

POLITICS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



ECPR Standing Group Newsletter

Contents

Letter from ECPR section convenors.....	1
CFP: The SG Section at ECPR 2018.....	2
Europe of Knowledge Blog.....	4
CFPs /announcements.....	5
Recent Publications.....	8
About the SG.....	9

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Letter from SG Section Convenors

In 2018, we look forward to many innovative and fascinating publications, research projects and events that will further advance our understanding of the politics of higher education, research and innovation. We invite the Standing Group members to widely share their new research results and ideas on our Standing Group blog '[Europe of Knowledge](#)', our Twitter account [@ECPRKnowledge](#), our [Facebook page ERA CRN](#) and our newsletter. Many of you have already been active in using these communication channels in previous years and we warmly encourage you to keep doing that. We also very much look forward for other members to join in.

On our blog Europe of Knowledge we publish posts from our members and friends on their new publications, conferences and projects. This is a great opportunity to disseminate your research not only among our 200 members but also broader audience of academics, policy-makers and stakeholders. Our blog is based on [Ideas on Europe](#) blog platform that enables us to be part of discussions on current affairs in Europe and beyond. Posts are typically up to 1000 words long, including references, links and images. They are widely shared on social media of our Standing Group as well as Ideas of Europe platform. Posts are published according to Creative Commons licence which allows to repost them providing reference and link to initial posts. If you have interesting ideas for blog posts or news for sharing on Twitter, please send to: ingaulnicane@gmail.com

Best wishes for 2018! Inga Ulnicane on behalf of SG Convenors

Call for Papers- “Politics of Higher Education, Research and Innovation” Section at ECPR 2018, Hamburg

The ECPR General Conference will be held on 22-25 August, 2018 in Hamburg, Germany. This year, our SG has a total of 7 panels planned, covering a broad spectrum of topics and fields.

To submit a paper in one of these panels, please contact the panel chair(s) directly (details below) to discuss your ideas and submit a 300 word abstract before **Thursday, January 25, 2018.**

For full details on the section and various panels please visit:

<http://ecprknowledgepolitics.com/announcements/>

Panel Summaries:

1. Institutions in the knowledge policy domain - Novel approaches, chaired by Jens Jungblut (Stanford University, jungblut@stanford.edu)

This Panel focuses on applying neo-institutional theories to the policy domain of higher education, research and innovation. It seeks Papers pursuing new developments in neo-institutional theory, i.e. going beyond path-dependence and isomorphism, such as studying institutional logics, focusing on actors and institutional work, or historical institutionalist accounts of longitudinal changes.

2. Differentiated integration in higher education and research, co-chaired by Mari Elken (NIFU, mari.elken@nifu.no) and Martina Vukasovic (Ghent University, martina.vukasovic@ugent.be)

The Panel will focus on differentiated integration in higher education and research, both with regards to European level policy formation and national and institutional level policy implementation. The Panel will explicitly tackle the multi-issue and multi-level aspects of knowledge governance in the European context. It will provide an opportunity to reflect on whether and to what extent there is a crisis in European integration in the knowledge policy domain and what are the implications of Brexit for this.

3. Global Bolognaization: Central Asian encounters with the European Higher Education Area

co-chaired by Emma Sabzalieva (University of Toronto, emma.sabzalieva@mail.utoronto.ca) and Aliya Akataeva (Satbayev University, akatayeva@mail.ru)

If the Bologna Process is to be a new global norm for higher education, it becomes critical to understand both: one, how this norm is spreading outside its original European Union home, and two, what impact the Bologna Process-inspired reforms have had in these global spaces. This Panel will focus on Central Asia, an area under-investigated in academic studies and one that falls on the periphery of the European Higher Education Area but within the Bologna Process.

4. Global knowledge governance

co-chaired by Meng-Hsuan Chou (Nanyang Technological University, Hsuan@ntu.edu.sg), Tero Erkkilä (University of Helsinki, tero.erkkila@helsinki.fi) and Niilo Kauppi (University of Jyväskylä, niilo.t.j.kauppi@ju.fi)

States' information resources and education policies have long belonged to the realm of national politics and governance. However, as current research highlights, knowledge governance is increasingly becoming global. The Panel tackles the shifts in global knowledge governance from the perspectives such as its ideas, actors, and underlying rationalities, but also considering its institutional outcomes and alternatives. We welcome Papers that explore global and transnational transformations of knowledge governance, higher education and political economy of knowledge.

