extremism & Democracy*.

### **Call for applications**

We are pleased to announce that the call for applications is now open for the 1<sup>st</sup> Summer School of the ECPR Standing Group on *Extremism & Democracy* on '**Concepts and Methods for Research on Far-Right Politics**', sponsored by the Centre for Research on Extremism (C-REX), the European Council for Political Research (ECPR), and the Centre on Social Movement Studies (COSMOS). The Summer School will take place in Florence, Italy, from 25 to 29 June 2018 and is open to 15 Master's and PhD students of different disciplinary backgrounds in the social and political sciences, as well as early career researchers interested in the study of far-right politics.

The Summer School focuses on the study of the far right in its populist, radical, and extremist manifestations. Its aim is to bolster and promote knowledge on the theoretical, empirical, and methodological underpinnings of contemporary far-right politics. The School will focus on how to study and interpret the different manifestations of far-right politics across time, arenas, and national contexts. The School will introduce students to concepts and theories explaining the conditions affecting far-right mobilisation and performance; and methods to tackle this phenomenon empirically. Despite the growing attention received by far-right political parties, social movements, and groups, we still lack a comprehensive conceptual and methodological toolkit to investigate its diverse expressions in the multi-organisational field. The School will thus address young scholars and students, and discuss how to apply established research techniques to the study of far-right politics, and create, retrieve, and manage available data. In sum, the School intends to create an interactive learning environment where graduate students will have the opportunity to:

- Learn and familiarise with the conceptual and theoretical foundations of far-right politics, and draw on comparative empirical expertise on far-right mobilisations, electoral performances, and violent manifestations;
- Understand the rationale and practices of a number of methods employed to study far-right politics, at the micro, meso, and macro levels;
- Develop the skills to confidently rely on mixed-method approaches and methodological pluralist practices in their own research projects;
- Present their ongoing research and receive feedback from leading scholars in the field.

### Location and schedule of activities

The Summer School will take place in Florence and will last five teaching days, **from 25 to 29 June 2018**. The Summer School will include two keynote speeches and five teaching days focusing on particular themes related to the overall topic of the Summer School:

#### Day 1: Monday, 25 June

- Keynote speech: ‘The Study of the European Far Right: Towards a Fourth Wave?’ (Cas Mudde, University of Georgia)
- Theory class: *Theories and concepts of the far right* (Cas Mudde, University of Georgia)
- Methods class: Historical and archival research (Matteo Albanese, University of Lisbon)

#### Day 2: Tuesday, 26 June

- Theory class: *Populist radical right parties in Europe* (Andrej Zaslove, Radboud University)
- Methods classes: Mass surveys (Andrej Zaslove, Radboud University); Expert surveys (Andrea L. P. Pirro, Scuola Normale Superiore)

#### Day 3: Wednesday, 27 June

- Theory class: *The far right as a social movement* (Pietro Castelli Gattinara, University of Oslo, and Andrea L. P. Pirro, Scuola Normale Superiore)
- Methods classes: Interviewing and life histories (Giorgia Bulli, University of Florence); Protest event analysis (Pietro Castelli Gattinara, University of Oslo)

#### Day 4: Thursday, 28 June

- Theory class: *Far-right violence in Western Europe* (Jacob Ravndal, University of Oslo)

- Methods classes: Quantitative data on political violence (Jacob Ravndal, University of Oslo); Ethnographic approach (Kathleen Blee, University of Pittsburgh)

#### Day 5: Friday, 29 June

- Theory class: *Far-right political communication* (Caterina Froio, Catholic University of Lille)
- Methods class: Internet and social network analysis (Caterina Froio, Catholic University of Lille)
- Keynote speech: 'Gender and the Far Right' (Kathleen Blee, University of Pittsburgh)

#### **Application procedure**

Applicants should email the following material to [ead.summerschool@gmail.com](mailto:ead.summerschool@gmail.com) by – and no later than – **11 March 2018**:

- A curriculum vitae;
- A short cover letter (max one page) explaining how their research fits the scope of the Summer School;
- A 500-word abstract of a proposed scientific paper to be presented during the Summer School.

