

Forms of Participation ECPR Standing Group e-Newsletter April 2008

Website: <http://www.sam.kau.se/stv/participation/home/index.htm>

Established in 2004, the ECPR Standing Group on Forms of Participation aims to provide a forum for different schools of participation research to meet, compare approaches, and develop new research strategies. It offers a venue for scholars researching participation from different angles - electoral participation, social movements, social capital, gender, globalization, individual action, virtual engagements - to engage in an open discussion on developments in the participation of individuals and groups in politics. This newsletter is being sent to the members of the Standing Group with the intention to share information, ideas and opportunities.

- **5th ECPR General Conference Potsdam Universität 10-12 September 2009**

Section proposals deadline April 15, 2008

The Standing Group's current proposal is for a section on 'Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Political Participation' from Clelia Colombo and Aina Gallego (email: ccolombo@uoc.edu or aina.gallego@uab.cat).

There is still (a very short amount of) time to collaborate on this proposal. The section has to comprise 3 to 8 panels. Some possible panel titles are 'Attitudinal change and ICTs', 'Individualized forms of collective action', 'Political parties and the Internet', 'Social movements and the Internet', 'Methodological issues in ICTs and politics research'.

Clelia and Aina encourage all people interested in the ICTs and politics field to send them:

- Panel proposals for the section
- Willingness to be panel chairs or discussants
- Paper proposals

- Are there any other section proposals for the 2009 ECPR Conference that would like to do so through the Standing Group? Pleased contact Michele Micheletti (michele.micheletti@kau.se) or Francesca Forno (francesca.forno@unibg.it).

• **Welcome to new members**

The following people joined the Standing Group in the first quarter of 2008. We warmly welcome them all. Please email Lesley Hustinx (Lesley.Hustinx@soc.kuleuven.be) if you would like to join the Standing Group or to update your contact and affiliation details.

Ellen Stewart

PhD Candidate, School of Social and Political Studies, University of Edinburgh

Email: E.A.Stewart-2@sms.ed.ac.uk

Research Interests: youth, healthcare, 'voice and choice'

Dr Davide Calenda

DISPO - Dip.to di Scienza della Politica e Sociologia

University of Florence, Email: davide.calenda@unifi.it

Research Interests: Internet, young people and political participation; democracy and digital platforms, digital counter-surveillance practices

Clelia Colombo

PhD Candidate, IN3 Internet Interdisciplinary Institute, Parc Mediterrani de la Tecnologia, Open University of Catalonia, Email: ccolombo@uoc.edu

Research Interests: ICTs and political participation, citizen participation. PhD topic: electronic citizen participation in the decision making

Swen Hutter

PhD candidate, scientific collaborator, Geschwister-Scholl-Institute for Political Science, LMU Munich, Email: hutter@lrz.uni-muenchen.de

Research Interests: Political protest, social movements, political parties, political cleavages

Claartje Brons

PhD candidate/ policy advisor, Den Haag, The Netherlands, E-mail:

brons.claartje@gmail.com

Research Interests: Democracy, (political) participation, political cynicism/distrusting citizens

- **Call for papers: conferences**

Living Spaces, Spatial Issues: Between Ordinary Investment And Political Mobilization 5-7 November 2008, University of Rennes 2 and IEP, Rennes, France.

International Multidisciplinary Conference co-organized by the RESO (UMR 6590) and the CRAPE (UMR 6051)

The social sciences approach to the spatial dimension of social and political relations usually corresponds to divisions between the disciplines and to each discipline's particular ways of framing problems. They consequently tend to separate questions pertaining to the living spaces of social actors, from those relative to the construction of public issues (high stake spaces or spatialized issues) through collective mobilizations and politico-administrative authorities. The aim of this conference is to examine this separation and to consider the continuities and discontinuities as well as the articulations between the ordinary investment of space, and more organized or institutionalized mobilization, both bottom-up (non-profit associations, collectives, social movements) and top-down (public agencies or measures). *As the main theme of the conference is very broad, the papers will be grouped into four sections corresponding to sub-themes.*

Section 1: Types and levels of mobilization (of investment, of engagement) relative to space, and their articulation.

Section 2: The social dynamics associated with mobilizations with a spatial dimension

Section 3: The forms of effective relations to space and the reconfiguration of territorialities

Section 4: Space as a reference and political metaphor

Abstracts (one page) should be emailed to the following address **by 19 May 2008 at**

the latest: evee@univ-rennes2.fr.

The authors of the selected papers will receive an agreement in principle **end June 2008**. They will be expected to submit the final version of their paper **before 29 September 2008**, according to the instructions for authors that they will receive. The conference will be held in French and English.

