

Call for Papers

**Workshop: “Representation of minorities: perspectives and challenges”**

University of York, 15 May 2015

\*\*\*DEADLINE: 20 February\*\*\*

The aim of this workshop is to discuss new approaches to the study of minority representation, especially turning the attention from *who* represents minorities to *how* minority representation takes place. While the question of how democracy can represent diversity (or fails to do so) is pressing both in academia and in public discourse, there has been so far little interchange between researchers who study this issue. The main goal of this workshop is to start a conversation among graduate students and early-career scholars working in the field of political representation both theoretically and empirically, in order to create a fruitful scholarly network and engender a wider, multifaceted debate and promote future collaborations.

We are interested both in contributions that deal theoretically with the meaning, content and goals of group representation and in contributions that analyse empirically the political representation of specific minorities (ethnic minorities, religious minorities, racial minorities, migrants). We are also interested in contributions that look at these issues from an intersectional perspective (including class and gender). From a theoretical perspective, we are particularly interested in papers that discuss a relationship between a claims-making approach to representation and normative issues of responsiveness. Some of the main empirical questions that will be discussed are: What is effective representation, and is it the same in all institutional and cultural settings? Are minority political empowerment, democratic stability, inter-ethnic conflict management, and policy responsiveness complementary goals? Can they be achieved through the same institutions and forms of representation? What is the potential of informal representation through minority councils or civil society?

The one-day workshop will be focused on debate, with a combination of short presentations, roundtables, open discussions and a keynote speech by **Professor Michael Saward**. Selected papers will have to be submitted by 20 April 2015. The papers will be circulated in advance among participants, in order to ensure high-quality feedback and discussion. Additional feedback on individual papers will be provided by the staff from the Department of Politics at the University of York. Selected papers from the workshop will be submitted as a Special Issue in an academic journal.

This event is supported by the British International Studies Association Postgraduate Network ([BISA PGN](#)), and the Department of Politics and the Conflict, Security and Development research cluster at the University of York. A maximum of **10 grants** will be awarded to participants to partially cover travel and accommodation costs. However, we invite all participants to also apply for funding from their own institutions.

**Paper proposals should be submitted by 20 February 2015 through this link:**  
<http://form.jotformeu.com/form/50213182049345>

For more information, please visit: <https://minorityrepresentation.wordpress.com/>

Please do not hesitate to contact the organisers for any further information: Jelena Loncar ([jl1406@york.ac.uk](mailto:jl1406@york.ac.uk)), Licia Cianetti ([l.cianetti@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:l.cianetti@ucl.ac.uk), [lcianetti@gmail.com](mailto:lcianetti@gmail.com))

