



Biennial Report of Research Networks – Some criteria

The ESA Executive Committee expects a written biennial Report of about two pages on the activities of each Research Network during the past two-year term. This report will be published on the ESA website, in the section of each RN. You are writing the history of your RN and the institutional memory with this report.

The report is due after each ESA Conference and includes the activities of your RN at that conference. It shall be sent no later than at the end of that year and should be sent to the ESA secretariat: [esa \(at\) europeansociology.org](mailto:esa@europeansociology.org).

There is no formal template, you are free how you want to design it. To facilitate preparing the report, please consider the following criteria:

1. Name and Number of RN

RN32 European Political Sociology

2. Names and email addresses of:

a. outgoing Coordinators and board members (past term)

Coordinators (2015-2017):

Virginie VAN INGELGOM – virginie.vaningelgom@uclouvain.be

Ov Cristian NOROCEL – cristian.norocel@helsinki.fi

Board members (2015-2017):

David PATERNOTTE David.Paternotte@ulb.ac.be

Fabio DE NARDIS fabio.denardis@unisalento.it

Tatjana SEKULIC sekulic.tanja@gmail.com

Paul BLOKKER, paulus.blokker@fsv.cuni.cz

Alison WOODWARD - Alison.Woodward@vub.ac.be

Verena BRÄNDLE (PhD Students' Representative), verenakb@hum.ku.dk

b. incoming Coordinators and board members (new term after this year's conference)

Coordinators (2017-2019):

Ov Cristian NOROCEL - cristian.norocel@helsinki.fi

Pauline CULLEN - pauline.cullen@mu.ie

Alison WOODWARD - Alison.Woodward@vub.ac.be

Board Members (2017-2019):

Maria Cristina MARCHETTI, mc.marchetti@uniroma1.it

Gabriella SZABÓ, Szabo.Gabriella@tk.mta.hu

Oscar MAZZOLENI, Oscar.Mazzoleni@unil.ch

Alberta GIORGI, alberta.giorgi@gmail.com

Paul BLOKKER, paulus.blokker@fsv.cuni.cz

Alban VERSAILLES (PhD Students' Representative), alban.versailles@uclouvain.be

3. Activities:

- a. Did you organise a mid-term conference? If yes, please provide the title, venue, date, organisers, number of papers and participants and overall assessment of the event. (Consult your midterm conference report which will not get published on the website.)

Title: (Dis)locating EUrope: Conflicts, challenges and changes

Venue: Brussels, VUB & Académie Royale

Dates: 28 - 29 October 2016

Organisers: Université libre de Bruxelles, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Université catholique de Louvain and Université Saint-Louis Bruxelles

Scientific Committee

Florence DELMOTTE (Fonds de la recherche scientifique/Université Saint-Louis - Bruxelles)

François FORET (Université libre de Bruxelles)

Virginie GUIRAUDON (Sciences Po Paris)

Ov Cristian NOROCEL (University of Helsinki/Hungarian Academy of Sciences)

David PATERNOTTE (Université libre de Bruxelles)

Geoffrey PLEYERS (Fonds de la recherche scientifique/Université catholique de Louvain)

Carlo RUZZA (Università degli Studi di Trento)

Florian TRAUNER (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

Hans-Joerg TRENZ (University of Copenhagen)

Virginie VAN INGELGOM (Fonds de la recherche scientifique/Université catholique de Louvain)

Alison WOODWARD (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

Organizing Committee

Arthur BORRIELLO (Fonds de la recherche scientifique/ Université libre de Bruxelles)

Charlotte DOLEZ (Fonds de la recherche scientifique/Université catholique de Louvain)

Christophe MAJASTRE (Fonds de la recherche scientifique/Université Saint-Louis–Bruxelles)

Heidi MERCENIER (Université Saint-Louis–Bruxelles)

Emilie MONDO (Fonds de la recherche scientifique/ Université libre de Bruxelles)

David PATERNOTTE (Université libre de Bruxelles)

Virginie VAN INGELGOM (Fonds de la recherche scientifique/Université catholique de Louvain)

Florian TRAUNER (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

Alison WOODWARD (Vrije Universiteit Brussel).

Number of papers and participants: around 120 participants in 22 panels.

Overall assessment of the event:

The 4th ESA RN-32 mid-term conference brought together about 120 researchers working within a European political sociological perspective to illuminate four sets of topics within the theme of conflicts, challenges and changes to European transnationalizing or re-nationalizing societies. The conference was organized in four inter-related sets of thematic sessions: (1)

Resistances and backlashes: Across Europe, collectivities mobilize, digging in/opting out. This theme gathered research dealing with resistances from the right and the left, populism and social backlash, new parties and power balances, nationalism, mobilizations, and anti-politics. (2) **Migration and mobilities:** Resilience and change of migration, mobility and integration policies, in-/exclusions, border politics, disadvantage, cosmopolitanism, participation and perceptions of 'race', nation and culture; as well as securitization and fear are all topics relevant to this theme. (3) **Civil Society and democracy:** Where and who decides? This theme tackled changes in European decision-making, governance and relations to society. The role of changing elites (experts, think-tanks), NGO's and (re)activated grassroots, issues of inequalities in participation, and changing roles for social movements in Europe are topical here. (4) **Diversity, equality and identity:** Submissions for this theme focused on issues relating to citizenship and multiple identities, the intersections of class, gender, sexuality, age, religion, race, or disability, religion and secularism in Europe,

value debates, public opinion, the role of media in framing and changing perceptions of belonging. Such issues are (re)defining and (re/dis)locating the nature of European societies and identities.