Social Web – Towards Networked Protest Politics? 7-8 November 2008, University of Siegen, Artur-Woll-Haus, Am Eichenhang 50, D-57076 Siegen. Organised by the Research Project ‘Changing Protest and Media Cultures’, funded by the German Research Foundation.

Overall, the conference aims at shedding some light on the interrelations of social movements and digital networks. It will address such questions as:

Panel #1: Virtualised Networks & Campaigns

- Which aspects of internal communication, decision making, organisation, and coordination of protest actions are facilitated within virtualised networks?
- With regard to external communication how do campaigns organised by virtualised networks and coalitions manage to speak with ‘one voice’?
- Are network technologies changing campaign strategies of establishing public spheres?

Panel #2: Virtualised Networks & Community

- To what extent do civil society actors use technologies of Web 2.0 in order to build up social relationships and to foster or anticipate processes of community building and collective identity?
- Do Web 2.0 technologies form another milestone on the way towards a ‘networked individualism’ (Wellman)?
- How are cognitive and affective elements connected within virtualized communities?
- May we characterise them as social networks, as issue networks, or as ‘epistemic communities’?

Panel #3: Virtualised Networks & Transnationalism

- How are claims of virtualised networks asserted across borders?
- To what extent and how does virtualised protest bridge the North-South gap?
- Do social network techniques generally enable mobilisation of spatially separated supporters and thus contribute to the development of a ‘global civil society’?

Panel #4: Virtualised Networks & Democracy

- How can we conceptualise public sphere(s) in the age of network communication on the internet beyond the nation state?
- May Web 2.0 be regarded as ‘magic formula’ for online deliberation, participation and direct democracy?
- What conclusions may be drawn for conceptions like ‘transnational democracy’ or ‘global governance’?

Theoretical and empirical works focusing on political and sociological aspects of online communication of political protest networks actors such as participation, mobilisation, organisation, identity, transnationalism, public sphere(s), global governance, and democracy are welcome. *The extended deadline for receipt of the abstracts is 27 April 2008.* Abstracts, between 500-1000 words, together with an

author biography, must be sent electronically to Johanna Niesyto (johanna.niesyto@uni-siegen.de).

Democracy, Culture and Socialization, June 25 - 26, 2008 University Of Oslo International Political Science Association (IPSA) - Research Committee on Political Socialization and Education (RC21) - Research Committee on Psycho-Politics (RC29) in cooperation with University of Oslo –Institute of Political Science and Faculty of Education.

Papers on: political education and socialization and psycho-politics, political culture and equality, identity formation and political communication. Call for papers extended beyond March 30 – email: Trond Solhaug: trond.solhaug@ils.uio.no

Gender and Citizenship: New and Old Dilemmas, Between Equality and Difference 7–9 November 2008 in Cortona, Italy

The Cortona Colloquium 2008 is organised by the Giangiacomo Feltrinelli Foundation in Milan and Nancy Fraser (The New School for Social Research) will be the keynote speaker.

Proposals are welcomed on themes including (but not limited to):

- Equality and Inequality in the Family, at Work and in Society
- Gender Policies and Politics: Equal Opportunities, Welfare Models and State Actions
- Women's Political Participation and Representation
- Multiculturalism and Rights: The Borders of Citizenship
- Gender and Globalization: New and Old Patterns of Inequality

The **submission deadline for proposals is 18 May 2008**. Please contact Sara Benjamin at international@fondazionefeltrinelli.it with any inquiries.

• **Forthcoming 2008 conferences**

International Conference on Youth and Politics, Bruges (Belgium), 3-4 July 2008

The Centre for Citizenship and Democracy of the Catholic University of Leuven has organized a two-day conference on Youth and Politics. Topics to be discussed include: political participation, participation in youth organizations, civic education and participation, changing attitudes of young age cohorts. Keynote speakers are (among others) Constance Flanagan, Dietlind Stolle, Murray Print, Matt Henn, Peter John, Kathy Edwards and others. The focus of the conference is on a number of small-scale in-depth workshops, including a number of sessions on participation and young people, most of them in comparative perspective. For more information, consult the website www.kuleuven.be/citizenship, or contact the local organizer March Hooghe, email: Marc.Hooghe@soc.kuleuven.be

• **Website update: Data and teaching resources**

The website now includes a section on 'Data and teaching resources'. This provides links to different survey sites from all around the world, as well as links to several regional or country specific social science databases that could be useful for standing group members.