Applicants will be informed of the outcome by email no later than 26 March 2018. Those offered places must confirm their participation through enrolment by – and no later than – **10 April 2018**, after which places will be offered to applicants on the reserve list.

#### **Enrolment fees, grants, and accommodation**

There is a fee of €225 to participate to the Summer School. Light lunches, welcome drinks, a social dinner, academic material, computing and internet facilities will be available for free to all participants. Travel and accommodation costs are not included.

However, the ECPR is generously offering two Travel & Accommodation Grants of €250 each. You should indicate in your application whether you would like to compete for these grants. Please note that in order to qualify for such grants, participants will have to meet all the following criteria:

1. Be from an ECPR member institution who have paid their annual membership fee (you can check to see if their institution is a paid member here: <http://ecprnet.eu/Membership/CurrentMembers.aspx>);
2. Have paid their Summer School fees in full;



3. Not be receiving any other funding to attend the Summer School, i.e. must be self-funded;
4. Be subject to adequate academic performance during the Summer School, as assessed by the Summer School organisers.

The host institution (Scuola Normale Superiore) is also offering accommodation at its residence (Residenza Capitini) at a discounted price of €13,35/night per person for a single bedroom. Please, also confirm upon enrolment whether you would like to reserve a room for your stay. Availability is limited, so reservation is highly recommended.

### **Requirements**

Participants to the Summer School will be asked to write and submit a 7,000-8,000-word paper by **1 June 2018**. The paper will be presented during the Summer School, providing a unique experience for discussion and feedback from established scholars. English will be the working language; students are expected to have a good command of written and spoken English. Participants will be also required to complete the mandatory readings for morning lectures and to actively engage in discussion during morning and afternoon sessions.

### **Summer school organisers**

Pietro Castelli Gattinara (C-REX, University of Oslo)  
Andrea L. P. Pirro (COSMOS, Scuola Normale Superiore)

### **Contacts**

For applications and any additional queries, please contact the Summer School organisers at: [ead.summerschool@gmail.com](mailto:ead.summerschool@gmail.com).

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## CALL FOR PAPERS: THE LIBERAL ORDER IN CRISIS

**Workshop:** The Liberal Order in Crisis: Authoritarian, Radical, and Populist Challenges to Democracy in Europe

**Organizers:** Timm Beichelt, Michael Minkenberg, and Jürgen Neyer (European University Viadrina)

**Location and date:** Frankfurt (Oder), 1-2 June 2018

**Deadline for submissions:** 31 January 2018

The liberal European order is under siege. Its normative foundations are challenged by various radical parties and movements. Many of its policies are contested and criticized as inefficient, ineffective and hypocritical. Liberal democracy, human rights and open markets are no longer taken for granted but must today be justified and defended in the public arena. Some even fear that the political and legal integration among the EU's member states is giving way to the lure of nationalism and parochialism. How significant are these processes and how deep is Europe's crisis? Is it part of a global process and similar in kind to authoritarian tendencies in US, Russia and Turkey? Are we even witnessing the end of post-war liberalism and is the idea of the open society slowly being replaced by a new combination of traditionalism, authoritarianism and nationalism?

The workshop is organized by Timm Beichelt, Michael Minkenberg and Jürgen Neyer and will take place at the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) on June 1-2, 2018. It is open to arguments from all areas of social sciences and the humanities. Proposals for papers should provide an abstract of 300 words and be sent to [workshop-populism@europa-uni.de](mailto:workshop-populism@europa-uni.de) until January 31, 2018. Limited funds for reimbursing costs of travel and accommodation are available.

