



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

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
Wednesday, 4 September, 5 p.m.
University of Wroclaw
Building D, Faculty of Law, Administration and Economics,
2nd floor, Room 2.02

Present:

1. Susannah Verney, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece - Chair of the Steering Committee (2019-21)
2. Myrto Tsakatika, University of Glasgow, UK - Member of the outgoing Steering Committee (2016-19)
3. Gianfranco Baldini, University of Bologna, Italy
4. Oscar Barbera, University of Valencia, Spain
5. Mehmet Bardakçi, Istanbul Yeni Yuzyil University, Turkey
6. Filiz Baskin, Izmir University of Economics, Turkey
7. Rui Bermejo, University Rey Juan Carlos, Spain
8. Enrico Borghetto, Nova University Lisbon, Portugal
9. Sevasti Chatzopoulou, Roskilde University, Denmark
10. Kerstin Hamann, University of Central Florida, USA
11. Sotirios Karapampas, University of Sheffield, UK
12. Yani Karalis, University of Lisbon, Portugal
13. Chryssa Lamprinakou, University of Strathclyde, UK
14. Malgorzata Lorenska, University of Silesia, Poland
15. Iakovos Makropoulos, University of Strathclyde, UK
16. Michail Melidis, University of Exeter, UK
17. José Javier Olivas Osurra, UNED, Spain / LSE, UK
18. Özlem Kayhan Pusane, Isik University, Turkey
19. My Rafstedt, University of Oslo, Norway
20. Marilena Simiti, University of Piraeus, Greece

21. Adam Szymanski, University of Waraw, Poland
22. Burcu Taskin, Istanbul Medeniyet University, Turkey
23. Filippo Tronconi, University of Bologna, Italy
24. Dimitris Tsarouhas, Bilkent University, Turkey

Apologies for absence:

Stavroula Chrona, King's College London, UK - Member of the Steering Committee (2019-21)

Bonnie Field, Bentley University, US - Member of the Steering Committee (2019-21)

Marco Maraffi, University of Milan, Italy - Member of the outgoing Steering Committee (2016-19)

A G E N D A

- 1. Vote of thanks to the outgoing members of the Steering Committee (2016-18)**
- 2. Feedback from the annual meeting of the ECPR Standing Group Convenors**
- 3. Report on recent activities of the Standing Group**
- 4. Early Career Researchers Network**
- 5. Planning of future SG on SEP activities**
- 6. Any other business**

1. Vote of Thanks:

The meeting opened with a Vote of Thanks to the outgoing members of the Steering Committee, Marco Maraffi and Myrto Tsakatika, for their sterling service to the Group during the period 2016-19. Their contribution was greatly appreciated by the Group members.

The Chair read out apologies for absence from the incoming members of the new Steering Committee, Bonnie Field and Stavroula Chrona. Although unable to be with us in Wroclaw, they look forward to joining us at next year's General Conference in Innsbruck, where they will be jointly running the General Conference Section on behalf of the Group.

Apologies for absence were also received from several members who were attending the ECPR Council meeting, taking place at the same time as the SG-SEP meeting, including Juan Rodriguez Teruel and Theodore Chadjipadelis.

2. Feedback from the annual meeting of the ECPR Standing Group Convenors:

The main item of interest to SG members are the Executive Committee's plans to change the fee structure for ECPR events. The aim is to keep participation fees stable for colleagues from ECPR member institutions over the next 4-5 years while radically reducing participation fees for member institution students. This will be balanced by an increase in participation fees for colleagues from non-member institutions. (No further details were given). It is also planned to increase the pool of funding available to Standing Groups to organise their own events.

3. Recent Activities of the Standing Group

Membership: Membership of the Group currently stands at 310 members. This is well below the figure in September last year of 360 members. As usual, the biannual renewal process on 31 December resulted in a big membership drop for all the SGs. SG-SEP initially fell to 240 (a loss of one-third of the members) so the additional 70 members since then is a significant improvement. The Chair urged members to encourage their colleagues to join the Group which is open to individuals from non-ECPR member as well as member institutions. The Group remains geographically diverse with members based in 27 countries. In Europe, in addition to the 7 SE states, members come from 13 other EU members plus Norway, Switzerland and Bosnia. Outside Europe, members come from the US, Australia, New Zealand and Israel.