5. Organizing the distribution of funding for research and innovation

co-chaired by Sarah Glück (Zeppelin University, Sarah.Glueck@zu.de) and Thomas König (Institute for Advanced Studies, koenig@ihs.ac.at)

Research funding is one of the major intersections where science meets politics. Behind a plethora of recent policies and goals lie, often unacknowledged, huge organisational challenges: How to deal with dual legitimacy issues such as fairness and efficiency in the decision-making process? What is the influence of actors such as legislatures, scientific organisations, and audit courts? Building on last year's Panel, on research executive agencies, we invite contributions from scholars with an organization perspective that focus on research funding agencies at both national and European level.

6. Bringing the politics of international large-scale research into play

co-chaired by Nicolas Rüffin (WZB, nicolas.rueffin@wzb.eu) and Olof Hallonsten (Lund University, nicolas.rueffin@wzb.eu)

Large-scale research collaborations are necessary both to advance science and to tackle global challenges in the 21st century. International (big science) research organisations and infrastructures are inherently political. They require massive amounts of long-term funding, international political commitment, and interdisciplinary communication. However, political scientists have so far paid little attention to these types of international scientific collaboration.

7. Beyond technocracy: Politics and policies of knowledge and innovation in times of populism, chaired by Inga Ulricane (University of Vienna, ingaulnicane@gmail.com)

What new challenges does the rise of populism present to policies of knowledge, technology and innovation? What role does scientific expertise play in the age of alternative facts? What impact does the political focus on strengthening national borders have on this field, which traditionally has been seen as technocratic and has for centuries benefited from the global flow of knowledge, technologies and people? This Panel invites theoretical and empirical contributions exploring and making sense of changes in knowledge and innovation policies in times of populism. For more information on this panel, see [here](#)



SG Section, ECPR
Prague 2016



SG Section, ECPR
Prague 2016



SG Section, ECPR,
Oslo 2017

The Europe of Knowledge Blog at a Glance



Recent Posts



Inconsistencies in the Governance of Interdisciplinarity: Lessons from the Italian Higher Education System

Europe of Knowledge

[Link to entry](#)

Discussing indicators in research funding: What role do altmetrics play?

Published on 15 December 2017 by Europe of Knowledge | No Comments

Grischa Fraumann At any rate, altmetrics, or alternative metrics, are gaining momentum in higher education (Holmberg, 2016). This post is based on my master's thesis (Fraumann, 2017) that explores the usage of altmetrics with a focus on research funding. Altmetrics track down and count the mentions of scholarly outputs in social media, news sites, policy [...]



[Link to entry](#)

Public research funding streams and the perspective of system actors

Published on 4 December 2017 by Europe of Knowledge | No Comments

Olivier Bégin-Cauouette In the Europe of Knowledge, there are strong pressures on national governments to increase funding for research; one of Europe 2020's headline indicators is to increase combined public and private investment in R&D to the equivalent of 3% of the GDP (see graph below). Beyond the amount of resources invested, it appears critical [...]



[Link to Entry](#)

Universities and the production of elites

Published on 10 November 2017 by Europe of Knowledge | Comments Off

Roland Bloch and Alexander Mitterle Universities have become central crossing points in modern society. They coproduce the narratives of our time, ranging from politics over neurogenetics to climate change. Universities educate students for diverse roles in society: nurses, musicians, lawyers, physicists, managers, neuroscientists, and philosophers have all been credentialized by higher education systems. In recent [...]



