



School of Social Sciences

Citizens, Parties and Political Action: Political Participation and the UK General Election 2015

Conference information and call for papers

Wednesday 4 February 2015
Division of Politics and International Relations
Nottingham Trent University

Recent trends across Europe indicate that people of all ages and in all countries seem less committed to national political systems and mainstream political parties, and increasingly susceptible to radical parties and to their rhetoric. They also appear to be deeply sceptical of governments and of the political classes in general.

The recent 2014 European Assembly elections are a case in point, with the lowest turnout rate since direct elections were first held 30 years ago. Furthermore, in many countries, significant numbers of people turned their backs on traditional and mainstream parties, choosing instead to vote for anti-EU/anti-system parties.

The newly established "*Citizens, Parties and Political Action*" research group based within the Division of Politics and International Relations at Nottingham Trent University is pleased to invite you to this one day conference. The conference will explore developments in party politics and unfolding and uneven patterns of citizens' political participation in the UK and elsewhere across Europe. The conference will include three panels that will focus on these linked areas:

- Panel 1: *Beyond the mainstream 1: The emergence of 'new' parties across Europe*
- Panel 2: *Beyond the mainstream 2: The emergence of 'new' parties across the UK*
- Panel 3: *Mobilising political action: The challenges of class, ethnicity, gender and age -based political participation inequalities*

The conference will culminate in a Roundtable comprising national speakers as well as representatives from political parties, and will address a question of crucial significance for the future health of UK democracy, "*Should 16 and 17 year olds be given the vote?*".

Current invited speakers include:

- **Kenny Imafidon** - Board of Trustees of the British Youth Council
- **Dr Andy Mycock** - University of Huddersfield, and former member of the UK Government Ministry of Justice "Youth Citizenship Commission"

Conference attendance and registration fee

This conference invites citizenship and election professionals, academic researchers, early-career researchers and PhD candidates to share and develop their current research interests in political parties, elections and political participation.

There will be a nominal conference registration fee of £20 (£10 for doctoral and masters students), and refreshments and lunch will be provided. However, places will be limited so you should submit a request to attend as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

For conference attendance and registration, please visit **www.ntu.ac.uk/Election2015Conference**.

Call for research papers

If you would like to present your own research at the conference, then we invite paper proposals (oral presentations and poster presentations) on topics related to the conference linked themes of political participation and political parties beyond the mainstream in the UK and across Europe.

We welcome abstracts of no more than 300 words including your name, title, email and institutional affiliation. Abstracts should be submitted by Monday 1 December 2014 to **Election2015.conference@ntu.ac.uk**, with the subject heading, "CPPA UK General Election 2015 Conference".

Further conference information

For further information about the conference, including how to book a place, how to find the Nottingham Conference Centre, travel and local hotel accommodation, please visit **www.ntu.ac.uk/Election2015Conference**.

For further information about the "*Citizens, Parties and Political Action*" research group at NTU, please visit our research website at **www.ntu.ac.uk/citizens_parties_political_action**.

We look forward to welcoming you to Nottingham Trent University on **Wednesday 4 February 2015**.

Division of Politics and International Relations

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