Political Systems in Central and Eastern Europe and Southern Europe – Comparative Studies

ECPR Joint Sessions of Workshops 2015
29 March-2 April 2015, University of Warsaw

Call for the Workshop papers

The comparative studies concerning the political systems of European countries concentrate first of all on the “old” EU member states. There is a small number of comparative works dealing also with the Union’s members from Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), i.e.: Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. Although there are many differences between these states and other EU countries, there are substantial and sometimes surprising similarities as well. This concerns particularly the EU members or still associate members from the Southern Europe (Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain as well as Cyprus, Malta and Turkey) which are closest to the CEE countries in terms of political and economic changes. Comparing the political systems of both groups of countries allows for the analysis of very important political and socioeconomic processes (led by the democratization and development of the market economy), the components of political systems, the political culture, the role of contemporary ideologies in shaping political systems as well as particular domestic and external policies (as outputs of political systems). The key question in this context is to what extent different political phenomena are shaped by the specific domestic factors (historical and current ones) and to what extent by “external” factors, mainly the integration with the EU and globalization processes.

All these interesting research questions will be the subject of the Workshop within the ECPR Joint Sessions 2015 event, organized by Adam Szymański (ad_szym@poczta.onet.pl; ar.szymanski@uw.edu.pl), Assistant Professor at the Institute of Political Science, University of Warsaw as well as Özgün Erler Bayır (ozgunerler@yahoo.com), Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Political Sciences, Istanbul University and sponsored by the ECPR Standing Group on Southern European Politics.

The organization of this Workshop serves the integration of scholars working on the aforementioned regions, which can result in the development of one general research network or a few research groups working on different projects as well as in the cooperation between two ECPR standing groups – Central and East European Politics and Southern European Politics.

The participants of the Workshop can be political scientists and other social scientists working on one or both of the aforementioned regions with reference to the different aspects of the political systems of the states. It is here not only about the researchers from the CEE countries and South European states but also from other European and non-European countries and regions.

Please, bear in mind that only 10% of the total number of participants in the Workshop can come from a non-ECPR member institution.
The expected type of paper within the Workshop is a comparative analysis on the states from CEE and Southern Europe regions. The Workshop Directors prefer comparative analyses of political systems of at least one state from each of the two regions, but also accept comparative analyses of states from only one region if the discussed issues are important for the other one.

The topics of the papers can concern:

- General processes, e.g. democratization, political and economic transformation, secularization as well as the Europeanization, regionalization and globalization
- Particular components of political systems, e.g. governing bodies, political parties (including far-right and far-left oriented parties), civil society organizations and social movements, media as well as state-Church relations, role of the military and civil-military relations
- Particular ideological/cultural and political culture elements influencing political systems, e.g. the position of nationalism, secularism/religion(s), conservatism, liberalism, populism and feminism; Euroscepticism, attitude towards democracy, etc.
- Particular policies (political system’s outputs), including among others: the economic, financial, energy, social and environmental policy as well as foreign/European and security policy
- Coping with contemporary challenges – e.g. economic crisis, globalization challenges, transnational processes that limit the role of a state

More information about the Workshop may be found in the Workshop outline in the Academic Programme (look at the Workshop no. 11):

If you are interested in participation in the Workshop, please, submit a paper proposal by 1 December 2014 via MyECPR. Workshop Directors will be able to access all submitted proposals and you will be notified of their decision by mid-January 2015. Please, bear in mind that papers sent directly to the Workshop Directors will not be considered.

The general call for papers and information concerning the ECPR Joint Sessions of Workshops 2015 may be found at: