ECPR STANDING GROUP
ON SOUTHERN EUROPEAN POLITICS
http://standinggroups.ecpr.eu/sep/

BUSINESS MEETING
FRIDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2014, 7:15 p.m.

ECPR 8TH GENERAL CONFERENCE
UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

Meeting venue: Upstairs room
The Curlers Rest
256-260 Byres Road
Glasgow G12 8SH
(just off the university campus – see map on our website)

AGENDA

1. Thanks to Section sponsor (Routledge)
2. Review of Recent Activities of the Standing Group
3. Implications for the Group of the new ECPR Framework on Standing Groups and Research Networks*
4. Presentation of the Greek Politics Specialist Group (GPSG)
5. Presentation of the South European Research Network (SERN) of the University of Glasgow
6. Planning of future Standing Group activities
7. Any Other Business

* New Framework for the functioning of ECPR Standing Groups (April 2014) available for consultation on the News page of our website

Chair
Susannah Verney, University of Athens (Standing Group Convenor)

Present
Ioannis Andreadis, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
Cristiano Bee, University of Surrey
Alexander Bonvecchi, Universidad Torcuato di Tella, Buenos Aires
Angela Bourne, Roskilde University, Denmark
Maud Bracke, University of Glasgow
Alexander Bürgin, Izmir University of Economics
Pablo Calderon-Martinez, Kings College London
Helene Caune, Foundation Nationale Des Sciences Politiques, Paris
Elma Charalambidou
Giorgos Charalambous, University of Cyprus
Sevaste Chatzopoulou, Roskilde University, Denmark
Stavroula Chrona, University of Surrey
Isabel David, University of Lisbon
Sebastian Dellepiane, University of Strathclyde
Jorge Estevez, Universidad Autonoma de Madrid
Theofanis Exadaktylos, University of Surrey
Philip Philis, Glasgow University
Paul Furlong, University of Cardiff
Angie Gago, University of Milan
Eirini Gaitanou, Kings College London
Kostas Gemenis, University of Twente
Antonina Gentile, University of Milan
Arantza Gomez, Birmingham City University
Kostas Ifantis, University of Athens
Kostas Kanellopoulos, University of Crete
Sotiris Karapampas, University of Sheffield
Georgios Karyotis, University of Glasgow
Anastasia Kavada, University of Westminster
Kostis Kornetis, New York University
Paul T. Levin, Stockholm Institute of Turkish Studies (SUTS)
Pedro Magalhaes, ICS, University of Lisbon
José Magone, Berlin School of Economics and Law
Andrés Malamud, ICS, University of Lisbon
Fernando Mendez, University of Zurich
Leonardo Morlino, LUISS, Rome (Founding Convenor of the Standing Group)
Nikolas Papadogiannis, University of St Andrews
Philip Phillis, University of Glasgow
Jochen Roos, Willy Brandt Centre, University of Wroclaw
Pedro Saelna, University of Lisbon
Franziska Scholl, Freie Universität Berlin
Moritz Sommer, Freie Universität Berlin
George Souvlis, European University Institute, Florence
Digdem Soyaltin, Stockholm University
Myrto Tsakatika, University of Glasgow
Dimitris Tsarouhas, Bilkent University, Ankara
Vicky Triga, Cyprus University of Technology
Jonathan Wheatley, University of Zurich
Evren Wiltse, South Dakota State University
Elisabetta C. Wolff, University of Oslo
Başak Yavçar, TOBB University of Economics and Technology, Ankara

Routledge representatives (observers)
Joe Couchman
Michele Philips
Andrew Taylor
1. Thanks: The Standing Group on Southern Europe (SG on SEP) passed a vote of thanks to Routledge for kindly co-sponsoring the meeting. The Group also appreciated the presence of three Routledge representatives at the meeting. A second vote of thanks was passed to Georgios Karyiotis (University of Glasgow) for his vital help in finding the venue and organising the refreshments for the meeting.

2. Review of Recent Activities of the Standing Group:

(a) Conferences

The Convenor thanked Maria Kousis (University of Crete) and Senem Aydin-Düzgit (Istanbul Bilgi University) for their work as Co-convenors of the 2014 General Conference Section on ‘Reshaping State and Society in Southern Europe’. The SG on SEP has maintained a strong presence at the last four ECPR General Conferences, running a Section at each with a total of 35 panels. The hope was expressed that the SG will be able to maintain this record despite the challenge presented by the General Conference moving from a bi-annual to an annual basis.

In Spring 2014 the SG on SEP organised two panels on ‘Active Citizenship in Southern Europe: Framing Protest, Political Participation and Civic Engagement’ at the PSA 64th annual conference in Manchester. The Convenor thanked Cristiano Bee and Stavroula Chrona (University of Surrey) for organising this event.

(b) Website

During 2014 a new section on ‘Publications’ with separate pages for ‘Books’ and ‘Articles’ was added to the SG website. These pages do not yet reflect the important role played by the Group members in current scholarship on Southern Europe. Members were encouraged to send in their publications for inclusion on the website.

