



NoPSA Congress in Bergen, 25-28 June 2024

Call for papers

Dear colleagues,

The call for papers for the NoPSA conference in Bergen is now open. **The deadline for submitting paper proposals is on 15 December 2023.** We kindly ask you to send your abstract and title to the chairs of the workshop. Information about all the workshops can be found below, together with e-mail addresses to the workshop chairs.

You apply to a workshop by **sending an email directly to the chairs of the workshop** by 15 December containing:

- a) the paper title,
- b) abstract (150-200 words) and,
- c) the name(s) of the author(s), institutional affiliation and email address.

The chairs will have the responsibility of accepting or rejecting the submissions they receive.

Participants are urged to attend every session of their workshop. Only exceptionally, and with the permission of the workshop leaders, may participants split time between different groups. However, this does not apply to participants of the Special workshop for early career scholars (Tuesday 25 June), who can participate in this and another workshop.

The NoPSA board may combine thematically related workshops whose number of participants is small. Workshops with 7 or fewer participants will normally not be allowed. An appropriate number of papers in each workshop would be on average 13-15, which gives an average of 45-60 minutes per paper.

Conference fee:

Early bird fee until 29 February 2024:	4,800 NOK
Late fee until 1 June 2024:	5,300 NOK
Fee for doctoral students until 1 June 2024:	4,800 NOK

The fee includes the conference dinner and lunches at Radisson BLU Royal Hotel.

Registration for the conference will open before the end of December. See the website www.nopsa2024.no for the preliminary program and more information.

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1. Special Workshop for Early Career Scholars

Chairs:

Postdoctoral Fellow Aino Tiihonen, Tampere University, aino.tiihonen@tuni.fi

Doctoral Researcher Maarika Kujanen, Tampere University, maarika.kujanen@tuni.fi

For the very first time at the NoPSA 2024 Conference in Bergen the Nordic Political Science Association is hosting a special workshop for early career scholars (including doctoral researchers, postdocs, and master's students of all ages). This workshop provides you a unique chance to discuss your work with other early career scholars from other Nordic countries in a relaxed atmosphere and to receive comments from senior discussants!

Note! Participation in the Early Scholars' workshop on **Tuesday 25 June** does not prevent you from presenting the same or another paper in the regular workshops at the NoPSA 2024 conference. We highly recommend you consider other workshops as well – you can hit two birds with one stone when travelling to Bergen!

The workshop will be organized by the founding members of the *Finnish Early Scholars' Network*.

The Early Scholars Network (ESN) is the Finnish Political Science Association's platform that connects emerging political scientists from across Finland. We welcome doctoral students/researchers, other early career scholars such as postdocs, and anyone looking to become a researcher in the field of political science. The platform offers opportunities for networking and presenting your work in relaxed workshops. We also organize informal coffee sessions during which we share information regarding topical issues such as publishing, applying for grants, and academic work.

Language: We welcome papers related to all aspects of political science in English, Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish. The workshop's language can vary from English to Scandinavian. If we get enough proposals, we can divide the workshop into two contemporaneous sessions based on the presentation language. Additionally, we will also invite senior discussants, who are fluent in both languages (English / Scandinavian). You can indicate in your paper proposal the language you would prefer your presentation to be held.

2. Generational Politics: Participation, Representation, and Policy

Chairs:

Postdoctoral Researcher Jana Belschner, Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen,

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Postdoctoral Researcher Josefina Sipinen, Department of Politics, Tampere University,

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Do aging societies fail to represent the interests of young generations? Political issues like climate change, abortion rights, and restrictions on education during the pandemic (will) disproportionately affect today's young generations. At the same time, demographic aging, a growing age gap in voting participation, and the underrepresentation of young people in parliaments and governments may lead to a shift of political power toward middle-aged and older generations.

Against this background, this workshop aims to bring together theories and empirical investigations of generational cleavages in political participation and representation. We invite contributions from across the social sciences that engage with generational and life-cycle-related differences in people's political participation, their presence in political institutions, or the substantive representation of different generations' priorities and interests. Topics covered in the workshop include, and are not limited to,

- Theories of generational justice and political demography
- Youth and senior citizens' formal and informal political participation
- Generational cleavages in political preferences
- Life-cycle-related interest groups (senior citizens and youth groups)
- The role of political parties in engaging with young and senior citizens
- Young and old politicians
- Generational policy congruence and responsiveness
- Investigations of these topics both in aging and "younging" societies

Language: English

3. Modes and mechanisms of authoritarian resilience

Chairs:

Professor Bo Petersson, Malmö University, bo.petersson@mau.se

Professor Geir Flikke, University of Oslo, geir.flikke@ilos.uio.no

Authoritarian states often face growing discontent and opposition to their ruling regimes, accompanied by protests, rallies and mass unrest, as well as power struggles between contending elites. Once this occurs, authoritarian regimes are forced to adapt and develop responses to new circumstances and practice resurgent authoritarianism, which may take the form of several scenarios:

- The regime complements and improves the practice of political manipulation in favor of the ruling regime, including various legitimation efforts, inter alia, the development of informational autocracy, the launch of propaganda and disinformation campaigns, and cooptation of elites.
- The regime practices authoritarian learning, drawing lessons from other authoritarian regimes' successes and failures, past or present, in dealing with mounting societal discontent.
- The regime tries to achieve a rally-round-the flag effect through securitization of alleged threats, internal, external, or both.
- The authorities "throw off the mask" of superficial democracy and move on to outright coercion, entailing significant costs in the form of, for example, massive internal repression and aggressive military campaigns that undermine the feedback mechanism between the ruling regime and society.
- A radically different outcome is that democratization and liberalization take place, leading to increased participation of political parties and citizens in electoral processes. This outcome would change the nature of the authoritarian regime and would entail transformation rather than adaptation or resilience.

This workshop explores the relationship between authoritarian resilience and adaptation in the face of domestic challenges. It will have a particular focus on political developments in Russia, present or past, but will also welcome contributions about other authoritarian states. Single case studies as well as comparative analyses, the latter preferably involving Russia, are welcome. Theoretical perspectives that could be relevant are e.g. legitimacy and legitimation, political myth, strategic narratives, informational autocracy, propaganda analysis, diffusion and political learning, electoral authoritarianism, leadership studies, memory politics, et cetera. Participants will be invited to explore patterns of adaptation and resilience within the following areas of study:

- Public administration and legislation
- Judiciary and implementation of law
- Civil society, media and education
- Electoral mechanisms
- Coercive policies and violence
- International affairs

The workshop will ideally be composed of both early-career and senior scholars.

