

The Teaching and Learning Politics (TLP) is a Standing Group of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR)

Our mission

Since our establishment on 15 April 2011 we have been committed to the promotion of the teaching and learning in the field of Political Science. Our aim is to spread the scholarship of teaching and learning, to foster dialogue about the teaching of Politics and to improve the recognition of teaching among Political Science academics.

Because there is a great variation across Europe in the provision of teacher training for Political Scientists, we see it as our mission to level the differences by disseminating best practice across the continent. Our primary focus is on those beginning their academic careers as teachers of Political Science. We also aim to engage more senior Political Science scholars in meaningful discussions on improving the quality of teaching and learning in Europe.

We engage in the following activities:

• convene panels at the ECPR General Conferences

Our group convenes panels focused on teaching and learning. We organized sections and panels at ECPR conferences in Montreal (2015), Glasgow (2014), Bordeaux (2013), Reykjavik (2011) and Potsdam (2009) discussing issues including teaching research skills/methods, developing quality assessment, innovating political science education or using IT in teaching.

• prepare summer schools for young teachers

Since 2012 we have organized a summer school for teachers from Social Science disciplines. The school takes 9 days and includes topics such as course design and lesson planning, course alignment, teaching large and small groups, supervising student work, online teaching and learning, using IT for learning, engaging in scholarship of teaching and learning, etc. As part of the summer school, all participants design and present a plan of enhancing their course and receive feedback on it. A call for applications is usually released in December.

• organize European conference on teaching Political Science and IR

In 2014 we introduced a new conference entitled European Conference on Teaching and Learning Politics, IR and European Studies. The purpose of this conference is to provide an opportunity for exchange, discussion and reflection about questions surrounding teaching and learning in the discipline. The first conference, jointly organized by BISA, ECPR, PSA and UACES, took place in Maastricht, the Netherlands, in June 2014, and was attended by more than 80 delegates from 16 countries.

• promote publications and disseminate information about teaching and learning

We offer help and guidance for Political Science teachers by providing a repository of materials on our website, publishing studies in journals and books, and disseminating news about publications, conferences, awards, etc. through our mailing list.

TLP is lead by a Steering Committee. For 2014-2016, its members are Simon Lightfoot, University of Leeds (UK), Heidi Mauer, Maastricht University (NL), Gabriela Pleschová, Comenius University (SK), Simon J. Rofo, SOAS, University of London (UK) and Eszter Simon, Masaryk University (CZ).



Become a member:

we have now more than one hundred members from different universities in Europe but also from other continents. We welcome members from all those who share our mission. If you wish to join, please email TLP_member@eurea.sk. Membership is free.