(c) Membership

It was reported that the SG on SEP currently has 129 members (up from 92 in September 2013). Current members come from 18 countries, including 6 in Southern Europe (Cyprus, Italy, Greece, Portugal, Spain, and Turkey), 9 other European states (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Norway, Poland and the UK), and 3 extra-European countries (Australia, Canada, United States). A significant number of Group members come from non-ECPR institutions, indicating the important role played by the SG in involving non-members in ECPR activities. Given the number of social scientists working on Southern Europe, there is still considerable scope to expand Group membership.

3. Implications for the Group of the new ECPR Framework on Standing Groups and Research Networks: The most difficult issue facing the Group in the past year concerned the new Draft Framework on the functioning of Standing Groups prepared by the ECPR Executive Committee. Some provisions of the draft Framework
appeared to threaten the continued existence of the SG. The nature of the problem posed and the way in which this threat seems to have been averted was presented to the meeting and can be found in an appendix to these minutes. The implications of the new Framework for the future include:

- The long term survival of the Group will depend on increasing the number of members from fully paid up ECPR member institutions to more than 100. Members were urged to encourage their colleagues and PhD students to join the SG.

- From January 2014, members will need to re-register annually. They were urged to make sure they do so.

- The Group will need to draw up and approve a Constitution. Until it does, its governance will be determined by a Default Standing Group Constitution prepared by ECPR.

- The Constitution will include a new structure for the SG leadership consisting of a minimum of 3 people, the majority of whom must belong to ECPR member institutions.

- Elections for the SG leadership will be organised electronically by ECPR Central Services. The first elections will be held in 2015.

- The new provision for Research Networks does not only refer to the establishment of new autonomous organisations. Members who are interested in a particular area could consider establishing a specialist Research Network within the framework of the Group.

- Following the intervention by Standing Group Convenors (see appendix), SGs may choose whether to charge membership fees or not. The proposal by the Convenor that membership of the Standing Group continue to be free for all, including those who belong to ECPR member institutions and those who do not, was approved with applause by those present at the meeting.

4. **Presentation of the Greek Politics Specialist Group (GPSG):** With the aim of increasing synergies and possibly organising future joint activities with other organisations involved in and promoting social science research on Southern Europe, a representative of the Greek Politics Specialist Group (GPSG) of the UK’s Political Studies Association (PSA) was invited to address the Group. **Dimitris Tsarouhas** (Executive Committee member) explained that the GPSG, founded in 2004, has become a leading international network of social scientists with an interest in Greece, as well as one of the PSA’s largest and most active groups. The GPSP has a strong record of supporting research on Greek politics, through the organisation of conference panels and events, both independently and in collaboration with affiliate organisations and groups. It actively supports young researchers presenting their work to international audiences through financial support and advice. Almost 90% of the Group’s funds have gone directly to supporting scholars, especially junior academics and researchers from regional universities.
5. Presentation of the South European Research Network (SERN): Myrto Tsakatika (Co-convenor with Maud Bracke) introduced SERN. Established in February 2014, SERN aims to develop the study of Southern Europe in Scotland, building relevant policy expertise and promoting linkages between Scottish and Southern European civil societies. Its goal is to bring together scholars, postdoctoral researchers and postgraduate students from Scotland, Europe and further afield with an interest in the politics, society, culture and history of the region, willing to explore avenues for collaboration and joint projects. Based at Glasgow University, SERN already has 20 internal and 20 external members from Scottish, other UK and Nordic Universities and has already organised three successful public events. Themes it hopes to explore in an interdisciplinary way include the social, political and cultural implications of the Eurozone crisis, unemployment, political and constitutional change, EU governance, political extremism and protest, cultural and media production, external relations and South to North immigration.

6. Future SG Activities: The meeting felt it was particularly important to maintain the current momentum of the SG on SEP and to expand its activities if possible.

- **Joint Sessions 2015:** Members were reminded that the SG on SEP is sponsoring a Workshop on ‘Political Systems in Central and Eastern Europe and Southern Europe – Comparative Studies’ at the Joint Sessions in Warsaw in March-April 2015. Group members were encouraged to submit paper proposals.

- **General Conference 2015:** Last year’s meeting had expressed reservations about the SG participating in the ECPR’s 2015 General Conference in Montreal, given the difficulties of meeting the cost for members coming from Southern Europe itself. The meeting decided to put forward a Section proposal with a smaller number of panels and to encourage especially SG members in North America to participate.

- **Other ECPR activities:** The meeting discussed the importance of taking full advantage of the possibilities offered by ECPR. Members were reminded that besides the General Conference and the Joint Sessions, these could include submitting a proposal for the Research Sessions or of organising a Summer School etc.

- **Other ideas:** Various ideas were put forward, e.g. that the SG could consider holding its own conference outside the ECPR framework; could sponsor specialist South European panels at other conferences (as at the PSA this year); could hold panels at the conferences of the national political studies associations in Southern Europe; could consider collaboration with other scholarly networks active in South European studies such as the two organisations represented at the meeting.