Language: English

4. Political Regimes: Causes and Consequences

Chairs:

Postdoctoral Fellow Vilde Lunnan Djuve, Department of Political Science, University of Oslo,

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Assistant Professor Lasse Egendal Leipziger, Department of Political Science, Aarhus University,

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Autocratic Russia's recent invasion of democratic Ukraine reemphasized the stark relevance and interest of studying political regimes. Putin's personalistic dictatorship – characterized by a narrow, nepotistic coalition of “yes men” – has been tied to Russia's expansionist drive, and the regime's durability has been linked to the country's oil wealth. In contrast, Ukraine's democratic form of government has been tied to its ability to defend itself, and the West's willingness to aid Ukraine has been linked to the Ukrainian government's popular legitimacy. Similarly, ongoing debates on whether democracy is in crisis and the rise in “illiberal populism” have considered the role of rising inequality, cultural divides, and international dynamics in driving the trend.

What are the crucial differences between different regime types? Why do countries transition to democracy? Why are some democracies more robust than others? And what consequences does a country's political regime type have, when it comes to economic growth, inequality, welfare, success on the battlefield, or climate change?

For this workshop, we invite contributions from scholars who are interested in tackling a variety of questions related to the causes and consequences of regime types. The workshop is intended to be methodologically pluralistic and we hope to receive papers that adopt different empirical approaches, including historical case studies and quantitative analysis. Methodologically focused papers that consider issues related to the study of political regimes are also very welcome.

Language: We welcome participants from all language backgrounds and will hold the workshop in English if non-Nordic speakers wish to attend

5. Governance, policies, and citizen perceptions of crises

Chairs:

Professor Anne Lise Fimreite, Department of Government, University of Bergen,

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Postdoctoral Fellow Martin S Time, Department of Government, University of Bergen,

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Researcher Björn Rönnerstrand, SOM Institute, University of Gothenburg,

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Handling crises is a serious challenge for most governments and societies today. Crises have different sources and different progresses, from fast-burning crises as Covid-19, terror attacks, wars and natural disasters to more slow-burning, creeping crises as climate change and antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Fast-burning as well as slow-burning crises are often characterized by complexity, uncertainty and ambiguity - not at least in terms of political authority and responsibility.

Handling crises can be understood as governance problems related to questions of coordination between policy sectors, levels of administration and across countries, as collective action problems and as individual behavioral problems. System capacity as well as system legitimacy are important in handling crises. The ability of societies to effectively govern in crises depend thus upon how the crisis/critical situation is perceived and dealt with by citizens, politicians, sector actors and bureaucrats. We invite contributions on the governance of crises with different theoretical perspectives as well as different kinds of data and methodology. We also invite researchers working on different crises and critical situations, for example AMR, climate change, Covid-19, the energy crisis and the Ukrainian war.

Language: Scandinavian and English

6. The politics of fiscal capacity: Domestic and international challenges to effective taxation

Chairs:

Professor Lise Rakner, Department of Government, University of Bergen, lise.rakner@uib.no

Professor Anne Mette Kjær, Department of Political Science University of Aarhus, mkjaer@ps.au.dk

Professor Anna Persson, Gothenburg University, Department of Political Science

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The question of how to tax – i.e. how to generate income for the generation of public goods and welfare – is one of the main subjects of both domestic and international policy debates. The mobilization and effective use of domestic resources is central to the pursuit of sustainable development, and improvement of domestic capacity for revenue collection is key to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals SDG (17.1) After the multiple crises of Covid 19 and the war in Ukraine, it has become an increasing concern whether domestic revenues are sufficient to repay debts. At the same time, in an increasingly more interconnected world, where non-state actors play key financial roles alongside states, a number of factors challenge revenue generation. Fiscal manipulation of cross-border transactions is a central cause of the ‘finance gap’ which undermines the funding of the UN 2030 SDGs. Is a global tax for financing global public goods possible? How can we tax the richest 1 per cent to ensure a better distribution of income? Under what conditions can we envisage the development of a tax-accountability linkage? How does taxation play into broader patterns of state capacity and development in the contemporary world? With an increased donor-focus on increased domestic taxation in partner countries, are there limits to the number of new taxes partner countries can undertake? What is the role of trust and norms in tax compliance?

These are some of the questions the proposed NOPSA panel invites paper contributions to address. The panel encourages work on various levels of fiscal policies globally and encourage contributions both focusing on domestic revenue generation and challenges to global tax enablers. Graduate and post graduate students in political science and global studies from three Scandinavian universities will be invited to the workshop where they will discuss these important issues with scholars with significant research competencies in the interconnections between global and domestic challenges to fiscal policies in the developing world. In addition, the proposed workshop will build on the panel chairs’ research network in the United Kingdom, Canada, Africa, and the US to create an international hub of scholars of key experts in the field of revenue generation and fiscal policies.

Language: English

7. The politics of bureaucracy: New perspectives on politics and administration

Chairs:

Professor Tobias Bach, University of Oslo, tobias.bach@stv.uio.no

Researcher II Stine Hesstvedt, Institute of Social Research, Oslo,
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Senior Lecturer Mikael Holmgren, Örebro Universitet, mikael.holmgren@oru.se

Politicization of the bureaucracy is an umbrella term for different strategies to increase political control over the bureaucracy, including political appointments, using ministerial advisers to influence administrative decisions, and redefining the boundaries between legitimate political decisions and bureaucratic autonomy. As a result of years of New Public Management reforms and the increased use of experts and consultants in policymaking, the need to control administrators has grown, and in many countries the degree of politicization has increased accordingly. As meritocratic administrative systems, the relationship between politicians and bureaucrats in Scandinavia has traditionally been viewed as relatively apolitical compared to other countries.

In this panel, we will investigate what the link between politics and administration actually looks like in Scandinavia, how it compares to other meritocratic as well as politicized contexts, and how it should be studied in the future. The panel invites contributions on the politico-administrative relationship in Scandinavia and beyond, and new and innovative theoretical and methodological perspectives are particularly welcome. Topics of interest include the political appointments to bureaucratic positions, functional or administrative politicization, the political dynamics of inquiry and expertise use, accountability and transparency, and democratic theory perspectives. The panel invites contributions covering central, regional, or local levels of government. We seek both theoretical and empirical contributions and welcome scholars working with a variety of methodological approaches.

Language: English

8. Misconduct and Accountability Mechanisms in Public and Political Organisations and Processes

Chairs:

Senior Lecturer Birgitta Niklasson, Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg, birgitta.niklasson@pol.gu.se

Professor Thomas Olesen, Department of Political Science, Aarhus University, THO@ps.au.dk

Heidi Haugland Walker, Master of Public Administration, heidi.walker@hotmail.com

Misconduct occurs in all larger organisations. The question is how the organisations and their members deal with it, e.g. what accountability mechanisms are in place. The focus of this workshop is on these mechanisms, particularly on whistleblowing, since whistleblowing has been identified as a key mechanism of organisational accountability and has also proved to be one of the most effective ways of addressing and reducing misconduct and corruption. Recently, we have seen a considerable policy shift toward protecting whistleblowing throughout Europe. This has also been adopted as one of the primary agendas of organisations such as Transparency International.

