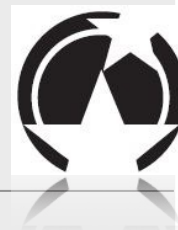


# POLITICS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



## ECPR Standing Group Newsletter

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### Our Standing Group Online



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### Letter from SG Steering Committee

This year’s ECPR General Conference in Hamburg will feature – for the seventh time in a row – a **section on Politics of Higher Education, Research and Innovation**. The section will consist of six panels featuring a variety of theoretical perspectives and empirical findings on concerning multi-level, multi-actor and multi-issue aspects of governance (for more details see p.2 in this newsletter). We look forward to seeing many of you there!

We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Olivier Provini, the winner of our SG’s second Excellent Paper Award, for his paper- **‘Transnational circulations of university reforms and models: the policy-making of the LMD in Burundi’**.

We are indebted to the three senior colleagues who formed the Judging Panel and supported this initiative: Dr Thomas Pfister (Zeppelin University), Professor Susan Robertson (University of Cambridge), and Professor Bjørn Stensaker (University of Oslo).

Wishing you all a great summer,

The SG Steering Committee members and  
Convenors of ECPR Section

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## ‘Politics of Higher Education, Research and Innovation’ Section at ECPR 2018, Hamburg

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We look forward to the 2018 ECPR General Conference in Hamburg (August 22-25) where our SG will host its annual section on the [“Politics of Knowledge, Research and Innovation”](#). This year’s section includes six panels covering a wide range of issues, focusing on theoretical, empirical, and comparative contributions that investigate the role of politics and policy in the multi-level, multi-issue, and multi-actor governance of knowledge.

### Panels:

1. [Institutions in the knowledge policy domain - Neo-institutional approaches to analyses of higher education, research, and innovation](#), chaired by **Jens Jungblut** (Stanford University)

The presentations and papers in this panel pursue new developments in neo-institutional theory, i.e. go beyond path-dependence and isomorphisms, such as studying institutional logics, focusing on actors and institutional work, historical institutionalist accounts of longitudinal changes, or discuss intersections of different organizational fields.

2. [Differentiated integration in higher education and research](#), chaired by **Mari Elken** (NIFU) and **Martina Vukasovic** (University of Bergen)

The panel will focus on differentiated integration in the construction of Europe of Knowledge in terms of two conceptually distinct dimensions: (1) the varied nature of policies and instruments on European level, and (2) the varied national and institutional adaptation to these instruments. An underlying theme in this panel is that this multi-arena, multi-actor, multi-issue and multi-level character of Europe of Knowledge creates opportunities for varied patterns of integration.

3. [Instruments, Institutions and Architectures of Normative Power](#), chaired by **Mitchell Young** (Charles University)

This panel focuses on how normative power is shaping higher education and science policy environments in Europe and beyond. Looking at the instruments, institutions and architectures of policy and organizations, these papers share a focus on re-examining the idea of normative power.

4. [Global knowledge governance](#), chaired by **Meng-Hsuan Chou** (Nanyang Technological University) and **Tero Erkkilä** (University of Helsinki)

States' information resources and education policies have long belonged to the realm of national politics and governance. However, as current research highlights, knowledge governance is increasingly becoming global. The panel tackles the shifts in global knowledge governance from the perspectives such as its ideas, actors, and underlying rationalities, but also considering its institutional outcomes and alternatives.

5. [Organizing the distribution of funding for research and innovation](#), co-chaired by **Sarah Glück** (Zeppelin University) and **Thomas König** (Institute for Advanced Studies)

Research funding is one of the major intersections where science meets politics. Over the past decades, this intersection has seen a plethora of concepts, instruments, programs, and actors. This panel aims to bring together scholars looking at innovation systems from an organisational perspective.

6. [Research infrastructure in Europe: Big Science, Big Politics, Big Decisions](#), chaired by **Nicolas Rüffin** (WZB)

Large-scale research infrastructures (Big Science) are necessary to advance science and tackle global challenges. But Big Science is inherently political, requiring massive funding, international political commitment, and interdisciplinary communication. The panel puts the spotlight on these and other related topics and begin a lively scholarly discussion about the concepts, actors, institutions and processes involved in policymaking around RIs in Europe, so that these can be studied in a stringent and useful fashion, in interdisciplinary but focused research projects.

### **SG Events at ECPR, Hamburg 2018 – Save the Date!**

The Standing Group Annual Meeting will take place over lunch **on Friday August 24<sup>th</sup>**. Exact time and location to be confirmed via the SG email. The SG will also organise a dinner during the ECPR general conference on Friday August 24<sup>th</sup>. All SG members welcome! Details will be emailed by early August to everyone registered for the conference. If you are not an official conference participant but would like to join us, please send an email to **Mitchell (young.mitchell(at)gmail.com)**. We look forward to seeing you in Hamburg!

