

POLITICS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



ECPR Standing Group Newsletter

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About the Standing Group

The Standing Group on the Politics of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation is a new ECPR (European Consortium for Political Research) Standing Group established in February 2016. We seek to bring together scholars whose work relates to the deeply interconnected fields of higher education, research, and innovation to encourage debates and research on the politics and policies in these areas. We aim to generate comparative insights on all aspects of scholarly research—methodologies, theories, data collection, processing and analysis—into the dynamics and complexities of knowledge policymaking around the world.

For more information about the SG and its activities visit our website at ecprknowledgepolitics.com.

Our newsletter is published three times annually, and includes summaries of recent events, upcoming events, announcements, calls for papers, a list of recent publications from SG members, and more!

Next issue: January 2017.



RECENT STANDING GROUP EVENTS

SG Panel at the 2016 International Political Science Association (IPSA) Conference, Poznan, Poland:

“Knowledge Policies and State Inequality, Instruments for or Against?”

Members of the Standing Group organised a panel at the 2016 IPSA conference in Poznan, Poland (July 23-28 2016). The panel examined how policy actors instrumentalise knowledge policies to increase and decrease the state of inequality between citizens, between nations, and between the world’s geographical regions. As a point of departure, the panel assumed that policymaking is a complex process, involving multiple actors across governance levels with diverse interests and preferences, and that instrument choice thus reflects the policy actors’ ambitions, compromises made, and the intended effects of implementation.

For a full summary of the panel, see the [Europe of Knowledge Blog](#) entry by Jens Jungblut.



Jens Jungblut, at IPSA. Photo credit: Deanna Rexe



Martina Vukasovic at IPSA. Photo credit: Deanna Rexe

SG Section at the 2016 European Consortium of Political Research (ECPR) Conference, Prague: "Knowledge Politics and Policies"

The 2016 edition of the General Conference of ECPR (European Consortium for Political Research) took place in Prague, 7-10 September 2016. Approximately 2000 participants presented their most recent work in political science, policy analysis, public administration and related areas of inquiry in almost 70 different sections. The newly formed ECPR Standing Group on Politics of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, for the fifth time in a row organised a section dedicated to knowledge politics and policies. The section consisted of eight thematic panels comprising 3-5 papers each, spread over the three conference days. Key themes of the section included: global governance of knowledge policies; the marketisation of knowledge policies; the role of students as political actors in the knowledge policy sphere; the role of transnational as well as national actors in the knowledge policy arena, and methodological challenges to the study of knowledge politics and policies.

The SG also held its first annual meeting during the conference. The latter was an excellent opportunity to take stock of the development of this research community (currently comprising more than 200 members) as well as publication outlets and plans for the future, including the next year's ECPR [General Conference in Oslo](#), 6-9 September 2017.

For a full summary of the section see the [Europe of Knowledge Blog](#) entry by Martina Vukasovic.



SG meeting at ECPR,. Photo credit: Mari Elken



SG section at ECPR. Photo credit: Mari Elken



Mitchell Young at ECPR. Photo credit: Meng-Hsuan Chou

The Europe of Knowledge Blog at a Glance



The [Europe of Knowledge Blog](#) is the official blog of the ECPR Politics of Higher Education, Research and Innovation Standing Group. The aim of this blog is to communicate our research findings to the wider international, academic and policy communities. The blog publishes up to 1000 word posts (with links, references and photos) on recent publications, events and policy in the fields of higher education, research and innovation in Europe and beyond. It is a great way to communicate your research to a broader audience of academics and policy-makers.

Please consider contributing to the blog. If you have any ideas for contributing entries, contact **Inga Ulnicane** ingaulnicane@gmail.com

Recent entries:

The politics of higher education tuition fees and subsidies, Oct.12 2016

[Link to Entry](#)

Julian L. Garritzmann

Students in Finland and Germany study free of charge. In the U.S. and in Japan, in contrast, they pay tremendous tuition fees, leading to often six-digit student debt amounts after graduation. At the same time, most students in Finland and in the U.S. receive public financial student aid, while the majority of students in Germany and Japan remain dependent on their parents' financial

Bratislava Declaration of Young Researchers

Published on 3 October 2016 by Europe of Knowledge | No Comments

Sarah Glück and Charoula Tzanakou[i] "Researchers love what they do. It is not entirely clear to us that the systems in which we work love us." (Bratislava Declaration of Young Researchers) How can we attract young students to a career in science and how can we retain them? Those were the leading questions [...]