We would also like to call for sharing teaching resources on political participation or social movement courses. This could include summaries of course aims and content, as well as reading lists and syllabus. These can be sent directly to Katrin Uba: Katrin.Uba@statsvet.uu.se

- **Promoting new publications on participation**

Mobilization: An International Quarterly, Volume 13, Number 1, March 2008,
see: <http://mobilization.metapress.com>

Recent issue includes: Pamela Oliver. Repression and Crime Control: Why Social Movement Scholars Should Pay Attention to Mass Incarceration as a Form of Repression Elizabeth Holzer. Borrowing from the Women's Movement "For Reasons of Public Security": A Study of Outcomes and Judicial Activism in the EU Leslie King. Ideology, Strategy and Conflict in a SMO: The Sierra Club Immigration Wars Lilian Mathieu. The Spatial Dynamics of the May 1968 French Demonstrations Sarah Waters. Situating Movements Historically: May 1968, Alain Touraine, and New Social Movement Theory. Hyung Sam Park. Forming Coalitions: A Network-Theoretic Approach to the Contemporary South Korean Environmental Movement

Haug, Christoph & Teune, Simon (2008): Identifying deliberation in social movement assemblies: challenges of comparative participant observation. In: Journal of Public Deliberation, Vol. 4, No. 1. URL: <http://services.bepress.com/jpd/vol4/iss1/art8>

Haug, Christoph; Haeringer, Nicolas & Mosca, Lorenzo (forthcoming): The ESF organising process in a diachronic perspective. In: Donatella Della Porta (Ed.): Another Europe. Conceptions and Practices of Democracy in the European Social Forums. New York: Routledge.

Haug, Christoph, Maier, Rudi & Schröder, Berit (Eds.) (2008): Kampf um Teilhabe: Akteure, Orte, Strategien. Hamburg: VSA. (in print)

Haug, Christoph (2008): Die ‚Politik der Armen‘ als Beitrag zur Entwicklung einer Theorie demokratischer Gerechtigkeit im Kontext ‚globaler Apartheid‘. In: Christoph Haug, Rudi Maier & Berit Schröder (Eds.): Kampf um Teilhabe. Akteure, Orte, Strategien. Hamburg: VSA. (in print)

Paloheimo, Heikki (2007): Eduskuntavaalit 1907-2003 (General elections in Finland 1907-2003). In Suomen eduskunta 100 vuotta (Finnish Parliament 100 years), part 5. Edita, Helsinki 2007.

Tosi S., Vitale T., 2008, "Responsabilité directe. Hybridations croisées entre catholiques et laïcs dans les mouvements pour la paix en Italie", in Sommier I., Fillieule O., Agrikoliansky E. (eds), *La généalogie des mouvements antiglobalisation en Europe*, Paris, Karthala, pp. 187-206 (with Simone Tosi).

Alteri L., M. Andretta, A. Cirulli, F. de Nardis, F. Forno, L. Mosca, G. Piazza, L. Raffini, S. Tosi and T. Vitale, 2008, "La sfida di Partecipazione e Conflitto", in *Partecipazione e conflitto. Rivista di studi politici e sociali*, n. 0/08, pp. 5-14.

Vitale T., 2008, "Quale legalità? Rom e gagi a confronto", in *Aggiornamenti sociali*, n. 3/08, pp. 182- 94.

Vitale T. (ed.), 2008, *Alla prova della violenza. Introduzione alla sociologia pragmatica dello stato*. Roma: Editori Riuniti.

Vitale T., 2008, "Conflitti urbani e spazi pubblici: tensioni fra partecipazione e rappresentanza", in R. Segatori (ed.) *Mutamenti della politica nell'Italia contemporanea. Governance, democrazia deliberativa e partecipazione politica*, Soveria Mannelli, Rubbettino.

The publications listed here were from recent email replies sent to me. I know they don't represent all of the Standing Group's recent publications! Please do email Gema García Albacete: ggarciaa@rumms.uni-mannheim.de so we can include more information on new publications on the standing group's website.

- **New research projects on participation**

Styles of Political Participation and Modes of Democracy: Finland in a Comparative Perspective. Finnish National Election Study 2007. Project leader: Heikki Paloheimo, University of Tampere.

Policies and Politics towards Roma People in Lombardy: Some Kind of Domination, Tommaso Vitale, Department of Sociology, Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca.

Please send any more information on new research groups and projects to include on the standing group's website to Lorenzo Mosca: lmosca@eui.eu

In the meantime please do send me any information on upcoming conferences with calls for papers, reviews you have written on new participation publications, and suggestions on content for the Standing Group's e-newsletter. We aim to send this e-newsletter out about 3 times a year. Please also pass the newsletter on to people you know who do research on forms of participation and encourage them to join the Standing Group by going to the website: <http://www.sam.kau.se/stv/participation/join/index.htm> or by emailing Lesley Hustinx (Lesley.Hustinx@soc.kuleuven.be).

And that's all from me for now!

Ariadne Vromen

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Newsletter Editor