

## **BRIDGING POLITICAL WORLDS: POLITICAL PARTIES AND MIGRATION**

Section Chairs:

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### **Standing Group on Politics of Ethnicity and Immigration**

Abstract:

International migration has had a wide range of political impacts both on the host societies and on origin countries. The development of international migration changed the composition of the national electorates, transformed the traditional party constituencies and forced political parties to elaborate their stances towards this social phenomenon within their electoral platforms and subsequently address it in government. At the same time, the extent, nature and impact of migration has been simultaneously moderated by immigration, integration and citizenship policies of the host societies. Since immigration policy is a prerogative of national parliaments and executives led by political parties, there is a strong dynamic relationship between party politics, electoral competition, parliamentary representation and immigration flows, limits and integration policies. We want to go beyond discussing immigration policy as a depoliticised process on the one hand, and beyond treating immigration as a driving cause behind extreme right parties on the other. Instead, we invite panels to address the issues of how inter-party or intra-party competition and policy making on immigration are interlinked.

We acknowledge that the policy making and electoral competition aspects of immigration are rarely discussed together, as 'the political science communities working on asylum and immigration, on the one hand, and parties, on the other, have traditionally sat at separate tables.' (Bale, 2008). Our proposed section will invite them to speak to each other in order to prevent 'sub-disciplinary parochialism'. This section seeks to provide an invaluable opportunity for a cross-disciplinary dialogue. This section therefore invites panel proposals on the

consequences of migration for party politics from immigration studies, comparative politics and public policy perspectives.. We also welcome panels that address the mutual and intertwined effects of party politics on immigration control, integration and citizenship policies. We invite the panels to openly tackle the seemingly opposing incentives facing political parties to attract new electorates, appease anti-immigrant public and design effective immigration policies in a changing world. We will consider panels focussing on single, especially European, countries, but encourage international comparison whenever possible.