Events: A key long-term goal of the Group is to maintain a strong South European presence within ECPR and to ensure a space to present research on the region at the ECPR General Conference. The Group has been very successful in running Sections at every General Conference since Pisa in 2007. This year's Section on *Southern Europe: A Post-Crisis Zone?* includes a very respectable 7 panels on a range of topics. The Chair thanked Kerstin Hamann for acting as Co-convenor.

The Group has also continued its collaboration with the Greek Politics Specialist Group of the Political Studies Association (UK). After previously co-organising two panels with GPSG at the PSA Conference in 2017, this year we co-organised a panel on *Southern Europe After the Storm: Democracy, Sovereignty* at the PSA Conference at Nottingham Trent University in April 2019.

Communication: The closed Facebook Group on Southern European Politics <https://www.facebook.com/groups/956524667779683> has been doing particularly well. Current membership stands at 450 and the FB Group has developed into a useful forum for exchange of information about CfPs, new publications, etc. The Chair thanked Isabel David for setting up and moderating the FB Group and Stavroula Chrona for acting as the current co-moderator on behalf of the new Steering Committee.

The Group's Twitter feed is now being run by new Steering Committee members, Bonnie Field and Stavroula Chrona, who are doing a great job. The Chair encouraged members who use Twitter are encouraged to follow at `ecpr_sep`.

The Group also continues to run a website and an email list.

4. Early Career Researchers Network:

The SG has decided to organise an Early Career Researchers Network as a forum for networking and with the hope of organising some events. The network is open to PhD candidates, post-docs, research and teaching fellows and anyone else who is at an early stage in their career, regardless of age. The network is being organised by Steering Committee member, Stavroula Chrona, herself an early careers researcher. Following the first announcement just a few weeks ago, the network already has 40 members, suggesting there is a need for this. The Chair encouraged all those present who are early career researchers to join the network and asked other members to encourage their early career colleagues to join too. The Steering Committee would like to hear from members about the kind of activities they would like the ECRN to organise.

5. Planning of Future SG-SEP events:

Joint conference with PSA Specialist Groups on Southern Europe: During the PSA conference in April, the Chair held a meeting with the leaderships of the PSA Specialist Groups working on Italian, Greek and Turkish politics respectively. The Groups agreed to support each other's activities, e.g. by circulating each other's Calls for Papers on our email lists, and also to organise future events along the lines of the collaboration which already exists between the Greek and Italian Specialist Groups and between SG-SEP and GPSG. Subsequently, a Specialist Group has also been formed on Spanish politics. We are currently discussing with the four PSA Specialist Groups co-organising a conference on 'The State of Democracy in Southern Europe – Democratic Decline or Resistance', to be held in 2020. Further details will be announced as the project develops. This is an exciting new venture which we hope will be supported by SG members.

ECPR General Conference 2020 – SG-SEP Section: The next ECPR General Conference will be held in Innsbruck on 26-28 August 2020. The call for Section proposals will open on 16 September and close on 18 November (midnight UK time). The Chair opened the floor for suggestions about potential themes for the Section and for members to explain their current research interests and topics which they would be interested in presenting papers/organising panels on. Ideas raised during the discussion included the broad themes of sustainability / resilience in Southern Europe and specific topics including: democratic backsliding; electoral and governmental instability; de-Europeanisation; de-growth; activism – social, political, environmental; environmental and climate change policy in Southern Europe (including the limitation of EU environmental policy in SE); inequality, inclusion and representing the poor; social mobility in SE during the crisis period and after; differences and diversity; role and impact of migrants; polarisation and social cleavages; party leadership and political leadership; political disengagement post-crisis (cf. mobilisation and social movements of crisis era); representation and rights (including whose rights are being respected and whose are not); and how to teach about Southern Europe. The discussion was indicative of the vibrant nature of SG-SEP and the commitment and enthusiasm of its members.

6. Any Other Business:

No further issues being raised, the meeting adjourned at 6 p.m. The next meeting will be held during the ECPR General Conference 2020 in Innsbruck.