[Link to entry](#)

Towards a transnational politics of higher education

Published on 1 July 2016 by Europe of Knowledge | Comments Off

Meng-Hsuan Chou, Isaac Kamola & Tamson Pietsch Across the world, higher education is rapidly changing. Universities are increasingly seen as key engines of a 'knowledge economy', producing the innovation and the workers crucial to new industries. Driven by rankings that claim to measure 'world-class' status, and by the incentives and liberalised regulations of national governments, [...]

[Link to entry](#)

Quantifying Interdisciplinarity in the Face of Uncertainty

Published on 10 June 2016 by Europe of Knowledge | Comments Off

María del Carmen Calatrava Interdisciplinarity has become a major topic in discussions of higher education structures, knowledge production and research funding. The demand for criteria and tools for its evaluation is subsequently increasing. Interdisciplinary research can be evaluated according to its many different aspects—including collaboration, integration of disciplines, generation of new areas of research or [...]

[Link to entry](#)

Upcoming SG Events and Announcements

ECPR 2017 Oslo, SG Section on Knowledge Politics and Policies

Call for Panels

Our SG is currently planning the 6th Knowledge Politics and Policies Section at the 2017 ECPR General Conference in OSLO. If you are interested in creating a panel or roundtable, contact the section chairs, **Mitchell Young and Martina Vukasovic**, **before October 31st**, with the title and 3 sentence (70-100 word) abstract.

young.mitchell@gmail.com

martina.Vukasovic@ugent.be

Section Abstract:

Knowledge policies are at the forefront of contemporary global politics. Indeed, knowledge is to be the foundation on which societies coalesce and economies thrive; the competition for knowledge drives the global race for talent. This section builds on the previous five sections on the Europe of Knowledge and invites contributions from around the world to consider these overarching questions: What key themes should we address when we talk about the global governance of knowledge policies? How and why are these themes crucial for our understanding of public policymaking in knowledge domains? Specifically, we are interested in theoretical, empirical and comparative contributions that investigate the role of the 'four I's' – ideas, interests, instruments and institutions – in the global, multi-level and multi-actor governance of knowledge policies. By 'role', we refer to the effects that ideas, actors (individual, organisational), policy instruments and institutions have had on the governance of knowledge policies, and vice-versa. Our focus on 'roles' is to enable a multidisciplinary discussion on whether these factors share defining characteristics across different knowledge policy domains (i.e. research, higher education, and science), and between distinct governance levels and geographical regions. This section continues to welcome all scholars, theoretical and methodological approaches to critically discuss the reconfiguration of knowledge systems.

SG Excellent Paper from an Emerging Scholar Award

The ECPR Standing Group on the Politics of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation announces the call for an *Excellent Paper from an Emerging Scholar Award*, for papers presented at the SG's section during the ECPR conference in Prague. The winner will receive a cash prize of €100.00 and an invitation or nomination to publish from the judges.

Eligibility:

- (1) Currently enrolled in a PhD Programme or has obtained PhD after August 2014;
- (2) The Sole or Lead Author in the paper to be presented;
- (3) The paper was presented at the 2016 ECPR SG section in Prague.

To submit please send :

- (1) The paper (8,000 words or less, excluding references);
- (2) A CV (two pages including details of institutional affiliation);
- (3) A statement of support by PhD supervisor, committee member or panel chair/discussant to:

Meng-Hsuan Chou: Hsuan.Chou@cantab.net, **before November 15, 2016**

Other Events and Announcements

Conference Announcement- Open Evaluation 2016, November 24-25 2016, Techgate Vienna

<https://conference.zsi.at/index.php/OPENEVAL/OPENEVAL2016>

Call for Papers- ECPR Joint Sessions 2017, University of Nottingham

<http://ecpr.eu/Events/EventDetails.aspx?EventID=104>

Call for paper deadline: December 1 2016

Call for Panels and Papers - Third International Conference on Public Policy (ICPP), June 28-30 2017, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Singapore