## CALL FOR PAPERS: CURRENT POPULISM IN EUROPE

**Conference:** Current Populism in Europe: Culture, History, Identity

**Location and date:** Prague, 21-22 May 2018

**Deadline for submissions:** 31 January 2018

In today's world, populism has become a significant part of the political landscape in many European countries. The claim to represent the “will of the people”, the rejection of “elites”, the concept of “a glorious past”, nationalist narratives, and a certain understanding of identity and culture have been promulgated by populist parties, leaders and movements across Europe. In order to fully understand the goals and successes of these actors in European politics, it is essential to look at the respective historical context in which they have emerged and to analyse their politics of history and culture. Within the scope of the 4th Prague Populism Conference, the organisers encourage applicants to submit papers on the following issues:

- Populism in historical and cultural perspective
- The use of historical and nationalist narratives in populist communication
- Comparative studies of current populist parties and movements in Europe
- Populism and the politics of identity

Confirmed speakers:

- Ruth Wodak (Lancaster University)
- Francisco Panizza (London School of Economics)
- Hans-Jürgen Puhle (Goethe University Frankfurt)
- Gianpietro Mazzoleni (University of Milan)

Submit a conference abstract

Applicants are invited to submit abstracts of up to 300 words and short CVs to [populism@fsv.cuni.cz](mailto:populism@fsv.cuni.cz) by 31 January 2018. Accepted papers will be announced by 16 February 2018. There is no conference fee for participants. More details will follow on the conference website: <http://populism.fsv.cuni.cz/>.

## **CALL FOR PANELS AND PAPERS: SECTION ENDORSED BY THE E&D STANDING GROUP ON CONTEMPORARY RADICALISM, POPULISM AND EXTREMISM, 12<sup>TH</sup> ECPR GENERAL CONFERENCE**

**Section:** Contemporary Radicalism, Populism and Extremism: Mobilization, Formations and Consequences

**Chairs:** Michael Minkenberg (Europa-Universität Viadrina) and Manuela Caiani (Scuola Normale Superiore)

**Location and date:** Hamburg, 22-25 August 2018

**Deadline for submissions:** 15 February 2018



As radicalism, from populist to extremist parties and movements, is gaining visibility in many liberal democracies in Europe and in North America, this Section will try to understand the growing strength and social support of radical, populist and extremist parties and groups by exploring the causes, patterns, interaction and consequences of these phenomena. To address the key factors contributing to the rise of radicalism, populism and extremism both on the left and right ends of the political spectrum, the Section pursues a multi-faceted approach. A detailed analysis of the entire field of these actors serves to investigate the various organizational and ideological patterns in which they emerge. A central focus lies on examining how the recent economic, political and immigration crises of the EU have affected the diffusion (i.e. emergence) or consolidation of varieties of radicalism, populism and extremism (right-wing and left-wing) in Europe, and how they compare to such changes in North America. The general hypothesis supporting the Panels dealing with this issue is that long-lasting changes of Western parties and party systems as well as regime change in Eastern Europe has offered specific opportunities for radical organizations, whereas recent crises have provided a specific opportunity for their consolidation. Tied to this point is also the question whether we can still assume a difference between such right- and left-wing actors (from parties to movements) in Western democracies as compared to those in Eastern Europe. These long-lasting and more recent developments have also had the potential to influence the operational patterns of all forms of political actors, from social movements to political parties, leading at times to their transformation from one type of organization to another or to blurred boundaries between them.

The Section will consider the broader context in which these right and left actors operate: specificities of party systems, phenomena such as party de-alignment, potential legacy effects, demand- and supply-side factors explaining mobilization and formation, and the interaction between radical, populist, and extremist parties on the one and respective movements on the other hand, but also mediating elements like civil society organizations, the EU and international actors. In line with this perspective, the Section wants to shed further light on the formation of these actors, i.e. the different articulations of populist/radical/extreme activity across different arenas, incl. their cross-fertilization (diffusion). The effects of contemporary radicalism, populism and extremism are also central to the section. Panels will address this by looking not only at potential policy changes, but also at interactions with and impact on other actors (mainstream political actors, state institutions, civil society) within the political system. The Section thereby explores the consequences of these developments on the democratic quality of the political system (e.g. radicalization of the political mainstream, convergence of radical, populist and extremist views on the left and right, the polarization of party systems), governance, policy-making and political discourse. More precisely, the Section

seeks to offer answers to the question of whether and to what degree these parties and movements contribute to a transformation in the core characteristics of liberal democracies and market economies e.g. through an impact on the status and rights of ethnic and social minorities, gender equality, the rise of political violence, etc.