The workshop aims to bring together scholars from diverse theoretical and methodological backgrounds that are researching the nature, mechanisms, and consequences of the relationship between misconduct and different kinds of accountability mechanisms in public and political organisations and processes. Given the absence of research that binds these subjects and settings together, a fundamental aim of this workshop is to make inroads in this endeavour and encourage scholars with an expertise in accountability mechanisms, particularly in whistleblowing, to consider how this process may vary in different contexts. The frequency and nature of misconduct, the internal procedures of organisations, and the stigma and costs of those who attempt to hold others accountable for the problems in these procedures are all likely to vary across organisations and national borders – even within the Nordic countries. Exploring these differences will be invaluable for future research.

This workshop incorporates insights from a range of fields and sub-disciplines in political science, as well as adjoining disciplines. Specifically, we welcome scholars who study political parties, corruption and accountability, whistleblowing, organizational ethics, journalism and communication studies, public administration, and psychology.

Language: Papers and presentations may be in Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, or English

9. Conflict in parliamentary parties

Chairs:

Professor Raimondas Ibenskas, Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen,
raimondas.ibenskas@uib.no

Professor Sona Golder, Department of Political Science, Pennsylvania State University,
sgolder@psu.edu

Party unity is essential for understanding parties' role in democracies. Both extreme conflict and excessive unity can be damaging for parties' ability to represent citizens and structure decision-making. This workshop aims to advance our understanding of patterns, causes and consequences of the conflict in parliamentary parties. The workshop primarily targets scholars working on political parties, parliaments and political behaviour. We invite papers that examine conflicts that involve different actors in the parliamentary party (individual MPs, leaders, subgroups or factions of MPs, leaders or parliamentary group as a whole in relation to other actors in the party), focus on various attitudinal or behavioural aspects of conflict (for example, as indicated by surveys, interviews, legislative debates, parliamentary votes, social media, or changes in legislators' party affiliation) and/or investigate the effects of conflict in parliamentary parties on citizens' attitudes and behaviour, decision-making in parliaments and governments, or public policy. Different methodological approaches and geographical focuses are welcome.

The workshop is organized by the team of the INSTAPARTY (Party Instability in Parliaments) project (funding provided by the Norwegian Research Council). More information about the project available [here](#).

Language: English

10. Parties, governments, and policymaking

Chairs:

Academy Research Fellow Vesa Koskimaa, Faculty of Management and Business, Tampere University,
vesa.koskimaa@tuni.fi

Associate Professor Corentin Poyet, Department of Government, University of Bergen,
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When dealing with the making of laws and other regulatory instruments, political parties and governments are unavoidable actors. In most European countries, parties define policy priorities (both at the election and government formation stages), and through the executive branch, they get to design new laws and reforms. Yet, variations exist in how parties deal with their policymaking role and what factors may influence their ability to perform their tasks, for example, the national rules and practices regarding the operation of governments. Beyond this static element, there is a more dynamic process: the competition between parties to set the agenda, propose solutions, and advance them in the policy process. Although the role of parties in policymaking is fundamental, more is needed to know about the mechanisms that steer, mediate, and moderate party strategies and goals in these processes. In this panel, we are firstly interested in contextual (party competition, coalition composition, etc.), institutional (type of regime, electoral system, etc.), and party-related elements (strategies, organizations, etc.), but other factors would also be appreciated. Scholars working on party politics and policymaking are invited to submit their abstracts regardless of their methodological and theoretical approaches. Comparative works and papers focusing on the Nordic region are particularly welcome. However, papers focusing on how a particular party (or party family) or a particular policy domain are also welcome.

Language: English

11. Policy for public sector innovation – changing conditions and priorities?

Chairs:

Professor Jill M. Loga, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, jill.merethe.loga@hvl.no

Professor Asbjørn Røiseland, Oslo Metropolitan University, asbjor@oslomet.no

Associate Professor Maja Nilssen, Nord University, maja.nilssen@nord.no

Professor Ann Karin Tennås Holmen, University of Stavanger, annkarin.holmen@uis.no

Innovation has been a promoted European and Nordic priority for countries to strengthen public sector organizations, public services and to cope with complex and wicked problems. The OECD (2019) *Declaration on Public sector innovation (PSI)*, signed by 43 countries including Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Iceland, articulates a shared understanding among governments about the role of innovation in meeting challenges and constitutes a declaration of commitment to improve, expand and develop policy strategies for public sector innovation. Developing a policy for innovation includes a multi-actor and multi-levelled approach including policy goals and policy instruments, the development of smart ways of regulating social and economic actors through norms, incentives, and voluntary agreements, and new ways of producing and delivering services with a novel form and content. Practical examples of such innovation policies include mission-oriented innovation systems (MIS), policies for urban governance, smart cities and cities lab's, initiative to strengthen culture for innovation, employee-driven innovation and innovation management, and strategies for co-creation and generative institutions. Such initiatives and strategies are today emphasized in European and Nordic countries. Research indicates that the innovation agenda has affected all levels of public sector, however there is a need for continuous attention to institutionalize a generative policy and practice of innovation (OECD 2019; 2023).

In this workshop we will highlight changes in the policies for innovation in the Nordic countries. We are searching for contributions discussing conditions and changes in 1) governments' responses to EU priorities and policy for innovation, 2) national policy goals and instruments applied for innovation at all levels, 3) political rhetoric and narratives of innovation, 4) Pilot initiatives, modelling and experimentation.

Initial paper submission should take the form of a 500 word abstract that emphasizes the contribution of the paper to this discussion. We welcome theoretical / conceptual, empirical papers and review papers. Submissions are welcome from both experienced and early-career academics, as well as PhD students. Based in the workshop, the organizers plan to develop a special issue in the journal *Nordic Journal of Innovation in the Public Sector*, where a selection of papers will be invited for a further review process. Papers can be written in English or one of the Scandinavian languages.

Please send your abstract to Ann Karin Tennås Holmen annkarin.holmen@uis.no

Language: As a general rule Danish, Norwegian and Swedish are the spoken languages of the workshop, but we also welcome papers from participants who wish to present their paper and receive comments in English.