Call for panels deadline- October 15, 2016

Call for papers deadline- January 16, 2017

<http://www.ippapublicpolicy.org/conference/icpp-3-singapore-2017/7>

Call for Papers- EU-SPRI Forum on "The future of STI- the future of STI policy", June 7-9 2017, Austrian Institute of Technology (STI)

Call for sessions- opening October 2016

Call for papers- opening December 2016

<http://euspri-vienna2017.org/conference-announcement/ECPR 2017 Section>

Job Announcement- Doctoral Researcher, The GOVPET research group at the Department of Political Science, University of St. Gallen

<http://direktlink.prospective.ch/?view=9237525a-8279-4c39-95fe-7669aa0fbe97>

Recent Publications

Our SG members publish regularly on issues related to the politics of higher education, research and innovation. Some recent publications include:

Amanatidou E., M., Nierminen, S., Daimer and M., Hufnagl (eds) (2016), Special Issue on [Challenge-Oriented Research and Innovation: Concepts, Practices and Policies](#), *International Journal of Foresight and Innovation Policy* 11(1-3): 1-166.

Biegelbauer P. (2016) "How different forms of policy learning influence each other: case studies from Austrian innovation policy-making", *Policy Studies*, 37(2): 129-146.

Capano G., M., Regini and M., Turri (2016) *Changing Governance in Universities; Italian higher education in comparative perspective*, Palgrave-MacMillan.

Chou, M-H., and P., Ravinet (2016) '[The emergent terrains of "higher education regionalism": How and why higher education is an interesting case for comparative regionalism](#)', *European Journal of Higher Education* 6(3): 271-287

Chou, M-H., (2016) '[Mapping the terrains of the Europe of Knowledge: an analytical framework of ideas, institutions, instruments, and interests](#)', editorial introduction for a special issue on 'The terrains of the Europe of Knowledge', *European Journal of Higher Education* 6(3): 197-216

Chou, M-H, Kamola, I., and T., Pietsch (2016, eds.) [The Transnational Politics of Higher Education: Contesting the global / transforming the local](#), Abingdon: Routledge

Chou, M-H., (2016) '[Administrators and free movement of researchers in Europe](#)' in *The Transnational Politics of Higher Education* (Meng-Hsuan Chou, Isaac Kamola and Tamson Pietsch, Eds.), Abingdon: Routledge, pp. 156-177

Garrizmann, J L., (2016) [The Political Economy of Higher Education Finance](#). The Politics of Tuition Fees and Subsidies in OECD Countries, 1945-2015. Palgrave Macmillan.

Garrizmann, J L and K., Seng (2016) "[Party politics and education spending. Challenging some common wisdom](#)", *Journal of European Public Policy*, 23(4): 510-530.

Hoelscher M., (2016) *Spielarten des akademischen Kapitalismus. Hochschulsysteme im internationalen Vergleich*. Wiesbaden: Springer VS.

(in English: "Varieties of Academic Capitalism. Higher Education Systems in International Comparison." The study analyses differences in national higher education systems from a "Varieties of Capitalism (VoC)"-perspective.)

Ulicane, I. (2016) "[Grand Challenges' concept: A Return of the 'Big Ideas' in Science, technology and Innovation Policy?](#)". *International Journal of Foresight and Innovation Policy* 11(1-3): 5-21. doi: 10.1504/IJFIP.2016.078378

Ulicane, I. (2016) "[Research and Innovation as Sources of Renewed Growth? EU Policy Responses to the Crisis](#)", *Journal of European Integration*, 38(3), 327-341. doi: 10.1080/07036337.2016.1140155

Ulicane, I. (2016) Research Paper on the European Research Area Initiative and Free Circulation of Knowledge. In C. Salm & T. Zandstra (Eds.), [European Research Area. Cost of Non-Europe Report](#) (pp. 19-50). Brussels: European Parliament. doi: 10.2861/895783

Sørensen, M.P., Bloch, C. and Young, M. (2016) "[Excellence in the knowledge-based economy: from scientific to research excellence](#)", *European Journal of Higher Education*, 6(3): 217-236.

Young, M., Sørensen, M.P., Bloch, C. and Degn, L. (2016) "[Systemic rejection: political pressures seen from the science system](#)", *Higher Education* (Published online).