

SG Citizenship Section proposal for 2019 ECPR General Conference, Wroclaw

Putting citizenship into perspective: (A)part of the problem or the solution?

Section Chair: Gal Levy

Section Co-Chair: N.N.

Political struggles for change and inclusion by groups of previously marginalised and would be citizens have been taking a center stage in world politics recently. The momentum and worldwide scale of new types of social movements, such as the #Metoo movement, serve as testimonies of the continued significance of liberal ideals. At the same time however, an increasingly large segment of regular citizens and much of the political elite have begun to express support for more polarising ideals, including populism, ethno-centric nationalism and chauvinism. These developments have placed enormous pressure on the ideals of social justice, equality and liberty, putting them into a distinct state of transition. Against this backdrop, our conventions of what citizenship is or ought to be are in flux. In order to really understand at what point and why have the exercising of civic and political rights begun to appear as undemocratic, we must 'return to the basics' and put citizenship into broader social, political and historical perspectives. We thus invite contributions which consider recent empirical developments in the light of broader trends in the field of citizenship studies. We are especially interested in contributions aiming to resolve questions of "*who* is a (good) citizen?", considering senses of belonging, rights, duties and participation, "*what* is citizenship?", "*where* are its boundaries?" and "*how* its models are devised today?", among others. The expansion of citizenship from a mere legal status to a comprehensive moral and political practice has dovetailed scholarly interest in these questions. Recent developments which appear to reverse such an expansionist reading of citizenship seem to require that scholars revisit and re-address the very same questions, simplifying their approach and shifting their focus from "the doer" to "the deed", and further to "*how* the deed is done".

The Standing Group on Citizenship therefore invites scholars to propose Panels and papers, which promise new insights and fresh ideas based on empirical as well as theoretically grounded research. Specifically, we seek to problematise contemporary citizenship notions and practices. In order to really elucidate whether and to what extent citizenship is (a)part of the problem or the solution considering recent developments, we propose the following key themes:

1. Citizenship education research and education transformation
Aim of panel: Consider if and in what ways citizenship education research relates to educational change.
*Potential Chair: Ian Davies, University of York; Co-Chair: Andrea Szukala, University of Muenster
2. Contemporary citizenship: exclusion and inclusion.
Aim of panel: Explore practices, processes and adjustments of and in citizenship practices and policies related to different scales of (non)citizen movement (em/immigration, refugee/asylum seeking and free movement),

participation (voting, social movements, volunteering, running for office, etc.) and senses of belonging (local, state, regional, etc.) among others.

*Potential Chair: Tuuli-Maria Kleiner, SG Citizenship

3. Children's citizenship: Researching young children's political orientation and learning

Aim of panel: Promote research on young children's cognitive associations, preconceptions as well as understanding of the political world.

*Potential Chair: Simone Abendschön, Giessen University; Co-Chair: Stine Johansen Utler, Norwegian University of Science and Technology.

4. Alternative voting methods: A remedy for reviving active citizenship against political apathy

Aim of panel: Study alternatives to citizenship participation with a special focus on if and how voting systems impact active citizenship, including issues of identity as well as attitudes towards and actual levels of political participation.

*Potential Chair: Tanya Gibbs, Institute for Democracy 21

5. A youth generation at risk? Young citizenship today

Aim of the panel: Address the potential risks for and responses of "the next great generation" of citizens, including the challenges and dangers specific to childhood and youth who are in a sort of in-between state of "being" citizens and citizens "in the making".

*Potential Chair: Julie Ane Odegaard Borges, University of Bergen

6. Citizenship and awareness: Exploring political awareness, skills, cognition and preparation for action

Aim of the panel: Explore the role and potential influence of political awareness in citizens political orientation.

*Potential Chair: Niels Kristensen, Aalborg University; Co-Chair: Trond Solhaug

7. Radical citizenship: Theory and practice

Aim of the panel: Question whether radical citizenship may expand and extend our thinking about democracy and citizenship and in which directions.

*Potential Chair: Gal Levy, The Open University

8. Post-Democratic citizenship: Is it time to 'move on'?

Aim of the panel: Identify alternatives to traditional, democratic citizenship in the light of recent political crises (surge of populism, nationalism, instances of regional dis/integration, etc.) which appear to revise the practices and ideals of non/citizens and the elite (increased online participation, spread of social movements, political alienation, return to the nation state, etc.).

*Potential Chair: Nora Siklodi, University of Portsmouth

Alternative panel and individual paper proposals may (in addition) seek to address *any* of the following - and related - issues:

- Ideals and notions of citizenship; including its development stages as invited in class rooms, the meaning and significance granted to it by scholars, policy-

makers and citizens; as well as any revisions and/or recent advances which has strengthened, altered or potentially defied previous expectations;

- Practices, realisations and attitudes of citizenship, including empirical explorations of elite and public, the latter including (non)citizens, participation, reaction and activism;
- Scales, structures and settings of citizenship as apparent today, including the contribution and responses of educational, legal, political, and economic institutions – and their interaction with as well as the reactions of (would be) citizens.