OECD (2019) *Declaration on Public sector innovation (PSI)*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

OECD (2023), *Global Trends in Government Innovation 2023*, OECD Public Governance Reviews, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/0655b570-en>

12. Territorial cleavages among citizens, voters, politicians, and parties in the Nordic countries and Europe

Chairs:

Professor Arjan H. Schakel, University of Bergen, arjan.schakel@uib.no

PhD Candidate Øystein Solvang, University of Tromsø, oystein.solvang@uit.no

This workshop seeks to further our understanding on how territorial cleavages impact public perceptions and voter behavior among citizens and how these subsequently impact role perceptions of politicians and party competition. Studying territorial cleavage has become more relevant because of two recent developments: territorial reforms and the politicization of urban and rural interests.

Several Nordic countries underwent significant territorial reforms over the past two decades which have significantly altered the territorial boundaries of sub-national political communities and the relationships between governmental tiers. For example, Denmark merged its 270 municipalities (kommuner) into 98 and abolished its 13 counties (Amtskommuner) and replaced them with 5 regions (regioner) in 2005. And Norway merged 457 into 356 municipalities (kommuner) and 19 counties (fylkeskommuner) into 11 in 2020. Territorial mergers provide for an excellent but relatively rare opportunity to study public perceptions regarding multilevel government. Some of these reforms are highly politicized and, for example, in Norway the county merger reform has contributed to the electoral successes of the Centre party (Senterpartiet) in the 2019 local and 2021 national elections.

Center parties in the Nordic countries traditionally represent agrarian interests and in several Nordic countries (e.g. Finland, Iceland and Norway) these parties have become electorally successful by appealing to rural interests more broadly. Populist and anti-immigrant parties have been on the rise in all the Nordic countries and these parties' popularity differ substantially between rural and urban areas. Similarly, public opinion with regard to global warming and voting for green parties are marked by deep rural-urban cleavages.

Papers in this workshop can focus on a wide variety of topics including partisanship and vote choice at the regional and local level, on political parties' strategies in the electoral, parliamentary, and governmental arena at the sub-national, as well as on legislative voting, policymaking, and the political preferences of political actors at the sub-national level. We invite papers which focus on the Nordic countries, either as a single case study or in comparison with other Nordic or European countries.

Language: English

13. Democracy from the perspective of citizens

Chairs:

Assistant Professor Alice el-Wakil, Department of Political Science, University of Copenhagen, alice.el-wakil@ifs.ku.dk

Professor Maija Setälä, Department of Philosophy, Contemporary History and Political Science, University of Turku, maiset@utu.fi

Democracy depends on ordinary citizens' political participation. For democratic systems to work as planned, normative theorists have suggested that citizens should, e.g., cast a ballot in mass votes and monitor their representatives ongoingly. They should have good reasons for their political decisions and develop informed judgments about various powerful actors' trustworthiness. They should join associations, parties, or social movements to make demands or defend their interests. They should, sometimes, act as candidates to political offices or answer positively to invitations to invest their time to participate in mini-publics.

These demands are often expressed from an observer perspective and on a basis of a particular normative view of democracy. In this workshop, we propose to reconsider and clarify what these general demands consist of and what they entail for our normative account of the role of citizens. In particular, we propose to adopt the perspective of citizens – of those who are expected to participate, deliberate, and organize. We invite contributions that adopt a citizen-centred perspective to explore or revisit questions such as:

What can reasonably be expected from us, ordinary citizens, in terms of investments of time as well as cognitive, financial and organizational resources – in 'normal' circumstances, and in the current condition of multiple crises?

When should we accept decisions of authorities as legitimate, and when should we take to the streets to protest?

What powers and rights, but also what resources should be made available to us so we can play our roles?

When, and what kind of citizens participation is undesirable or undemocratic?

How should we understand the link between individuals and democratic systems, including beyond the national level?

Whose perspective do we and should we adopt when we consider "the citizens' view" – and what does adopting this perspective entail, methodologically?

Target group

We welcome theoretical and empirical papers that contribute to normative debates on the role of citizens and their participation in democracy. They can deal with the kinds of questions listed above, or further questions connected, for instance, to deliberative and democratic systems approach. The papers can also focus on particular political processes and institutions (traditional and innovative).

Language: English

14. Political participation and behavior from a minority- and immigrant perspective

Chairs:

Associate Professor Marina Lindell, Åbo Akademi University, marina.lindell@abo.fi

Assistant Professor Thomas Karv, Mid-Sweden University, thomas.karv@miun.se

Minority groups continue to face many barriers to political participation and representation. Limited representation in decision-making processes can hinder their ability to advocate for their rights and address their specific needs and concerns. Moreover, recent elections in Sweden and Finland have seen radical-right political parties gaining influence over national policy, in turn becoming accepted as legitimate political partners by the other parties on the political right. As a result, citizens belonging to either the minority- or immigrant population are becoming increasingly worried about the on-going political developments, potentially affecting how they relate to the political community. This workshop adapts a broad approach, focusing on political participation and political behavior, identities, relations between majority and minority groups as well as political and societal challenges from a minority or an immigrant perspective.

We invite all types of empirical contributions, including quantitative or qualitative research designs, with a minority- or an immigrant perspective on the ongoing political developments in the Nordic countries specifically or in Europe generally. We prioritize empirical contributions but are also willing to accept non-empirical contributions given space. We are especially interested in comparative and longitudinal approaches, focusing on variation between citizens belonging to the majority-, immigrant-, and minority population, as well as variations within the minority- and immigrant communities, and how it subsequently transforms into various types of social- and political attitudes, identities, voting behavior and political behavior.

Language: Papers written in English or the Scandinavian languages are welcome, but the main language of the discussions will be English

15. Values of Europe and European Values

Chairs:

Professor Stefan Dahlberg, Mid Sweden University & University of Bergen, Stefan.dahlberg@miun.se

Assistant Professor Vera Lomazzi, University of Bergamo, vera.lomazzi@unibg.it

We invite researchers working with European Values Study data or conducting research on European values using comparative survey data to submit abstracts for presentation at the NOPSA workshop 2024. Abstracts should include a brief description of the research topic, methodology, and key findings or expected outcomes.

The workshop's primary objective is to foster knowledge sharing and collaboration among researchers utilizing European Values Study (EVS) data or similar data sources. By bringing together experts and researchers in this field, the workshop serves as a platform for exchanging ideas, methodologies, and findings pertaining to European values and their implications across diverse research domains. Through this collaborative environment, participants can explore comparative survey data analysis techniques and deepen their understanding of the intricate dynamics of European values.

EVS Deep Dive:

Introduction and significance of the European Values Study.
Dataset insights, ethical data access, and research resources.
Comparative survey techniques and quality assurance.

European Values in Focus:

Socio-political attitudes, democracy, and institutional trust.
Cultural shifts, generational value changes, and societal impacts.
Value-driven well-being, community cohesion, and sustainability.

