

ECPR STANDING GROUP ON SOUTHERN EUROPEAN POLITICS

ELECTIONS FOR THE STEERING COMMITTEE APRIL 2016

CANDIDATES

Isabel David
Marco Maraffi
Natalie Martin
Martin Mejstrik
Myrto Tsakatika
Susannah Verney

CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS

Isabel David, *University of Lisbon*
<https://lisboa.academia.edu/IsabelDavid>

As a Portuguese scholar working on Turkish studies, Portuguese politics, and social movements, this diversified field of interests gives me a transversal view of Southern Europe. A big plus is that I speak all the languages covered by the Standing Group geographical area except for Greek (my Turkish needs to improve). Societal characteristics, history and the ongoing crisis provide vast material for research, publication and conferences. I have a number of ideas I would like to put in practice in this respect. I am active in panel organisation and publication and I have publication and research projects already in mind. To potentiate cooperation, one of the first things I think should be done is making contacts, affiliations and research interests of the standing group members available on the online platform. One of the ways I think would further communication is to create a Facebook group, in order to share news, calls or publications faster. To the similarity of other standing groups, I propose we arrange for an annual free of charge conference/workshop outside the ECPR framework: as we know, the costs are huge and unfortunately not all of us can afford to attend every year.

Marco Maraffi, *University of Milan*
<http://unimi.academia.edu/MaraffiMarco>

I was a founding partner and I am a member of the Scientific Committee of the standing research programme Italian National Election Studies ([ITANES](#)). I have been participating in and supervising several research projects on public opinion, political culture, and voting behaviour in Italy.

The SG on Southern European Politic, besides consolidating the excellent work done over the past several years (which is already no simple or small task), could enhance its role by:

- Being a catalyst, through its members, for joint projects and fund-raising;
- Promoting the organization of small-scale events for collaborative research within the multi-faceted Horizon 2020 framework;
- Joining forces with other similar scholarly associations, in order to increase the critical mass for research on SE and its dissemination (e.g., the SG on South East Europe - which already presents some overlap in scope - or country-based clusters such as The Conference Group on Italian Politics and Society).

Natalie Martin, *Nottingham Trent University*

http://www.ntu.ac.uk/apps/staff_profiles/staff_directory/1a510fbc-2cba-4a73-a325-2f021e542bd20/26/profile.aspx?deptcode=SOC&deptTitle=School%20of%20Social%20Sciences&page=7

I am a former BBC journalist and had always had an interest in Turkey and its politics which stemmed from time spent there teaching English as a foreign language. More recently, I decided to fulfil a longstanding ambition and do a PhD. I am now a lecturer in Politics and IR at Nottingham Trent University in the UK – researching the Turkey-EU relationship. I am also interested in the role of democracy in this relationship and wider Turkish politics and foreign policy.

I see the role of the Standing Group as one of facilitating networks amongst members in order to create opportunities for collaboration. Networks would be facilitated in terms of raising awareness of the research area through social media and disseminating relevant calls for papers and organising panels and sections for the ECPR and other conferences. This could then lead on to opportunities for members to work together on publications, grant capture and research networks with this standing group – and with others.

Martin Mejstrik, *Charles University in Prague*

<http://summer-university.fsv.cuni.cz/lecture/phdr-martin-mejstrik>

In my work for the SG, I would like to focus on intensive communication and cooperation between group members and work on possibilities to organize panels and roundtables at various conferences and workshops in order to prepare and develop common research projects regarding South Europe. I would also like to participate in preparing and organizing sections at General Conferences aiming at the maximum amount of panel and papers being accepted.

I can offer my experience in organizing conferences and workshops (at Charles University I'm organizing annual conference about populism in Europe and now we are preparing the ECPR General Conference. I also collaborate closely with the Italian

Culture Institute in various activities, including organizing lectures and workshops). I also have a direct access to peer-review journals (Czech Journal of Political Science and Acta Universitatis Carolinae) which could be use as platforms where to publish special issues from the SG sessions and panels.

I believe the SG in Southern European Politics has a great potential to develop in the future and I would like to be part of it.

Myrto Tsakatika, *University of Glasgow*

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/socialpolitical/staff/myrtotsakatika/>

The Politics of Southern Europe have been the focus of my teaching and scholarship over the past few years. I have worked to develop the study of Southern Europe at the University of Glasgow by establishing the South European Research Network (SERN) which brings together scholars from the Arts and Social Sciences from across Scotland. I have regularly participated in the activities of the Southern Europe Standing Group of the ECPR as a member and watched it thrive over the last few years under Susannah Verney's leadership. I would like to contribute to the group's management and further growth. I would for instance like to see the SG develop links with research centres and think tanks that produce research on Southern Europe around the world; contribute to the development of a book series on Southern Europe; organise an SG summer school for doctoral student training.

Susannah Verney, *University of Athens*

<http://en.pspa.uoa.gr/academic-staff/departments-of-international-and-european-studies/susannah-verney.html>

Born British, I have lived and worked in Greece for three decades and become a Greek citizen. Before joining the University of Athens, I was privileged to work in the Office of the Greek Ombudsman, participating in the exciting process of building a new institution in Greece and gaining insights into the workings of Greek public administration. In 1996 I participated in the founding editorial team of *South European Society and Politics*, becoming Editor in 1999 (from 2008 co-Editor with Anna Bosco). Through the journal and the related Routledge book series, I have worked for two decades to promote scholarly research into Southern Europe. As the current Convenor, I have worked to develop the SG on SEP into one of the major ECPR Standing Groups (currently 10th largest) and to ensure a space for Southern Europe within ECPR by co-convening Sections at the last five General Conferences. If re-elected, I look forward to sharing my 'know-how' with the new Committee members and working with them to expand the Group's activities.