[Link to entry](#)

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](mailto:Inga.Ulnicane@ecpr.eu) ingaulnicane@gmail.com

CFPs and Announcements

Call for Papers- **Politics of Higher Education, Research and Innovation Section at ECPR 2018 General Conference**, Politics of Higher Education, Research and Innovation Section, **Deadline Extension- January 25 2018.**

<http://ecprknowledgepolitics.com/announcements/>

Call for workshop proposals – **ECPR 2019 Joint Sessions of Workshops**, 8-12 April 2019, Mons, Belgium. Deadline for workshop proposals – **1 February 2018.**

<https://ecpr.eu/Events/EventDetails.aspx?EventID=121>

ECPR **Teaching and Learning summer school**, 15-23 July 2018, Bratislava, Slovakia. Application deadline – **16 February 2018.**

<http://teaching.eurea.sk/summer-school/>

Call for Open Panels – **4S Society for Social Studies of Science**, 29 August – 1 September 2018, Sydney, Australia. Deadline for papers and panels proposals – **1 February 2018.**

<https://4s2018sydney.org/call-for-papers-open-panels/>

Call for panels and workshops - **EASST 2018** European Association for the Study of Science and Technology, 25-28 July 2018, Lancaster, UK. Deadline for paper proposals – **14 February 2018.**

<https://easst2018.easst.net/call-for-papers>

Comparative and International Education Society (CIES), Re-Mapping Global Education: North-South Dialogue - <https://cies2018.org/>: For those visiting Mexico City for the annual conference March 25-29, 2018, please contact Beverly Barrett - beverly.barrett@jhu.edu - to get together with ECPR Standing Group members.

Call for Special Issue on “Social Stratification and Inequality in Access to Higher Education” in *Social Sciences*, guest edited by Prof Vikki Boliver (Durham University, UK) and Prof Simon Marginson (UCL Institute of Education, UK).

http://www.mdpi.com/journal/socsci/special_issues/stratification_and_inequality_in_higher_education

Aarhus University's Marie Curie Fellowships:

Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS) offers up to 15 AIAS-COFUND fellowships available for application by the most talented researchers from around the world. The fellowship scheme is funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement no 754513 and by Aarhus University Research Foundation. There are two types of AIAS-COFUND II Fellowships:

- - AIAS-COFUND Junior Fellowships for postdoctoral researchers with a career of 2-10 years. Duration from 12- 36 months.
- - AIAS-COFUND Senior Fellowships for researchers with a career of +10 years. Duration from 6-18 months.

Further information is at <http://aias.au.dk/aias-fellowships/aias-cofund-fellowships/>

Recent Publications

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

Cerna, L and M-H Chou (2017) 'Strategies and policy effects in the global talent race: foreign academics in Singapore', COMPAS Working Paper WP-17-133, Oxford: COMPAS, pp. 1-28

Degn, Lise; Franssen, Thomas; Sørensen, Mads P.; de Rijcke, Sarah (2017) "Research groups as communities of practice—a case study of four high-performing research groups, *Higher Education*, <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10734-017-0205-2>

Dorota Dakowska, 'Competitive Universities? The Impact of International and European Trends on Academic Institutions in the 'New Europe'', *European Educational Research Journal*, vol. 16, n°5, p. September 2017, p. 588-604.

Dorota Dakowska, 'What(ever) works. Les organisations internationales et les usages de « bonnes pratiques » dans le domaine de l'enseignement supérieur', *Critique internationale*, n°77 October-December 2017, p. 81-102.

Dorota Dakowska, 'Higher Education in Poland: Budgetary Constraints and International Aspirations', in: Jon Nixon (Ed.), *Higher Education in Austerity Europe*, Bloomsbury, 2017, p. 79-91.

Farnham Andrea et al, (November 2017), Early career researchers want Open Science <https://genomebiology.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13059-017-1351-7>

Ortiga, YY, Chou, M-H, Sondhi, G and J Wang (2018) 'Working Within the Aspiring Center: Professional Status and Mobilities Among Migrant Faculty in Singapore', *Higher Education Policy* (OnlineFirst)

Ortiga, YY, Chou, M-H, Sondhi, G and J Wang (2017) 'Academic "Centres," Epistemic Differences and Brain Circulation', *International Migration* (OnlineFirst)

Pietsch, T and M-H Chou (2018) 'The Politics of Scholarly Exchange: Taking the Long View on the Rhodes Scholarships', in L Tournès and G Scott-Smith (Eds.) *Global Exchanges: Scholarships and Transnational Circulations in the Modern World*, Oxford: Berghahn Books, pp. 33-49

Que Anh Dang (2017), An anatomy of authority: the Bologna and ASEM education secretariats as policy actors and region builders, *Globalisation Societies and Education*, <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14767724.2017.1402297>.

About the SG

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: June 2018**

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.