

ECPR STANDING GROUP ON SOUTHERN EUROPEAN POLITICS
<http://standinggroups.ecpr.eu/sep/>

BUSINESS MEETING

FRIDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2016, 7:45-9:00 p.m.

ECPR 10TH GENERAL CONFERENCE

CHARLES UNIVERSITY PRAGUE

Meeting venue:
Room 112, Faculty of Social Science

A G E N D A

1. Votes of Thanks
2. Report by the outgoing Convenor (Standing Group Membership and Recent Activities)
3. Report on SG Facebook Group
4. Introduction of the new Steering Committee
5. Planning of future Standing Group activities
6. Any Other Business

Present

Steering Committee

1. Susannah Verney, University of Athens (Convenor)
2. Marco Maraffi, University of Milan (Co-convenor)
3. Myrto Tsakatika, University of Glasgow (Treasurer)

4. Valia Aranitou, University of Crete
5. Pelin Ayan Musil
6. Oscar Barbera, University of Valencia
7. Fabio Bolzonar, Fudan University
8. Agusti Bosch, Autonomous University of Barcelona
9. Iosif Botetzagias, University of the Aegean
10. Noelle Burgi, CNRS-Univ. Paris I
11. Manuela Caiani, Scuola Normale Superiore, Florence
12. Nicolo Conti, Sapienza University Rome
13. Sevasti Chatzopoulou, Roskilde University
14. Andreas Dafnos, Sheffield University
15. Antonio Dios, FCSH-UNL, Lisbon
16. Costas Eleftheriou, University of Athens
17. Antonina Gentile, University of Milan
18. Sotiris Karapampas, University of Sheffield
19. Gerasimos Karoulas, University of Athens

20. Georgios Karyotis, University of Glasgow
21. Loukia Kotronaki, Panteion University Athens
22. Amelie Kutter, European University Viadrina, Frankfurt
23. Stella Ladi, Panteion University Athens & Queen Mary University London
24. Marco Lisi, Nova University Lisbon
25. Angelos Loukakis, University of Crete
26. Javier Martinez-Canto, University of Bamberg
27. Ivan Medina, University of Valencia
28. Martin Mejstrik, Charles University Prague
29. Catherine Moury, FCSH-UNL
30. Pablo Onata, University of Valencia
31. Stamatis Poulakidakos, University of Athens
32. Filipa Raimundo, ICS-UL
33. Tiago Ramalho, Sciences Po Paris
34. Madalena Resende, FCSH-UNL
35. Pedro Riera, Carlos III Madrid
36. Wolfgang Rudig, University of Strathclyde
37. Serafim Seferiades, Panteion University Athens
38. Marilena Simiti, University of Piraeus
39. Dimitri A Sotiropoulos, University of Athens
40. Patricia Springborg, Humboldt University Berlin
41. Adam Szymanski, University of Warsaw
42. Ilke Toygur, Autonomous University of Madrid

Guests

43. Joe Couchman, Routledge
44. Ruth Miller, Routledge

The meeting was chaired by the SG Convenor (SV).

M I N U T E S

1. Votes of Thanks

The meeting began by expressing appreciation:

- to Routledge for generously sponsoring the wine reception. The Group also appreciated the presence of two Routledge representatives, Joe Couchman and Ruth Miller, at the meeting.
- to Martin Mejstrik for acting as local organiser for the Group at the Prague conference and in particular for arranging the business meeting and reception
- to Georgios Karyotis for his work as co-convenor (with SV) of the SG's Section on *Reconfiguring Southern Europe* at the Prague General Conference.

2. Outgoing Convenor's Report

The outgoing Convenor presented a report on the SG's activities during the period since her re-election in September 2013 until the handover to the new Steering Committee in September 2016. Main points concerned:

- presentation of the **academic events** organised by the SG both within ECPR (three Sections at the ECPR General Conferences in 2014, 2015 and 2016; a Workshop at the 2015 Joint Sessions; a Research Session at the 2016 Research Sessions) and outside ECPR (2 panels at the 2014 PSA conference, 2 panels at the 2015 UACES conference, 2 panels at the 2016 UACES conference)
- actions in support of **academic freedom** (participation in appeal to ECPR Executive Committee to take a public stand on the Regeni murder, February 2016; SG ‘Statement on Academic Freedom in Turkey’ following the attempted coup of July 2016)
- active presence within ECPR in the response by the SG Convenors to the deliberations on the new ‘Framework on Standing Groups and Research Networks’, 2014-15
- the very **satisfactory growth in membership** from 97 members in September 2013 to *329 members* today, making the SG on SEP the *6th largest of the 52 current SGs*. Contrary to expectations, membership numbers rose significantly following the new system of electronic registration through the ECPR web page in 2015 but were badly affected by the first process of annual renewal at the end of the year. Membership numbers rose significantly during the Steering Committee election but this will not be repeated next year. The Convenor had raised the issue with the ECPR Executive Committee representatives during the Standing Group Convenors’ meeting on 9 September, suggesting renewal every 2 or 3 years. All members were urged to renew their membership at the end of 2016.
- the **democratic vibrancy** within the SG demonstrated by the first electronic election (19 April-19 May 2016) with 6 candidates for 3 positions and a 47% turnout which compared well to the experience of other ECPR SGs.
- **intra-group communication** with the website (introduced in 2014) and the Facebook page (2016) alongside the established system of information emails.

3. SG Facebook Group

Isabel David reported on the creation of the SG’s ‘Southern European Politics’ Facebook group. A closed Group was chosen to avoid spam posts. The Group has been very successful. Founded in June 2016, just three months later it already has **309** members, nearly as many members as the SG itself. The membership is not entirely overlapping which means the FB group has attracted attention beyond the SG itself. Isabel encouraged those members of the Group who have not yet done so to join the FB group. Those who have only signed up to FB should also join the SG. Members are already posting regularly on the site and Isabel encouraged members to post their new publications, calls for papers, information on their new research projects etc. The Convenor thanked Isabel for her important initiative in launching the FB Group and both Isabel David and Myrto Tsakatika for acting as its administrators.

4. Introduction of the new Steering Committee

The members of the new Steering Committee thanked the members for voting for them.

- SV announced she will be continuing as the incoming SG Convenor.
- **Marco Maraffi** (University of Milan, incoming Co-convenor) announced that he is the incoming Co-convenor and looks forward to working with the Group over the next three years.

- **Myrto Tsakatika** (University of Glasgow, incoming Treasurer) mentioned that she and her colleagues at the University of Glasgow are looking forward to contributing to the development of South European Studies in the North of Europe with Glasgow developing a role as a hub. She suggested that the SG leadership should play an enabling role, co-ordinating and supporting the aims and activities of the members. She invited members to be active in contributing ideas and initiatives in order to ensure we have a vibrant SG.

5. Planning of future Standing Group activities

- *General Conference:* Ideas were discussed for the SG's proposal for a Section at the next General Conference in Oslo, September 2017.
- *Joint Sessions:* The meeting was informed of the announcement at the Standing Group Convenors' meeting that proposals for Workshops have additional chances of success if sponsored by a Standing Group. The Convenor will send out a reminder when there is a call for workshops.
- *Extra-ECPR activities:* It was agreed the SG should continue to organise dedicated panels at conferences outside the ECPR framework and members were encouraged to think of opportunities to do this. Interest was expressed in the organisation of SG panels at the conferences of the national political science associations in Southern Europe.

The meeting was followed by a wine reception sponsored by Routledge