The Section welcomes different theoretical and conceptual approaches, whether novel or well-established, quantitative or qualitative, in order to improve our understanding about how various actors and forms of radicalism, populism and extremism operate in and impact contemporary democracies. Reflecting on the extent to which categories of radicalism, populism and extremism are becoming blurred, attempts at better conceptualizing the current phenomena are also highly welcome. The Section is open to Panel and Paper proposals from various sub-disciplines, with different methodological and empirical approaches and with scopes ranging from single case studies to comparative Papers. To strengthen exchange among the various fields and approaches, the Section welcomes interdisciplinary and mixed-method takes on radicalisms, populism and extremism across Europe and in North America. Prospective Panels could focus on but are not limited to: conceptual approaches in studying radicalism, populism, extremism and its impact; interaction among mainstream and radical parties; shifting boundaries between movements and parties; agenda setting of radical left and radical right actors; impact on public opinion; policy impact of radical right actors on minority, asylum and immigration legislation; inclusive and exclusive radical, populist and extremist organizations in time of crisis; the interplay of economic and political crises and radical, populist and extremist groups; the EU and radical populism; political violence and vigilantism; etc.

## **CALL FOR PAPERS: PROPOSED PANELS AT THE 12<sup>TH</sup> ECPR GENERAL CONFERENCE**

**Panel:** Populism and Nativism as Legitimation Narratives of Illiberal Politics

**Chair:** Bartek Pytlas (LMU Munich)

**Location and date:** Hamburg, 22-25 August 2018

**Deadline for submissions:** 1 February 2018

In recent decades, nativist and populist politics shifted from the margins to the mainstream of the political process within contemporary European democracies. While the growing resonance of these claims is not limited to Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), it is in this region that the consequences of this phenomenon for party competition, public debates and the democratic rule of law as such have become most palpable. Across the region, old and new political actors alike use populist and nativist rhetoric to establish an illiberal counter-narrative to the underlying values and institutional framework of

democracy. Where these parties moved from mainstream to power, populism and nativism are being used to legitimize policies widely criticized for their deteriorating consequences on constitutional checks and balances and the rule of law through a paradoxical political invocation of “true” or “better democracy”. What more, these narratives have been deployed as discursive tools to justify the de-legitimization of political and societal actors, as well as institutions opposing the illiberal turn.

Extant research has put increased attention on the impact of populism and nativism on liberal democracy. Yet, there is still need to systematically explore how exactly political entrepreneurs use these narratives in the political process to establish and most especially uphold mainstream legitimacy of illiberal democratic politics and policies. Observing how political actors both in opposition and in power use populist and nativist discourses to legitimize the illiberal transformation of the normative and institutional frameworks of democracy carries increased relevance beyond CEE cases.

This Panel, therefore, aims to explore patterns and mechanisms of populist and nativist legitimization strategies behind illiberal politics in a comparative perspective. Which strategies do political challengers use to legitimize their illiberal “ideology of democracy” within mainstream party competition? How do populist and nativist actors in power justify and “cement” their illiberal rule? What effect do these narratives have at the individual level with regard to trust in democracy and its institutions, diffuse and specific support for the political system, as well as liberal pluralist values? What are the reactions of parties and other actors that oppose illiberal politics and how can we explain the success or failure of their discursive counteraction strategies?

To answer these and further interrelated questions, the Panel brings together conceptually funded contributions that explore the relationship between populism, nativism and legitimization of illiberal politics. The Panel equally welcomes Papers employing qualitative, quantitative or mixed-methods approaches. Contributions can perform a cross-sectional, cross-temporal or cross-process comparison of Central and Eastern European cases, as well as contrast developments in CEE with cases from other regions. Conceptual papers and single case studies are welcome so long as they highlight their wider comparative contribution to the topic.

