



## RN32 Biennial Report 2017-2019

### 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 (2017-2019)

Chair: Ov Cristian NOROCEL, [cristian.norocel@helsinki.fi](mailto:cristian.norocel@helsinki.fi)

Vice-Chair: Pauline CULLEN, [pauline.cullen@mu.ie](mailto:pauline.cullen@mu.ie)

Vice-Chair: Alison WOODWARD, [Alison.Woodward@vub.ac.be](mailto:Alison.Woodward@vub.ac.be)

##### Board Members (2017-2019):

Maria Cristina MARCHETTI, [mc.marchetti@uniroma1.it](mailto:mc.marchetti@uniroma1.it)

Gabriella SZABÓ, [Szabo.Gabriella@tk.mta.hu](mailto:Szabo.Gabriella@tk.mta.hu)

Oscar MAZZOLENI, [Oscar.Mazzoleni@unil.ch](mailto:Oscar.Mazzoleni@unil.ch)

Alberta GIORGI, [alberta.giorgi@gmail.com](mailto:alberta.giorgi@gmail.com)

Paul BLOKKER, [paulus.blokker@fsv.cuni.cz](mailto:paulus.blokker@fsv.cuni.cz)

Alban VERSAILLES (PhD Students' Representative), [alban.versailles@uclouvain.be](mailto:alban.versailles@uclouvain.be)

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

##### **Coordinators (2019-2021)**

Chair: Pauline CULLEN, [pauline.cullen@mu.ie](mailto:pauline.cullen@mu.ie)

Vice-chair: Alberta GIORGI, [alberta.giorgi@gmail.com](mailto:alberta.giorgi@gmail.com)

##### **Board Members (2019-2021)**

Maria Cristina MARCHETTI, [mc.marchetti@uniroma1.it](mailto:mc.marchetti@uniroma1.it)

Gabriella SZABÓ, [Szabo.Gabriella@tk.mta.hu](mailto:Szabo.Gabriella@tk.mta.hu)

Oscar MAZZOLENI, [Oscar.Mazzoleni@unil.ch](mailto:Oscar.Mazzoleni@unil.ch)

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Håkan JOHANSSON, [hakan.johansson@soch.lu.se](mailto:hakan.johansson@soch.lu.se)

Monika DEFRANTZ, [monika.defrantz@eui.eu](mailto:monika.defrantz@eui.eu)

Philippa MULLINS (PhD Students' Representative), [P.S.Mullins@lse.ac.uk](mailto:P.S.Mullins@lse.ac.uk)

### 3. Activities:

Please describe all relevant activities of your RN in the past two-year term:

a. Did you organize a mid-term conference? If yes, please provide the title, venue, date, organizers, number of papers and participants and overall assessment of the event.

Yes. **Title 5<sup>th</sup> Mid-term conference:** Fragile Europe

**Venue:** Charles University, Institute of Sociological Studies (Prague, Czechia)

**Dates:** 2-3 November 2018

**Website:** <https://europeanpoliticalsociology.wordpress.com/>

**Organisers:** Institute of Sociological Studies/Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University Prague & Paul BLOKKER, Jean Monnet Chair in European Political Sociology

**Scientific Committee:** Paul BLOKKER (Charles University), Pauline CULLEN (Maynooth University), Alberta GIORGI (University of Bergamo), Virginie GUIRAUDON (Sciences Po), Cristina MARCHETTI (University of Roma Sapienza), Oscar MAZZOLENI (University of Lausanne), Ov Cristian NOROCEL (Université libre de Bruxelles), Carlo RUZZA (University of Trento), Gabriella SZABÓ (Hungarian Academy of Sciences/Centre for Social Sciences), Hans-Jörg TRENZ (University of Copenhagen), Alban VERSAILLES (Université catholique de Louvain).

**Local organizing Committee:** Paul BLOKKER (Charles University), Ondrej CISAR (Charles University), Dino NUMERATO (Charles University), Yuliya MOSKVINA (Charles University), Petra HONOVÁ (Charles University), Kristián ŠRÁM (Charles University).

**Number of papers and participants:** 88 papers + 101 participants (presenters)

**Overall assessment of the event:** The call of papers was organized around four main themes: a) Populism, Populist movements and parties; b) Feminist/sexualities projects and backlash; c) (Transnational) social movements, austerity, and human rights; d) Migration and attracted a high number of submissions (99) of which ca. 10 % was rejected.

The event was well-visited and in particular the two key note speeches:

- Professor Marta BUCHOLC (Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität, Germany)
- Professor Andrea PETŐ (Central European University, Hungary)

The keynotes were very well-received (podcasts are available on the conference website).

The event took place over two days with three parallel sessions of panels, and attracted a good number of local participants, in addition to the ca. 100 international participants. The event has been widely publicized on social media (Facebook; Twitter) and the local support team included a professional photographer, who contributed to a high-quality visual documentation of the event. The event organization was supported by a well-organized team of doctoral students and graduate students, who gained important experience by co-running the event. The event has shown the vibrance of the European community of political sociologists and has contributed to the further consolidation of RN32, as well as the recruitment of new members.