Besides the 22 panels, a plenary panel 'Europe's handling of the refugee crisis – getting out of a 'crisis'-modus?' opened the conference. It included senior figures from academia (Virginie GUIRAUDON, Leah BASSEL, Florian TRAUNER), the European Commission (Peter BOSCH) and civil society (Stefan SCHMIDT). The evening plenary panel, which was entitled 'Death of Multiculturalism? On Islam Integration in Europe', featured as keynote speaker Prof. Cristian JOPPKE.

The conference included the RN 32 business meeting that was widely attended by participants allowing us to expand our activities considerably and proceed with the planning of the ESA 2015 general conference.

- b. Please report on your activities at the ESA Conference of this year: Number of sessions; how many presentations, how many distributed papers?

Number of sessions and presentations: 22 panels have been organized for the ESA 13th General Conference in Athens (2017) with 85 presentations.

- c. Did you establish a Newsletter of your RN? If so, how often is the Newsletter published; is it sent through the ESA RN website?

No.

- d. Does your RN have a website of its own, other than the space on the official ESA website?

Yes. Link: <http://europeanpoliticalsociology.eu/>

- e. Publications related to RN sessions and/or midterm meetings?

RN32 has developed strong connections with **Palgrave Studies in European Political Sociology** series and with the journal **Partecipazione e Conflitto** (Participation & Conflict – PACO).

The **Palgrave Studies in European Political Sociology** series addresses contemporary themes in the field of Political Sociology. Over recent years, attention has turned increasingly to processes of Europeanization and globalization and the social and political spaces that are opened by them. These processes comprise both institutional-constitutional change and new dynamics of social transnationalism. Europeanization and globalization are also about changing power relations as they affect people's lives, social networks and forms of mobility. The Palgrave Studies in European Political Sociology series addresses linkages between regulation, institution building and the full range of societal repercussions at local, regional, national, European and global level. This series will sharpen understanding of changing patterns of attitudes and behaviours of individuals and groups, the political use of new rights and opportunities by citizens, new conflict lines and coalitions, societal interactions and networking, and shifting loyalties and solidarity within and across the European space.

The journal **PACO** houses research and studies on the transformations of politics and its key players (political parties, interest groups, social movements, associations, unions, etc.), focusing in particular on the dynamics of participation both by individuals acting in conventional ways, and by those who prefer protest-oriented repertoires of action. Special attention is also paid to the dynamics of transformation of contemporary political systems, with an eye fixed on the processes of democratization besides on the spaces opening to the new forms of governance both at local and sub-national, and supra-national level.

- f. Any action to be taken to improve participation of PhD students and early career researchers?

1 PhD students' representative is elected to the board and his/her goal is to improve the participation of PhD students and early researchers. **RN32 Facebook page** (see below) functions as a well-established channel for communicating both RN32 actions (ESA

conference, RN32 mid-term conference), and other academic events of interest to junior researchers.

- g. Any action to be taken to expand membership, especially from countries with overall weaker ESA membership? Also, are there members from outside Europe?

RN32 maintains the **European Political Sociology** Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/European-Political-Sociology-104856432916193/> that reaches well beyond its membership base (as of February 2018: 1546 likes; 1568 followers). It functions as a well-established channel for communicating both RN32 actions (ESA conference, mid-term conference), and other academic events of interests to junior researchers, as well as to wider audiences.

No active members from outside Europe are registered.

- h. Any collaboration within ESA with other RNs? If so, please give details. Do you plan to improve collaboration across RNs?

For ESA 13th conference several proposals for common panels have been developed but eventually none was selected to be included in the program.

- i. Any action to be taken to improve opportunities for publication of papers presented at the RN meetings and sessions?

A few steps were taken into this direction. The papers presented in a panel for the mid-term conference in Brussels constituted the backbone of forthcoming SI Populist Political Communication in Problems of Post-Communism, co-edited by two RN32 board members (NOROCEL; SZABÓ).

- j. Any other important activities undertaken by your RN?

No

- k. Any plans for further activities of your RN?

RN32 is well at work for the forthcoming mid-term conference.

Working title: Fragile Europe

Tentative dates: 2-3 November 2018

Location: Charles university, **Prague** (Czech Republic)

RN32 is consistently pursuing an agenda to both appeal to young scholars (the ambition is for the conference to not waive any fees); and reach to Central and Eastern Europe (one reason for selecting Prague), in an effort to attract researchers active in the region (yet again, we hope that the financial aspect will work in our favour).

The conference is envisaged to have four main interrelated teams: 1. Populism; 2. Feminist/sexualities projects and backlash; 3. (Transnational) social movements, austerity, and human rights; 4. Migration. We aim to select around 120-150 presentations, and organize a couple of panel debates on pressing issues. A formal request for funding on behalf of ESA would be shortly submitted.

Confidential to the RN Council Chair and ESA's RN Committee – not placed on the website:

Any comments and suggestions for future work, e.g. improving the collaboration of RN and ESA, policy recommendations or easier ways of organising the RN sessions at the next ESA Conference?

No.