Frontiers in European Values Research:

Cutting-edge topics, methodologies, and collaborative explorations.
Researcher presentations and project showcases.
Interdisciplinary collaborations and joint publication opportunities.

Expected Outcomes:

- The workshop aims to achieve the following outcomes:
- Enhanced understanding of European values and their significance in various domains of research.
- Improved knowledge and application of comparative survey data analysis techniques.
- Establishment of a network of researchers working on European values and comparative survey data.
- Identification of potential collaborative projects and research opportunities.
- Dissemination of research findings through a workshop proceedings publication.

Language: English

16. The Voluntary Sector: Roles, Relationships, and Challenges

Chairs:

Senior Researcher Thomas Margel Myksvoll, NORCE Norwegian Research Centre, thmy@norce-research.no

Research professor Bernard Enjolras, Director for research on civil society and voluntary sector, ISF, bernard.enjolras@samfunnsforskning.no

In recent years, there has been substantial attention among scholars, policymakers, and the general public regarding civil society and its relationships with topics such as civic engagement, activism, social movements, social capital, trust, co-creation, the public sphere, and foundations. In the Nordic countries, there has been a renewed interest in studying historical and current relations between the state and civil society, the roles of associations and voluntary organizations in maintaining welfare and culture, new forms of activism and citizen initiatives, the impact of these activities on individual and collective life, and much more.

The role of civil society in addressing new challenges related to migration, globalization, climate change, inequality, and populism is a subject of debate and contention.

We invite submissions of articles addressing these types of questions and issues, particularly articles that combine perspectives from theories of social movements and civil society, as well as activism and volunteerism. Both theoretical and empirical contributions are welcome, and we encourage submissions based on various research designs and with different data sources.

Papers in both English and Scandinavian languages are welcome

17. Health policy and reforms in the Nordic region

Chairs:

Professor Terje P. Hagen, University of Oslo, t.p.hagen@medisin.uio.no

Professor Karsten Vrangbæk, University of Copenhagen, kavr@sund.ku.dk

Professor Ulrika Winblad, Uppsala University, ulrika.winblad@pubcare.uu.se

Health systems are a central part of the Nordic welfare states. They are mostly tax-financed, provide universal coverage based on principles of equity and solidarity, and have strong elements of decentralized democratic governance. There is a high degree of public and political support for these organizational principles. – However, the Nordic health systems are also facing a number of (wicked) issues and challenges that affect the economic and political sustainability. Aging populations and the rapid development of new and expensive technologies push the health policy agenda and generate a need to reconsider policy options. There are persistent challenges related to policy integration within the health care systems and across health, social and elderly care.

Prioritization of access to technology is a difficult, but necessary political issue. Geographical and social equity remains an elusive, and there are difficulties in the distribution and motivation of health care professionals. Nordic health systems have also faced other challenges in recent year, not least related to the preparation and management of major crises such as the covid-19 pandemic and the Ukraine war. Subsequently, efforts have been made to strengthen systems of health emergency preparedness and response – at the national as well as the Nordic and EU- level. Together, the variety challenges have led to a number of policy developments and reforms of the structures and governance processes of the Nordic health systems, both within a national and EU/EEA context.

This workshop invites papers that explore the political dynamics of such policy changes and reforms and discuss the emerging system models and their sustainability. We are interested in single country cases and comparative studies, and we aim to develop an understanding of policy dynamics and convergence/divergence of policy solutions during the workshop.

Language: English

18. Democracy and autocracy in the shadow of Russia: institutions, parties, elites, and policies in Central and Eastern Europe.

Chairs:

Professor Elisabeth Bakke; University of Oslo, elisabeth.bakke@stv.uio.no

Professor Thomas Sedelius, Dalarna University, tse@du.se

The end of communist rule in the former eastern bloc was widely seen as the culmination of the third wave of democratization. However, some countries never progressed beyond hybrid regimes; others became liberal democracies and joined the European Union – and some of these have been backsliding on democracy for several years now. Even in countries where democracy is not currently at stake, the partial stabilization of institutions and party systems in the 1990s and early 2000s has given way to a ‘hurricane season’ of new parties and unstable party systems. In post-Soviet countries constitutional stability is challenged by recurring institutional conflict, autocratic presidents, weak party systems, frequent changes to the constitution, and external aggression from Russia.

The workshop welcomes theoretically as well as empirically oriented papers focusing on Central and Eastern Europe. We would like papers to have an explicit comparative ambition, meaning that also single case studies should provide comparative perspectives beyond the case. Potential topics include (but are not limited to) parties, parliamentary elites, and party systems in the region; regime change, democracy, and democratic backsliding; political institutions and the interplay between constitutional change and party politics; specific policy areas, and EU-related issues.

Language: The workshop default language will be Scandinavian, but participants who want to present their paper and receive comments in English, are welcome to do so. Please notify the chairs about preferred language when you submit your abstract.

19. The Politics of Law and Courts

Chairs:

Researcher Karin Leijon (PhD), Department of Government, Uppsala University,

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Professor Gunnar Grendstad (PhD), Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen,

gunnar.grendstad@uib.no

Judicialization – the process of more national and international laws and the greater prominence of judges and courts in the policy-making processes – is still outpacing Nordic political science and interdisciplinary scholarship. While judicial politics is establishing itself as a sub-discipline on the European continent, there is a need to connect, expand and build similar efforts in the Nordic countries. The workshop will bring together a group of interdisciplinary scholars who do research on law, courts and politics within and beyond the Nordic region. Its goal is to strengthen this Nordic-based international network and to foster cutting-edge research, building on the similar 2022 NOPSAs workshop.

Nordic research on the politics of law and courts is gaining momentum. Recent research has explored decision making on Nordic apex courts, how Nordic courts engage with the ECJ preliminary reference procedure, and how Nordic supreme courts cite international law and other sources. Other vigorous research efforts have contributed to our understanding of the working of international courts. Ongoing studies are broadening the field, looking *inter alia* into the political and law-making role of courts.

Seeking to consolidate and expand upon these efforts, the workshop invites theoretical, methodological, empirical as well as comparative and inter-disciplinary papers on a range of topics, including but not limited to analyses of legal actors, courts, institutional procedures, institutional change, decision making, legal mobilization, and implementation. We especially seek contributions that address the role of courts in the Nordic context, but also welcome proposals from Nordic researchers who analyze judicial politics in other regions and contexts.

The workshop plans to visit courts in Bergen during the conference.

