ecpr to re-launch research sessions from 2011

doi:10.1057/eps.2010.34

One of the key goals of the ECPR as a research-based organisation is to facilitate the design, production and dissemination of research. The Research Sessions will, therefore, be re-launched from 2011.

WHAT KIND OF RESEARCH GROUPS ARE THE RESEARCH SESSIONS FOR?

Groups may be able to meet at the very earliest stage of a research project, that is, the purpose would be to draft a detailed proposal that could then be submitted to a funding organisation.

In addition groups which are advanced in their research are encouraged to meet to work out a book proposal. They would be encouraged strongly to publish their results in peer-reviewed journals but also within an ECPR book series, such as those produced by ECPR Press or the ECPR/OUP Comparative Politics Series.

Note that groups should, in their application, indicate whether they wish to meet to discuss the establishment of a new research group OR whether they are advanced in their work and wish to discuss a book proposal.

Priority will be given to research groups which are sponsored by ECPR standing groups. However, proposals by other applicants will be considered as well. The prime criterion of decision-making in awarding a research session is academic quality.

WHAT IS THE FORMAT OF THE RESEARCH SESSIONS?

The Research Sessions will take place over about two to three days: arrival in the afternoon/early evening of day one, departure in the afternoon of day three or four.

Funding of the Research Sessions covers the accommodation, organisation and some of the lunches/dinners for up to six participants per group. Travel costs are to be covered by the participants.

The 2011 Research Sessions will take place from the 25 to 28 May at the European University Institute, Florence.

WHO MAY APPLY?

Priority will be given to ECPR standing groups who fulfil the necessary criteria, but other applications are also considered.

Some sections or panels of General Conferences may be regarded as extraordinarily successful by participants. The respective section and panel chairs are encouraged to continue their work via the Research Sessions. However, they must follow the same procedures as any other applicant. A proposal which comes from a previous panel/section has no *a priori* advantage over other proposals.

(428–431) © 2010 European Consortium for Political Research. 1680-4333/10 www.palgrave-journals.com/eps/
https://doi.org/10.1057/eps.2010.34 Published online by Cambridge University Press

WHAT CRITERIA ARE USED IN SELECTING RESEARCH GROUPS?

Academic quality is the most important factor. Other criteria include having a good geographical spread of participants, no more than one non-ECPR participant, excellent potential for turning the idea into a reality (based on topic, reputation of participants, etc.). An excellent scientific proposal will not fail even if most of the secondary criteria are not met; however, proposals which meet all the secondary criteria flawlessly but do not score better than 'good' with regard to scientific quality will not be considered.

WHAT SHOULD THE PROPOSAL INCLUDE?

The proposal should specify the research question and locate the research question within the relevant scientific debate and within the relevant theories. There needs to be sufficient information on methodology, data, research steps, 'milestones', a rough publication plan and a list of members of the research group. The proposal should include the guiding hypothesis, the main 'message' or the major and innovative contribution that the research group wants to make. Proposals should provide sufficient information on these topics. They should be not longer than 3,000 words.

The deadline for proposals is 15 October 2010. Accepted groups will be announced on 1 December 2010.

ecpr conference announcements

5TH ECPR SUMMER SCHOOL IN METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences, 30 July–14 August 2010

3RD ECPR GRADUATE CONFERENCE

Dublin City University, Ireland, 30 August–1 September 2010

The conference format will consist of open themed panels, roundtables on career development and a lecture by Professor Mick Cox (from the London School of Economics). Approximately twenty-six sections will be offered, with panels containing between four and six papers. Campus accommodation will be available for all participants and a social programme will be organised to enable networking among participants.

IPSA-ECPR JOINT CONFERENCE

University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, 16–19 February 2011

The first Joint Conference organised by the International Political Science Association (IPSA) and the European Consortium of Political Research (ECPR) will explore the continuing relevance of the international North-South divide. The Conference will be organised into four broad themes.

https://doi.org/10.1057/eps.2010.34 Published online by Cambridge University Press

ECPR JOINT SESSIONS OF WORKSHOPS

University of St Gallen, Switzerland, 12–17 April 2011
The deadline for submission of workshop papers is 1 December 2010.