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## SG Excellent Paper from an Emerging Scholar Award 2018

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The winner of our annual SG prize for Excellent Paper is Olivier Provini for his paper **'Transnational circulations of university reforms and models: the policy-making of the LMD in Burundi'**. Oliver presented the paper at the **3rd International Conference on Public Policy (ICPP3)** in Singapore (June 2017).



Olivier Provini is an Assistant Professor in political science at the University of La Reunion (France) and a affiliate member of the Legal Research Center (CRJ, University of La Reunion). In his PhD he dealt with the circulation of higher education reforms in East Africa, by comparing reform processes in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Burundi. His scientific interest lies in public policy analysis, state building and higher education reforms. He currently coordinates the research programme "Making public policies in Africa" (FAPPA) at

Sciences Po Bordeaux (France).

# The Europe of Knowledge Blog at a Glance

## Politics of big science, large-scale research facilities and international research collaboration

*Europe of Knowledge*

[Link to entry](#)

### Transnational actors: Gateway to exploring the multi-level and multi-actor aspects of higher education and research governance

Published on 14 May 2018 by Europe of Knowledge | No Comments

Martina Vukasovic Embodying multi-level and multi-actor characteristics of governance That governance of higher education and research takes place across several governance levels – institutional, national, European – is, arguably, common knowledge. The beginning of the Bologna Process and the launching of the Lisbon Strategy almost 20 years ago greatly intensified European integration and Europeanization [...]



[Link to entry\\_](#)

### Science diplomacy – a catch-all concept in public policy?

Published on 18 April 2018 by Europe of Knowledge | Comments Off on Science diplomacy – a catch-all concept in public policy?

Nicolas Rüffin Science diplomacy has attracted a lot of attention during the last decade. Actors as different as the US State Department, the European Commission, the Royal Society, UNESCO and a great many of other intermediary organizations have adopted the term to rebrand their activities, programs, and agendas. The contexts in which the term science [...]



[Link to entry](#)

### Improved coordination of research infrastructures policies in Europe

Published on 19 March 2018 by Europe of Knowledge | Comments Off on Improved coordination of research infrastructures policies in Europe

Isabel K. Bolliger, Alexandra Griffiths and Martin Müller In 2000 the European Commission (EC) launched the European Research Area (ERA) initiative, with the intention to improve coordination and collaboration in research and innovation in Europe. ERA became a key element of the ambitious Lisbon strategy in order for the EU “to become the most competitive [...]



[Link to entry](#)

### Shaping the idea of the world-class university from outside the global “core”

Published on 5 February 2018 by Europe of Knowledge | Comments Off on Shaping the idea of the world-class university from outside the global “core”

Emma Sabzalieva We live in an era of intense and growing international connections, but also in a world of significant positional differences between localities, states and regions. In this context, how can the idea of the world-class university be used by states to survive and succeed? What does this idea look like in states [...]



[Link to entry](#)

The Europe of Knowledge Blog is the official blog of the ECPR Politics of Higher Education, Research and Innovation Standing Group. The aim of this blog is to communicate our research findings to the wider international, academic and policy communities. The blog publishes up to 1000 word posts (with links, references and photos) on recent publications, events and policy in the fields of higher education, research and innovation in Europe and beyond. It is a great way to communicate your research to a broader audience of academics and policy-makers.

Please consider contributing to the blog. If you have any ideas for contributing entries, contact [Inga Ulnicane](mailto:Inga.Ulnicane@ecpr.eu) [ingaulnicane@gmail.com](mailto:ingaulnicane@gmail.com)

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## CFPs and Announcements

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### 6 PhD studentships in 'Global Learning: Education and Attainment' - Coventry University, UK

Proposals are invited for 6 scholarships (50%) to start in **January 2019** in two broad research themes: Equity and Attainment; Intercultural Engagement and Global Learning. In addition to these broad themes, we would also welcome proposals on the following topics:

For enquiries, please email: [ASEAN.PhD@coventry.ac.uk](mailto:ASEAN.PhD@coventry.ac.uk)

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Call for Papers, **Society for Research into Higher Education (SRHE) Conference**, <https://www.srhe.ac.uk/conference2018/>  
Deadline for paper submission- **June 22**

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Call for Papers, **Capitalism, Social Science and the Platform University**- conference hosted by the Culture, Politics and Global Justice Research Cluster at the **University of Cambridge's Faculty of Education**.