Please submit your paper abstract (no more than 500 words) plus 3-8 keywords to Bartek Pytlas ([bartek.pytlas@gsi.lmu.de](mailto:bartek.pytlas@gsi.lmu.de)) by 1 February 2018. Please include in your proposal your email address as registered in your MyECPR account.



**Panel:** Populist attitudes: theoretical considerations and empirical insights

**Chairs:** Marcel Lewandowsky (Helmut Schmidt University, Hamburg) and Nicole Marlen Loew (University of Mainz)

**Location and date:** Hamburg, 22-25 August 2018

**Deadline for submissions:** 8 February 2018

The study of attitudes is of increasing interest for scholars of populism. Populist attitudes describe specific orientations towards liberal democracy, based on two core positions: the indivisible political sovereignty of the people and a negative position towards the political elites (Mudde, 2004). In that sense, populist attitudes are defined as first, a specific perception of the democratic status quo and, secondly, the preference for authoritarian and anti-pluralist forms of democracy. Briefly, citizens with populist attitudes prefer the implementation of the will of the majority, e.g. executed by a strong leadership, to the institutions of liberal democracy that guarantee pluralism, minority rights and government control.

While there is a growing number of studies in the field (e.g. Akkerman et al., 2014; van Hauwaert and van Kessel, 2017), research on populist attitudes is still at its beginning. Consequently, one can observe an ongoing debate on theoretical, conceptual and empirical issues in this matter. For instance, there are lots of open questions regarding the influencing factors and consequences of populist attitudes among voters. While many studies have illustrated the political preferences of ‘populist’ citizens, explanations for patterns and change of populist attitudes are yet to be discovered. More specifically in terms of conceptual and methodological approaches, the used items as well as the methods of analysis vary heavily depending on the country-specific context.

The panel therefore gives space for different approaches to the topic. Scholars are invited to contribute by addressing theoretical and conceptual problems considering populist attitudes as well as empirical studies, both qualitative (case-oriented) and quantitative (cross-national and time-series comparison). Interested scholars are asked to send their papers (approx. 500 words) until February 8, 2018 to this address: [lewandowsky@hsu-hh.de](mailto:lewandowsky@hsu-hh.de).

**Panel:** Social movements and policy outcomes: How right-wing grassroots groups influence foreign policy

**Chairs:** Sofia Tipaldou (University of Manchester) and Ioannis Galariotis (European University Institute)

**Location and date:** Hamburg, 22-25 August 2018

**Deadline for submissions:** 10 February 2018

A large number of far-right parties were initially formed as grassroots movements, made up by activists rather than professional politicians. These groups differ from others in the broadly defined far right label in that they maintain their grassroots activities and adopt violent practices. Literature on the rise and consolidation of the far right largely focuses on parties and electoral politics, often grouping together all groups under the 'far right' label. The main focus is either on the causes of success of these parties, or their possible contagion effect on policies such as immigration. The distinctive character of far right social movements and their impact on policies beyond immigration is under-theorised. This is particularly true of foreign policy, which despite being closely related to the core far right ideological doctrine of nationalism remains under-researched. Scholarship on international relations researches mostly states, elites and individuals or masses, without including these actors that stand between individuals and elites and that are specialized into transforming grievances and emotions into activism, i.e. social movements. This panel aims to fill this gap by bridging literature on international relations, comparative politics and social movements. It addresses the extent to which the entrenchment of far right social movements influence foreign policy debates in a comparative manner. The panel is open to contributions on one or more case studies, from both democratic and non-democratic settings, and encourages its participants to introduce new methodological approaches that will advance our understanding of social movement outcomes on foreign policy.

Deadline and contact:

Please send your paper proposals (max. 250 words, including up to 5 keywords) by 10 February to the panel organizers Sofia Tipaldou (University of Manchester), [sofia.tipaldou@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:sofia.tipaldou@manchester.ac.uk) and Ioannis Galariotis (European University Institute), [Ioannis.Galariotis@eui.eu](mailto:Ioannis.Galariotis@eui.eu).