Language: English

20. Local elections, participation, and representation

Chairs:

Professor Ulrik Kjær, Department of Political Science and Public Management, Syddansk

Universitet/University of Southern Denmark, ulk@sam.sdu.dk

Research Professor Signe Bock Seggaard, Institute for Social Research, sbs@socialresearch.no

In local representative democracy elections are important recurring events. As well before as after the elections, fixed procedures exist, and the voters, politicians, political parties, and local governments know their roles and tasks. The voters' formal right to democratic participation is ensured by their invitation to visit the polling booths, and local political representation is ensured through the council being composed based on the local election result. The numbers in which voters turn out to vote at local elections are often seen as an indicator for the health of local democracy, or at least for the legitimacy of the local government. But the local democracy is more than elections – voters take part in non-electoral participation and councilors conduct political representation between elections.

This workshop welcomes papers focusing on different aspects of local elections, such as (but not limited to) turnout, party choice, party system, councilors, mayors, electoral rules and the interplay between the local and the national vote. But it also welcomes papers which broaden the perspective and look at local representative democracy more broadly - voter-councilor relations, non-electoral participation, local political leadership by local representatives etc. As well papers comparing countries as papers comparing municipalities within a single country are welcomed. And there is an openness to different methodological approaches.

Language: Papers in both Scandinavian languages and English are welcome

21. Democracy and AI

Chairs:

Research Professor Sveinung Arnesen, NORCE, Norway sarn@norceresearch.no

Research Professor Pedro Magalhaes, University of Lisbon, Portugal pedro.magalhaes@ics.ulisboa.pt

We are on the verge of a revolution in public sector decision-making processes. In the last few years, and at an accelerating pace more recently, we have witnessed the development of computer systems able to perform tasks normally requiring human intelligence. This suggests the possibility that many of the governance tasks previously assigned to human bureaucrats and even political decision-makers will be assisted, or even taken over by, computer systems and algorithms. In fact, governance decisions based on artificial intelligence and algorithmic information processing are already increasing in numbers and scope, contributing to decisions that impact individual citizens on topics such as giving defendants parole, reallocating refugees, and determining eligibility for welfare programs, just to give a few examples. Increased capacity to process relevant information enhances the potential for making more accurate and efficient judgments. Yet, there are also risks. These include the creation of a “black box” society where citizens are being kept in the dark about the decision-making processes that affect their lives and left with little opportunities to influence how such processes take place. Or the risk of embedding different kinds of social biases in algorithms, which can become self-perpetuating if they further contribute to disadvantage certain groups in future decisions. Or the risk of, in the name of effectiveness and accuracy, breaching fundamental privacy rights. These and other risks can potentially undermine the legitimacy of governmental institutions among the citizens they serve.

This workshop invites scholarly work devoted to empirical – experimental and observational – as well as normative studies on aspects of artificial intelligence relevant to political science. These include but are not limited to studies of relations between citizens and government authorities; fairness, accountability, and transparency of AI; impact of AI on democracy and society at large; attitudes and behaviors towards AI decision-making.

Language: English

22. Gender, Politics and Democracy

Chairs:

Professor Ragnhild Muriaas, University of Bergen, Ragnhild.Muriaas@uib.no

Associate Professor Christina Fiig, Aarhus University, cfiig@cas.au.dk

Over the past decades, there has been a tremendous growth in the scholarship on gender and politics in local, national, and international politics. A similar scholarly focus on democracy and citizenship from a gender perspective has gained prominence and shed light on concepts such as inclusion and exclusion.

More recently, postcolonial feminism (Lewis and Mills, 2003) and an analytical focus of intersectionality (Crenshaw 1989, 1991) adds to the complexity with a range of difference-making categories such as for example age, class, ethnicity/race, religious beliefs and sexual identities.

These studies have advanced our knowledge of the complex ways in which gender shapes and interacts with political institutions, processes, policies and outcomes, but there are indeed still gaps in research regarding how gender, politics and democracy are linked.

For instance, we know less about how aspects related to gender, politics and democracy are affected by the rapidly changing political landscape in many countries, where new parties are emerging, and old ones suffer electoral losses.

There is also the influence of anti-gender mobilization and how this plays out in both democracies and autocracies.

With a changing political landscape that combines stories of both progression and setbacks—to both democracy and the gender equality framework—it is important for the political science community in the Nordic countries to exchange ideas, perspectives, and research findings.

This workshop aims to bring together a diverse group of scholars working in the field of politics and gender with the purpose of discussing what remains current gaps within the literature, as well building our knowledge about how the research frontier currently looks in studies of gender and politics.

Language: English

23. Out of Touch? How Political Elites and Citizens Perceive Each Other

Chairs:

Associate Professor Martin Bisgaard, Aarhus University, mbisgaard@ps.au.dk

Professor Elisabeth Ivarsflaten, University of Bergen, eiv001@uib.no

Description

Central to popular conceptions of representative democracy is the notion that politicians anticipate what citizens want. This way, public opinion – or at least how it is perceived – should constrain the behavior of elected officials, forging a link between representatives and the represented. This ideal model of representation is one important reason why the view that contemporary politics is dominated by a liberal, urban, highly educated elite, who is out-of-touch with ordinary people, is potentially associated both with polarization and lower faith in the democratic system.

In spite of the importance of these ideas, we have too little empirical evidence about how political elites broadly understood (e.g. politicians, government officials, journalists, experts) understand and respond to citizens' preferences. To what extent are there consistent and deeply problematic biases and misperceptions in political elites' ideas about what the public wants? Such biases, if they exist, raise fundamental questions about how 'the continuing responsiveness of the government to the preferences of its citizens' actually works – if at all.

Target Group

This workshop aims to bring together scholars from different subfields to engage with cutting-edge work that investigates how political elites understand and respond to public opinion. We invite both (a) studies that directly engage with and examine political elites, broadly understood, either using surveys, interviews, archival work or, possibly, data from the online or offline behavior and communication, (b) studies on citizens views about political elites. Papers using empirical material from the Nordic countries are especially welcome and encouraged.

Language: English

24. Comparative Political Institutions

Chairs:

PhD Candidate José Zurita-Tapia, Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen,
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PhD Candidate Eduardo Tamaki, German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA),
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There exists ample scholarly interest in how political institutions affect public policy, performance, and the behaviour and attitude of citizens and elites, and how these actors constantly shape and affect political institutions in return. Current research on Political Institutions covers a diversity of approaches and fields, such as comparative politics (e.g.: presidentialism, legislatures, judicial politics, electoral studies, sub-national politics, political sociology), political behaviour, and political economy, among others. In this sense, the workshop seeks to foster paper proposals on Political Institutions, (formal and informal) broadly defined. For the workshop, we aim to bring together scholars who employ a variety of methodological approaches (e.g.: observational data analysis, formal modelling, experiments) and scopes. Geographically, we welcome proposals from around the world, whether they focus on a single country or perform cross-national comparative research. By having a workshop structure, we aim to provide scholars and researchers with the opportunity to delve more deeply into the research of Political Institutions and its yet-to-explore topics while exchanging research interests and networking among political scientists from around the world.