6TH ECPR GENERAL CONFERENCE

University of Iceland, 25–27 August 2011
The main academic forum will be organised in the traditional format of sections and panels. Paper proposals can be submitted from 1 November 2011, with a deadline of 1 February 2011.

6TH ECPR SUMMER SCHOOL IN METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences, 29 July–13 August 2011

7TH ECPR GENERAL CONFERENCE

Science Po Bordeaux, France (dates TBC)
For more information about any of the above, please visit the ECPR website – www.ecprnet.eu.

new and forthcoming books from the ecpr press

The Personalisation of Politics
Laurie Karvonen
ISBN: 9781907301032

Publication date: February 2010
Price: £18.00

With the weakening of the structural determinants of politics in Western democracies, it is commonly assumed that individual politicians and politicians as individuals have come to mean more for voter behaviour and party choice. Many observers argue that politics has become more personalised in the course of the last few decades. Although considerable research on the various aspects of personalisation has been carried out, no single study so far has approached the question from a broad comparative perspective. By examining four central dimensions of personalisation – institutions, candidates, party leaders and media – and by including data from most stable parliamentary democracies, this book attempts to fill part of that gap. The book demonstrates

https://doi.org/10.1057/eps.2010.34 Published online by Cambridge University Press

clearly that there is no linear trend towards more personalisation among the cases studied. From the point of view of the general personalisation thesis, the findings are mixed at best; in some important respects, they are negative. While the media tend to focus more on individual politicians, the idea that party leaders increasingly determine the party choice of voters finds little support in empirical evidence. Most researchers seem to agree that the position of the prime minister has become more dominant. A closer look at comparative evidence results in a more complex picture. There has been a certain tendency to develop the most party-centred electoral systems in a more candidate-centred direction. On the other hand, recent reforms have altered some of the most candidate-centred systems in the opposite direction. Individual candidates seem to mean more to voters in systems where preferential voting has been practiced for a long time. This change is by no means dramatic, nor does it seem to apply to other electoral systems. Karvonen shows that the personalisation thesis, while not completely erroneous, has been overstated not just by the media but in some of the research literature as well.

European Integration and Its Limits
Daniel Finke
ISBN: 9780955820373

Publication date: July 2010
Price: £27.00

Ever since its legal foundation in 1993 the European Union has been challenged by three concurring developments. Its decision-making bodies were groaning under an increasing amount of legislative activity and pending Eastern enlargement was expected to further decrease law making efficiency. At the same time European citizens grew increasingly wary towards EU politics and further integration.

This book explains how European governments handled these challenges and step-by-step agreed on significant treaty reforms which eventually led to the Lisbon Treaty signed in December 2007. Drawing on unique survey data the book provides a solid empirical analysis of the three most important Intergovernmental Conferences. It shows how far voters and political parties have been able to influence European treaty reforms and it scrutinises the mechanisms underlying intergovernmental treaty negotiations in an ever-growing Union. The book discusses the domestic position formation process as well as the dynamics of intergovernmental bargaining. Ultimately, it explains European integration from Maastricht to Lisbon.

European Integration and Its Limits *is an exemplary work of scholarship. It combines sound theory building and rigorous empirical testing. It is one of the most sophisticated efforts to uncover the fundamental dynamics of European integration. It demonstrates convincingly not only the domestic origins of governmental treaty reform positions, but also the interdependence between governmental preferences and EU institutional reforms. This book makes a major contribution more broadly to the study of international institutions both as equilibrium and as rules of the game.* (Xinyuan Dai, University of Illinois).

For more information about all ECPR Press titles or for guidelines on how to make a book proposal contact Mark Kench (mkench@essex.ac.uk).

https://doi.org/10.1057/eps.2010.34 Published online by Cambridge University Press