## **CALL FOR PAPERS: TEACHING ON THE EXTREME RIGHT**

**Conference:** Teaching on the Extreme-right: New Challenges, fresh approaches

**Organisers:** Daniel Jones and Paul Jackson (Northampton University)

**Location and date:** Northampton, 12 April 2018

**Deadline for submissions:** 15 February 2018

The impact of extreme right politics has changed in recent times, creating new challenges for those who teach on this topic. This one-day conference will bring together academics and practitioners to discuss fresh approaches to teaching about the extreme right, as well as reflecting on established approaches. We are inviting submissions for papers or presentations in other formats for the day. Suggested topics include:

- How to engage audiences, and promote understanding of the extreme right
- Material culture, archival material and teaching about the extreme right
- Examining online material produced by the extreme right in the classroom
- Reflections on quantitative and qualitative approaches to teaching about the extreme right
- Teaching about the history of the extreme right and/or anti-fascism
- Creating inclusive spaces when teaching about the extreme right
- Objectivity, subjectivity and the teaching of the extreme right
- Holocaust memorialisation as an educational opportunity
- Ethics and teaching on the extreme right

The keynote paper for the conference will be given by:

- Dr Aaron Winter, Senior Lecturer in Criminology (University of East London)

If you would like to submit a paper for the conference please contact Daniel Jones ([Daniel.Jones@Northampton.ac.uk](mailto:Daniel.Jones@Northampton.ac.uk)) or Dr Paul Jackson ([Paul.Jackson@Northampton.ac.uk](mailto:Paul.Jackson@Northampton.ac.uk)) with an abstract or any queries you may have before 15 February 2018.

## **CALL FOR PAPERS: TRANSNATIONAL INFLUENCES, LOCAL MANIFESTATIONS: POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN EUROPE**

**Conference:** Transnational Influences, Local Manifestations: Political Violence in Europe

**Organiser:** Leena Malkki (University of Helsinki)

**Location and date:** Helsinki, 7-8 May 2018

**Deadline for submissions:** 15 February 2018

This conference seeks to bring together researchers interested in exploring why some European countries have witnessed more political violence than others.

Previous research has identified periods of time during which similar kinds of aspirations, ideologies and models have inspired the use of violent methods in different European countries (and in some cases even globally). The ideologies and models associated with these transnational waves of political violence have found supporters in virtually every (Western) European country, and have inspired at least some level of concern among politicians and policymakers that such support would lead to actual violence. The local manifestations of these waves have, however, varied greatly. While some countries have witnessed



protracted campaigns of terror, other have seen hardly any violence at all. Political violence has often also assumed strong spatial concentration within individual countries.

Research has thus far mostly concentrated on locations and periods of time that have witnessed significant levels of political violence. Readjusting focus towards cases where political violence has either been absent or modest in nature provides an important avenue for further testing and refining the existing theories of political violence. There is also a need for more comparative studies. More could furthermore be done to explore the relationship between political violence and non-violence.

Confirmed keynote speakers:

- Dr Stefan Malthaner (Hamburger Institut für Sozialforschung)
- Dr Petter Nesser (Norwegian Defense Research Establishment)
- Dr Jacob Aasland Ravndal (University of Oslo, Center for Research on Extremism)

We welcome paper proposals dealing with manifestations of political violence in Europe. Particularly welcome are contributions that focus on the interplay of transnational influences and local context, activist networks, the relationship between violent and non-violent tactics, resilience to political violence, and comparative studies on political violence and the responses of politicians and policy-makers to (the threat of) violence in different European countries.

The paper proposals (max 500 words) should be submitted by 15 February 2018 using this link: <https://elomake.helsinki.fi/lomakkeet/86118/lomake.html>. We will confirm acceptance by the end of February. There is no conference fee and it is also possible to attend the conference without a presentation. If you have any questions concerning the conference and call, please do not hesitate to contact Leena Malkki ([leena.malkki@helsinki.fi](mailto:leena.malkki@helsinki.fi)).

The conference is organized by the research project “Finland and theories of political violence: explaining the post-war tranquility and its demise”, led by Dr Leena Malkki and financed by the Emil Aaltonen Foundation. For more information about the project, see <http://blogs.helsinki.fi/fi-po/>.

## **CALL FOR PAPERS: NORDIC CONFERENCE ON RESEARCH ON VIOLENT EXTREMISM**

**Conference:** Nordic conference on research on violent extremism: Theory and Practice

**Organiser:** C-Rex (University of Oslo)

**Location and date:** Oslo, 29-30 November 2018

## **Deadline for submissions: 15 February 2018**

The Center for Research on Extremism (C-REX) at the University of Oslo is pleased to open this call for papers for the 2018 Nordic conference on research on violent extremism. The aim of the conference is to present empirical and theoretical research on violent extremism which 1) is carried out by researchers based in one of the Nordic countries, or 2) addresses violent extremism in one or more Nordic countries. The conference also seeks to enhance the conversation and interaction between researchers and practitioners working in the field. It welcomes research-based submissions by practitioners, and the participation of practitioners as conference attendees. The conference is genuinely multi- and interdisciplinary, interested in both theory and practice, and encourages submissions that are problem-solving as well as critical in their orientation. Comparative approaches will be appreciated. The call is for abstracts for paper contributions as well as for suggestions of full panels (consisting of four papers). The following kinds of submissions will be particularly welcomed:

- Case studies: historical and/or contemporary analyses grounded in empirical research on, for instance, actors, policies, strategies, or laws. This may or may not include critical analyses and comparisons between past and/or ongoing projects and measures aimed against violent extremism.
- Comparative research exploring conditions fuelling or discouraging violent extremism at different times and places.
- Conceptually, theoretically, and/or methodologically oriented analyses that can evaluate and expand our understanding of violent extremism.
- Actor-oriented research, e.g. about militant groups, individuals at risk, offenders in prison, returnee foreign terrorist fighters, lone actor terrorists, formers.
- Research about media (online and offline) and its role in recruitment, radicalisation, promotion of violent extremism and/or combating violent extremism.
- Ethical perspectives on the study of violent extremism, and on state actions against violent extremism.
- Critical approaches to both the study of violent extremism, and to policy approaches aimed at tackling violent extremism.

The conference invites abstracts of proposed papers as well as of full panels. A panel will consist of four papers that are thematically related, as well as a chair. Each paper should be presented within 10-15 minutes. A panel will last 80 minutes, including 30-20 minutes for discussion and Q&A. Upon receiving the submitted proposals, the programme committee will group the accepted submissions into thematic sections. The conference will have four panels

running in parallel, one session before and two after lunch, and two keynote speakers, one opening each of the days of the conference. All conference participants and attendees will be invited to a drinks reception at the end of the first day.

Abstracts for papers should be a maximum of 250 words. Submission for a panel must not exceed 1000 words and must contain a short introduction to the theme of the panel as well as abstracts of individual contributions. Abstracts should be submitted in word or pdf- format. Submit here: <http://www.sv.uio.no/c-rex/english/news-and-events/news/2018/nordic-conference-on-research-on-violent-extremism/index.html>.

## KEEP US INFORMED

Please keep us informed of any upcoming conferences or workshops you are organising, and of any publication or funding opportunities that would be of interest to Standing Group members. We will post all details on our website. Similarly, if you would like to write a report on a conference or workshop that you have organised and have this included in our newsletter, please do let us know.

Please, also tell us of any recent publications of interest to Standing Group members so that we may include them in the 'publications alert' section of our newsletter, and please get in touch if you would like to see a particular book (including your own) reviewed in *e-Extreme*, or if you would like to review a specific book yourself. We are always keen on receiving reviews from junior and senior scholars alike!

Finally, if you would like to get involved in the production of the newsletter, the development of our website, or any of the other activities of the Standing Group, please do get in touch. We are always very keen to involve more and more members in the running of the Standing Group!