Topic: Political Institutions, Comparative Politics.

Target groups: Professors, Researchers and PhD Candidates with a keen interest in Political Institutions.

Language: English

25. The politics of environmental policy

Chairs:

Associate Professor Endre Tvinnereim, University of Bergen, endre.tvinnereim@uib.no

Ole Martin Lægreid, Örebro University, olla@norceresearch.no

Professor Sverker Jagers, University of Gothenburg, sverker.jagers@pol.gu.se

Topic: Environmental and climate policy and political contestation over such policies.

Target groups: Political behavior, Comparative politics, public policy and administration, international relations, political theory

Environmental issues have increased their salience in democracies over the past generation, but at the same time, the implementation of increasing numbers of environmental regulations and taxes, as well as infrastructure for renewable energy, have led to increased political contestation over environmental policies. This has brought the concept of policy acceptance to the forefront. Furthermore, recent and current crises relating to health, security and energy are also challenging the salience of environmental topics in the Nordic countries and abroad. Pro-environmental decisions are being rolled back in Europe as coal-fired power plants reopen in Germany and survive past planned retirement in the UK; the Swedish government is on the verge of withdrawing national emission targets for 2030; and taxes on gasoline and diesel have decreased in several countries during recent years. Progressive decisions are still being made in Europe, particularly at the EU-level, as with the new carbon border adjustment tax and the taxonomy for sustainable activities, but national-level actions seem to be stagnating. This workshop will examine the interplay between environmental policies and political competition over environmental issues such as climate change mitigation and adaptation, renewable energy, plastic pollution and biodiversity preservation. Contributions are invited to examine questions related to policy instrument choices, position/opposition dynamics, polarization or non-polarization over environmental issues across voters for various parties, the role of civil society, perceptions of fairness of environmental policies, and international policy linkages. We encourage contributions that provide new theoretical insights or empirical analyses of causality regarding the relationships that are outlined above. We are especially interested in analyses that shed light on the long-term impacts that crises may have on environmental policies and outcomes, as well as societal responses to environmental policy withdrawal, but we also welcome analyses of more usual cases.

Language: Papers in both English and Scandinavian languages are welcome

26. Public Administration under Accelerating Pressure: Revisiting the Political Contraction and Detraction Thesis 60 Years On

Chairs:

Senior Researcher Ole Andreas Danielsen, Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research, Oslo Metropolitan University, oleandr@oslomet.no

Associate Senior Lecturer Linda Alamaa, Halmstad University College, linda.alamaa@hh.se

As NOPSAs 2024 convenes, 60 years have passed since the Norwegian political scientist Knut Dahl Jacobsen published his seminal study of how societal and political upheavals re-shape the relationship between political authority and public administrative bodies, and launched the thesis of political contraction and detraction as an interpretation of this dynamic. The thesis, which is in essence a theory of delegation, states that in periods characterized by relative value homogeneity in society, power and influence is more likely to spread out from the political center and across the permanent bureaucracy, whereas increased value heterogeneity and conflicts tend to trigger a democratic-representative and executive concentration of power at the political center. Jacobsen's analysis dealt with a historical case and was furthermore formulated at a point in time when the institutional infrastructure within which contraction/detraction dynamics unfold was very different. As a political organization, the state has become increasingly fragmented. Due to, *inter alia*, structural devolution and the increased embedding of state administrations into trans- and supranational structures, the relationship between political control and institutional autonomy is increasingly conditioned by forces beyond the control of the center. At the same time, current debates on "democratic backsliding" and political strategies vis-à-vis the permanent bureaucracy therein show the need for revisiting the contraction/detraction thesis in times of allegedly growing societal polarization and heterogenization. The aim of this workshop is therefore a critical reappraisal of Jacobsen's work that invites empirical-theoretical papers exploring, in various ways, to what extent Jacobsen's thesis can shed light on the dynamic relationship between political control and institutional autonomy in a context that has grown increasingly complex since its publication.

Language: The workshop invites papers written in the English language, as we aim to collect papers from the workshop for a special issue proposal to an international journal

27. Comparative and Historical Political Economy: The Continuing Relevance of Macro and Meso-Level Approaches

Chairs:

Professor Georg Picot, Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen, georg.picot@uib.no

Professor Peter Starke, Department of Political Science and Public Management, University of Southern Denmark, starke@sam.sdu.dk

Enormous progress has been made in research on policy preferences and voting behaviour in rich democracies. Yet, political economy analysis that focusses only on the individual level is incomplete. First, voters, while rightfully central in established democracies, are not the only actors. Political parties, interest groups, corporations, and policy experts exert an independent influence on policy-making. Second, institutional effects and endogenous processes, such as positive and negative feedback effects, need to be taken into account. Third, macro-historical research can illuminate how socio-political structures (such as cleavages) and major historical shifts (such as democratization or the rise of the knowledge economy) interact in shaping political and economic systems. Fourth, any theoretical perspective that starts from micro foundations needs to theorize and examine the aggregation from micro to macro explicitly and carefully. How can we bring these themes back into political economy research, build on the rich scholarly traditions that have investigated them, and square them with the new knowledge we gained of expressed preferences and voting behaviour?

While a broad range of topics and research questions are welcome, we encourage contributions on the following topics.

- The role of meso-level actors in shaping welfare and economic institutions
- The adaptation (or not) of welfare states, collective bargaining systems, and economic policies to recent challenges, such as the knowledge economy, the climate crisis, and the changing global economy in the context of new geopolitical insecurities
- Interaction between micro, meso, and macro levels in comparative political economy
- Theoretical and epistemological problems of micro-focussed research
- Macro- or meso-level effects on micro-level variables
- Linkages between different subfields of research (e.g., welfare state and industrial relations research)
- The role of structural disadvantages (e.g., gender, race/ethnicity) in the micro-macro nexus.

We invite scholars using large-N and small-N methods as well as case studies, but all papers should have a comparative perspective. Theoretical or methodological papers are also welcome as long as they relate to empirical research in comparative and historical political economy.