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

RN32 received a total of 89 abstracts submissions, a slight decrease from the previous ESA events, which may be explained by the uncertainties surrounding the Brexit process that was supposed to take place in 2019. Out of these, 68 abstracts were accepted. We chose to not enable distributed papers options, given the extremely high conference fees and additional costs, and little value that such an option would have yielded for the presenter of such paper. Consequently, after a few late withdrawals, we successfully organized 17 panels.

Additionally, RN32, together with RN11 and RN20 participated in the co-organizing ESA SP13, see more details in section **h.** below.

**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, RN32 maintains instead direct communication with its members and other interested scholars via its Facebook page, see section **g.** below.

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

RN32 is in the process of establishing its own website, but for the time being uses efficiently the space provided by the official ESA website and its Facebook page.

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

The [Palgrave Studies in European Political Sociology](#) series, which is 10 years old already, 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 behaviors 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.

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 g. 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 Facebook page [European Political Sociology](#) that reaches well beyond its membership base (as of November 2019: 1833 likes; 1902 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 RN32 registered members.

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

For **14th ESA Conference in Manchester** (20-23 August 2019), RN32 organized Semi-plenary (RN32 representative: Ov Cristian NOROCEL) together with RN20 (Qualitative Methods representative: Florian ELLIKER) and RN11 (Sociology of Emotions representative: Jonathan HEANEY). **SP13: What boundaries are (not) needed for: Conceptualizing boundaries beyond the metaphor**. Speakers: Ruth WODAK (Lancaster University, UK); Eljas ANDERSON (Yale University, USA). The semi-plenary was a success.

For the same conference, RN32 collaboration with RN34 Sociology of Religion in organizing a **joint panel** titled "Setting up barriers, and drawing up new borders between 'us' and 'other'". The panel collected initially enough abstracts, but participants did not register for attending 14<sup>th</sup> ESA conference, therefore the panel had to be cancelled, and registered abstracts were redistributed to other panels. RN32 intends to continue such collaborations with other RNs interested. In addition, RN32 collaborates closely with ECPR Standing Group Political Sociology.

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

Two board members, Ov Cristian NOROCEL and Gabriella SZABÓ have been quest editors of SI Populist Political Communication published in [Problems of Post-Communism 66\(1\)](#). The SI has been prepared during panel presentations part of the RN32 Mid-term conferences and biennial ESA conferences.

j. Any other important activities undertaken by your RN?

The acting co-chair Alberta GIORGI is organizing the workshop "Populism, Religion And Gender: Tensions And Entanglements" (4-5 December 2019 University of Bergamo)

<http://poregeworkshop.wordpress.com>

k. Any plans for further activities of your RN?

RN 32 is well at work for the forthcoming mid-term conference. If the previous conference was organized in Central Eastern Europe, we chose this time to organize the mid-term conference on Ireland

**Title 6<sup>th</sup> Mid-term conference:** Back to the Future? European Progressions and Retrogressions

**Dates:** 29-31 October 2020

**Conveners:** Political Sociology Research Network 32 of the European Sociological Association; Department of Sociology & Maynooth Social Science Institute, Maynooth University, Ireland.

Much attention has been paid to the rise of populist forces, challenges to democratic systems and practices and the undermining of established political, economic and social norms and institutions. These trends have often been framed as having 'retrogressive' effects on democracy, secularism and a wide range of formal and substantive rights. At the same time sociologists are observing emerging forms of resilience, resistance and reconfiguration in state and society. These 'progressions' are generating uneven, unpredictable and uncertain consequences for people and politics across Europe.

Political sociology is well placed to interrogate the continuities and discontinuities in ideas, interests and institutions historically constituted through empire, market and state. These historical developments are currently typically articulated through political projects that are ambivalent, supportive or contesting of permanent austerity, increasing securitization, immigration, and climate change. In this conference we seek to offer a space for colleagues to reflect on the role and function of Political Sociology in generating innovative analyses that can grasp the multiple and complex challenges posed by the interacting regressions and progressions in contemporary societies.

We seek research that includes:

- the politics (macro and micro) of social, economic and cultural change
- intersectional approaches to systems of economic, racial, colonial and gendered institutions and inequalities
- urbanization, gentrification and local political institutions and practices
- civil society and social mobilization, including the effects of contestation and collective action
- elites in political systems and civil society
- social policy and social policy making, with specific attention to the process of EU integration;
- political controversies around rights
- transformations and polarization of the public and the political sphere, digital politics and media, theoretical and empirical insights on populism, its roots and its effects;
- politicization of identity, identity politics, political representation, and the transformations of political parties' membership;
- the politics of knowledge and the public role of researchers in political sociology;
- political economic analyses of labor markets

RN32 Political Sociology Section of the European Sociological Association has a longstanding commitment to supporting research on social politics, political processes and institutional configurations attendant to European Integration and operating within, across and beyond European societies. Our members work from a diverse range of methodological and theoretical perspectives to examine political formations, social mobilizations and policy processes.

We are delighted to announce our:

- Key Note speaker Professor Johanna KANTOLA (Tampere University, Finland) <https://blogs.uta.fi/johannakantola/>
- and our Plenary speaker: Professor Ruth WODAK (Lancaster University, UK) <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/linguistics/about/people/ruth-wodak>

The interim conference offers a forum for scholars to interact, network and workshop with colleagues. We look forward to welcoming you to Maynooth University, National University of Ireland. <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/>