# CONFERENCE REPORT

## OPPOSING EUROPE? ANTI-EUROPEANISM, EUROSCEPTICISM, POPULISM AND RADICAL DEMOCRACY

University of Parma  
21-22 November 2017

By Marco Baldassari<sup>1</sup>, Emanuele Castelli<sup>2</sup> and Matteo Truffelli<sup>2</sup>

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How has criticism of the EU evolved over the last few decades? Are there significant connections among current populist parties across Europe? And how will these trends affect the evolution of the European Union in the future? These are just some of the key-issues that have been addressed in the International Workshop “Opposing Europe? Anti-Europeanism, Euroscepticism, Populism and Radical Democracy”, which took place in Parma on November 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2017. The event, which was organized by the Center for Studies in European and International Affairs of the University of Parma (CSEIA – [www.cseiaparma.it](http://www.cseiaparma.it)), in collaboration with the European College of Parma Foundation, gathered 20 papers and about 30 speakers coming from several Italian and international universities (Amsterdam, Bologna, Islamabad, Mannheim, Pisa, Rome and Trento, among others). Additionally, the workshop featured four distinguished plenary speakers: Carlo Galli (Member of the Italian Parliament and Professor of History of Political Thought at the University of Bologna), Geminello Preterossi (Professor of Philosophy of Law and History of Political Thought at the University of Salerno), Yves Mény (Professor of Political Science and President of the Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa) and Beatrice Covassi (Head of the European Commission representation to Italy).

The aim of the workshop was to debate and analyze the critiques to the European Integration both from an historical and a political science point of view. Indeed, critiques to the European Union are becoming a relevant issue in key-members of the European Union, such as Italy, France and Germany among others, especially after the British referendum on exiting the EU and the rise of nationalism, neopopulism and sovereignism, different phenomena that cannot be explained through just one cause. Within this framework, the event aimed at opening a scientific debate on the types of critiques to the European Integration, also considering those different forms of opposition as a multi-dimensional phenomenon and not as a mere pathological deviation from the standard behavior.



The two-day workshop was divided into three panels: the first panel, entitled “Sixty years of Euroscepticism. The critique to the EU in the history of its integration” (chaired by Laura Pineschi, President of CSEIA, and discussed by Lorenzo Zambarnardi, University of Bologna) involved eight paper presenters, discussing the reconstruction of the history of Euroscepticism over the last sixty years; the second panel, entitled “Populism, Anti-Europeanism. Politics, conflict and democracy” (chaired by Emanuele Castelli, University of Parma, and discussed by Marco Baldassari, European College of Parma Foundation & University of Parma) also gathered eight young Italian and international scholars debating populist movements across Europe; in the third panel, entitled “Rethinking Europe. Crisis and new European perspectives” (chaired by Matteo Truffelli, University of Parma, and discussed by Giovanni Graziani, also from the University of Parma), seven more papers were presented on possible future scenarios for the European Union.

The event represented a good opportunity for young scholars seeking to network with other academics and to discuss their own research projects. In addition to the intellectual stimulation, conference attendees also enjoyed some time for discussion during social sessions (lunch, dinner and coffee breaks), which were kindly offered by the organizers. Overall, the value added of the workshop (involving historians, political scientists, economists, students of EU integration and international relations scholars) was definitely its strong multi-disciplinary character and the variety of scientific approaches discussed in the conference. As evidenced during the workshop, *anti-europeanism*, *euroscepticism* and *populism* are still relevant phenomena, deserving special attention by the scientific community and a careful study over the years to come. The organizing committee would like to thank all the contributors for coming to Parma and acknowledge the chairs and discussants for their highly qualified work. Conference proceedings will be collected in an edited book and published very soon.

# PUBLICATIONS ALERT

Our publication alert is based on a semi-automated search and can never be complete. Therefore, please tell us about any **recent** publications of interest to Standing Group members so that we may include them in our newsletter. Email us at: [newsletter@extremism-and-democracy.com](mailto:newsletter@extremism-and-democracy.com).

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## EXTREMISM & DEMOCRACY

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