There being no further business, the business meeting adjourned at 8.40 p.m. and was followed by a social meeting co-sponsored by Routledge.
APPENDIX

Agenda item 3, part a).

The draft ‘Framework for Standing Groups and Research Networks’ prepared by the ECPR Executive Committee and sent to all SG Convenors for comments in November 2013 included a number of provisions which appeared to present a threat to our Group. Among these were:

- The requirement for SGs to have a minimum of 100 members from ECPR institutions. *(The SG on SEP currently does not meet this requirement owing to the number of members from non-ECPR institutions).* SGs which did not meet this requirement could be terminated by the Executive Committee or downgraded to ‘Research Networks’, a new type of organisation whose role and rights within ECPR were not defined.

- Members would be required to re-register annually. *(It was feared this could lead to an annual ‘leakage’ of members and would entail additional work for SG Convenors, requiring the revision of membership registers and chasing up members to re-register on an annual basis).*

- The requirement for all SGs to levy an annual membership fee of 20 euros on individuals who do not belong to ECPR member institutions. *(This category includes both early career scholars without a steady institutional affiliation and individuals whose universities cannot afford the fees, a particular issue for crisis-stricken Southern Europe. Both groups are less likely to be able to pay membership fees and therefore in danger of exclusion from international networks).* The original proposal made to the meeting of SG Convenors at Bordeaux had been for all SG members to pay membership fees with a lower rate for those belonging to ECPR member institutions; however, following disagreement expressed at the Bordeaux meeting by some SGs, including the SG on SEP, this provision was not included in the draft Framework.

- The limitation of Group membership to political scientists. *(A number of SG on SEP members come from other disciplines, as do several Convenors of other SGs).* It was not clear if this provision was intentional or the result of unfortunate phrasing.

- Individuals participating in the leadership of an SG would not be allowed to stand as candidates for election to the ECPR Executive Committee. *(Thus excluding individuals particularly active in ECPR and already offering their time on a voluntary basis from the possibility of participating in ECPR’s governing body).*

The SG on SEP, fearing a potential threat to its continued existence, played a part in the response by the Standing Groups to the draft Framework:

- by asking the Executive Committee for more time than the 18 days (at the height of the teaching term) initially allocated for consideration of the proposals
• by submitting a memorandum to the Executive Committee outlining its own concerns about the draft Framework

• by participating in an e-mail dialogue with other SG convenors leading to the drafting of a ‘Joint Response’ signed by 25 of the 48 ECPR Standing Groups.

The Convenor of the SG on SEP noted particularly the contribution made to the SG on SEP’s response by Paul Furlong (who wrote extensive comments on the draft Framework) and Kerstin Hamann (who provided valuable information on the situation in APSA).

The final Framework approved by the ECPR Executive Committee in April 2014 meeting included significant improvements:

• SG viability will not depend purely on numbers. The new formulation was more nuanced, also including activity levels: ‘If a Standing Group is insufficiently active, and/or has fewer than 100 members from ECPR member institutions in at least five countries, and/or does not comply with the rules laid out in this framework, the ECPR Executive Committee will contact the Standing Group’s Steering Committee to discuss the prospects for the Standing Group. Ultimately, the Executive Committee may decide to terminate the Standing Group’.

• Membership fees for SGs became optional for the time being: ‘A decision whether or not to charge an annual fee for Standing Group and Research Network membership will be taken after the five-year evaluation of this framework. Until such a decision is taken, Standing Groups and Research Networks are free to decide for themselves whether or not to charge a membership fee’.

• The limitation of membership to political scientists was not included.

• The provision making members of SG leaderships ineligible to stand for election to the Executive Committee was not included.

Several SG Convenors, including the Convenor of the SG on SEP, held an informal meeting in Glasgow on 3 September 2014 in order to assess the new Framework and discuss remaining concerns. These were then raised at the formal meeting of SG Convenors with the participation of the ECPR General Director and Executive Committee members on 4 September. At this meeting:

• ECPR Executive Committee member (and incoming Chair) Rudy Andeweg stated that the requirement for 100 members from ECPR institutions will be interpreted flexibly. If an SG falls below 100 members, it will not be closed down immediately. He suggested the Executive Committee will discuss with the SG and monitor the situation to see how it develops over 2 or 3 years before closing down a Group.
It was explained that annual membership registration would take the form of an e-mail from ECPR Central Services sent to all individuals with a MyECPR account asking which SGs they would like to sign up to for the year. Individuals will be able to join Groups simply by clicking on a list. Central Services will then supply each SG with its membership list. The Executive Committee anticipates this will increase SG membership without increasing the workload on SG Convenors.

Following the discussion of these developments, the SG on SEP decided to monitor the functioning of the new Framework in order to identify possible issues for reconsideration in the 5-year review. However, it was felt that the apparent direct threat to its existence posed by the original draft Framework seems to have been averted.