<https://cpgjcam.net/2018/04/29/call-for-papers-capitalism-social-science-and-the-platform-university/>

Deadline for applications: **July 31, 2018**

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Call for applicants, **Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Studies**, Month-long residencies

Please send CV, names and contact of three referees and a proposal of 500 words outlining intended work to [info@jias.joburg](mailto:info@jias.joburg)

Info: [www.jias.joburg](http://www.jias.joburg)

Deadline for applications: **August 31, 2018**.

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## Research Project Profile - 'Culture Politics and Global Justice' Research Cluster, University of Cambridge

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In the Fall of 2017, the **Faculty of Education** at the University of Cambridge launched the '**Culture, Politics and Global Justice**' (CPGJ) research cluster. The CPGJ brings together a critical mass of interdisciplinary researchers (academics, early career researchers enrolled in graduate programmes, and associate members) from the University of Cambridge and beyond.

As a broad objective, CPGJ will problematize 'education' as it is mediated through social institutions (state/school/family/market), governing projects, and political economies across spaces (e.g. urban areas/nation states/regions/digital platforms), knowledge systems (epistemes such as Western modernity, de/coloniality and neoliberalism), educational processes (policies, practices and pedagogies), and the social and cultural production of identities (learners, teachers, workers, citizens).

CPGJ also works at the interface of timely issues, such as: global human movement, conflicted states and displacement, rising social and global inequalities, elites and expertise, the cultural sociology of displacement, moral economies of education, platform capitalism, big data and new modes of governance, and declining social mobility. To this end, CPGJ engages with a broad range of social, political and cultural theories to interrogate its foundational concepts, and to problematize and generate new and alternative understandings of the world.

Research conducted by CPGJ members are interlaced across three main themes; **Race, Empire and Education; Space, Identities and Global Inequalities; and States, Markets and Societies**. Alongside its broader research focus, the Cluster's activities also include the organisation of seminars and conferences; the running of reading groups, as well as the development of a blog for showcasing research.

For more information on the CPGJ visit our **website**: <https://cpgjcam.net/about/>

Follow us on **Twitter**: @CPGJCam

Our **blog**: <https://cpgjcam.net/category/blog/>

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## Recent Publications

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**Our SG members publish regularly on issues related to the politics of higher education, research and innovation. Some recent publications include:**

**Beerkens, M.** (2018). The European Research Council and the academic profession: Insights from studying starting grant holders. *European Political Science*, 1-8. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1057%2Fs41304-018-0166-7>

**Follesdal, A.** (2018). The European Research Council@ 10: Whither hopes and fears?. *European Political Science*, 1-11. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1057/s41304-018-0164-9>.

**Jungblut, J., & Woelert, P.** (2018). The Changing Fortunes of Intermediary Agencies: Reconfiguring Higher Education Policy in Norway and Australia. In P. Maassen, M. Nerland, & L. Yates (Eds.), *Reconfiguring Knowledge in Higher Education* (pp. 25-48). Cham: Springer International Publishing.

**König, T.** (2018). Political science and the European Research Council. *European Political Science*, 1-19. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1057%2Fs41304-018-0165-8>

**Pinheiro, R., Young, M., Šima, K.** (Eds.) (2018). *Higher Education and Regional Development: Tales from Northern and Central Europe*. <https://www.palgrave.com/cn/book/9783319786421>

**Fraumann G.** (2018) Discussing indicators in research funding: What role do altmetrics play?, CSC Online Magazine. <https://www.csc.fi/web/atcsc/-/discussing-indicators-in-research-funding-what-role-do-altmetrics-play->.

- Finnish version by CSC, IT Center for Science Ltd. <https://www.csc.fi/web/atcsc/-/discussing-indicators-in-research-funding-what-role-do-altmetrics-play->

- Portuguese version by SciELO: <https://blog.scielo.org/blog/2018/05/11/discutindo-indicadores-em-financiamento-a-pesquisa-qual-o-papel-das-altmetrias/#.WxksHlozaM8>

- Spanish version by SciELO: <https://blog.scielo.org/es/2018/05/11/discutiendo-indicadores-en-la-financiacion-de-la-investigacion-que-papel-desempenan-los-indicadores-altmetricos/#.WxksSYozaM8>



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## About the SG

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Our newsletter is published three times annually, and includes summaries of recent events, upcoming events, announcements, calls for papers, a list of recent publications from SG members, and more! **Next issue: October 2018**

The Standing Group on the Politics of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation is a new ECPR (European Consortium for Political Research) Standing Group established in February 2016. We seek to bring together scholars whose work relates to the deeply interconnected fields of higher education, research, and innovation to encourage debates and research on the politics and policies in these areas. We aim to generate comparative insights on all aspects of scholarly research—methodologies, theories, data collection, processing and analysis—into the dynamics and complexities of knowledge policymaking around the world. For more information about the SG and its activities visit our website at [ecprknowledgepolitics.com](http://ecprknowledgepolitics.com).