Language: English

28. Far-right politics online

Chairs:

Senior Researcher Anders Ravik Jupskås, Center for Research on Extremism (C-REX), University of Oslo, a.r.jupskas@c-rex.uio.no

Postdoctoral Fellow Anita Nissen, Department of Politics and Society, Aalborg University, anissen@dps.aau.dk

Professor Kristoffer Holt, Department of Media and Journalism, Linnaeus University, kristoffer.holt@lnu.se

The far right is growing across Europe, including in Scandinavia – at least if judged by the electoral success of far-right parties. This has gained much attention from the scholarly community; however, we know much less about whether the mobilizing efforts of the far right outside the electoral arena, most notably online, and whether this mobilization matters for levels polarization, fear, distrust and hate speech in society. As a result, it is difficult to assess the extent to which far right online communication is a threat to the societal resilience of the Scandinavian countries.

This workshop addresses this knowledge gap by welcoming papers that analyze the producers and/or the receivers of far-right ideology online, beyond the electoral arena and party politics. This includes contributions that address how far right movements, organizations and news media use online tools to mobilize followers and mainstream their ideological message, and how these processes of mobilization and mainstreaming impact the wider population in general and specific target groups in particular. More specifically, the workshop welcomes papers that examine how far right groups and hyper-partisan alternative media produce and distribute content and/or study the impact of such communication, including hate speech. The workshop seeks papers using a wide variety of methodological approaches, including content analysis, network analysis, survey methods and qualitative interviews.

Language: Papers should preferably be in English, but the workshop also accepts papers written in any of the Scandinavian languages (i.e., Norwegian, Danish, or Swedish).

29. Post-structuralism, Populism and 'the outskirts'

Chairs:

Associate Professor Allan Dreyer Hansen, Roskilde University, adh@ruc.dk

Associate Professor Liv Sunnercrantz, University of Stavanger, liv.sunnercrantz@uis.no

This workshop invites post-structuralist – in the broadest sense – inspired analysis of contemporary societal challenges and political struggles such as populism. We especially welcome analysis of or from 'the outskirts', in both physical, metaphorical and theoretical sense. These could be analyses of e.g. a political place/space or through perspectives that place the creation/doing of the outskirts at the centre. We invite to reflections on 'the outskirts' of the social sciences - for example, those that shed new light on post-structuralist, post-foundationalist, performative, or various forms of bottom-up perspectives.

Populism forms a central part of reflections of relations between the centre and 'the outskirts', not least in the Nordic countries. Nordic populist movements can be seen as a counter-hegemonic expression where (the presumed) outskirts rebel against the establishment. We welcome reflections on which counter-hegemonies are possible in the 2020s? To the left? The green movement? An outskirts rebellion?

One example is a possible revival of Broxianism, and therefore, we are interested in contributions that can point out directions for the continuation and rethinking of the Broxian tradition. For Ottar Brox, populism is about seeing and understanding the world from below, based on the local communities of the outskirts, in contrast to technocratic and centralist planning systems that view the world from above and from a centre.

In this sense Broxianism has affinities with the post-structuralist focus on the "abnormal," the marginalized, etc. Both approaches can be seen as "outskirts perspectives" in the sense of being on the margin of dominant approaches. Perhaps there is therefore the possibility of a fruitful exchange between the two perspectives despite quite different starting points?

We invite papers focussing on, among other things:

- An 'outskirts' perspective sheds new light on post-structuralist accounts of (counter) hegemony), political struggles and populism?
- What happens when 'popularity' simultaneously becomes both outskirts and the centre of politics?
- New theoretical perspectives can be developed in the encounter between Broxian populism and various forms of post-structuralist political theory? Is this even a viable path?
- Studying contemporary populist movements through the Broxian perspective? Does the understanding of the phenomenon change by viewing it from the outskirts?
- The contribution of Broxian populism to social analyses that break down the separation of society and nature? Can nature, for example, be an outskirts from which society can be observed?
- Can artistic research - such as documentary film-making - play a role in such an epistemological approach? And how can this be integrated with other research methods?

The academic debate in the session is complemented by a screening of the film Ottar Brox - The Battle for the Coast [Ottar Brox – Kampen for kysten].

Language: English

30. The electoral system and its implications for democracy

Chairs:

Johannes Bergh, Head of the Norwegian electoral studies program, Institute for Social Research, Oslo, Norway, Johannes.bergh@samfunnsforskning.no

Senior Research Fellow Dag Arne Christensen, NORCE Society, Bergen, dach@norce-research.no

The electoral system is one of democracy's most important political institutions. The way that the electoral system is designed has an impact on the structure of the party system, the possibility of forming effective governments, the degree of representativeness, candidate selection, party discipline and turnout. Changes in the electoral system can thus have a major impact on the dynamics of the political system. This panel invites researchers to contribute with research on various aspects of the way in which electoral systems are used in both national and local elections in the Nordic region. There may be questions such as: How are party systems affected by various aspects of the electoral system? What does voters' candidate-voting mean for representativeness in parliaments and municipal councils? Does the increased availability of elections in the form of unrestricted advance voting have any effect on turnout? What are the voters' attitudes towards the electoral system? Both Denmark and Norway have been through municipal reforms, and it may also be interesting to find out whether these reforms have had an impact on various aspects of democracy such as the party system, social representativeness and electoral participation. We look forward to contributions that can help shed light on a wide range of issues related to the design of the electoral system in both national and local elections in the Nordic countries.

Language: Scandinavian and English

31. Digital Democracy: Dynamics and Impacts in the Nordics and abroad

Chairs:

Postdoctoral Fellow Linn Sandberg, Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen, linn.sandberg@uib.no

Associate Professor Anamaria Dutceac Segesten, Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University, anamaria.dutceac_segesten@eu.lu.se

We cordially invite submissions for our workshop focused on the intricate relationship between digital technology and democracy, broadly understood. Embracing a wide purview, this workshop delves into the intersection of digital innovation and democratic processes, with particular emphasis on political communication, data-driven campaigning, public opinion, internal party communication, attitudes towards digitalization, among others.

In an era where digital technology shapes the fabric of society and citizenry's daily lives, political representation, participation, electoral competition, and accountability faces both new challenges and opportunities.

In the last two decades, research at the nexus of political parties and digitalization has burgeoned. A key focus has centered on political communication during elections (Gibson, 2015; Magin et al., 2017; Spierings and Jacobs, 2018). Concurrently, research has unveiled the effects of digital communication among voters, including echo chambers, filter bubbles, and ideological polarization (Barberà et al., 2021; Flaxman, Goel and Rao, 2016; Humprecht, Hellmueller and Lischka, 2020).

Simultaneously, "digital parties" have emerged as an area of interest, investigating digital innovations in party organization and decision-making, as well as the challenges therein. The surge in available data offers parties novel inputs for gauging public sentiment, thus influencing their representative roles as well as internal power dynamics (Barberà, et al., 2021; De Marco et al., 2022; Gerbaudo, 2019). However, this juncture remains shrouded in mystery, warranting deeper exploration.

This workshop beckons a diverse array of contributions, casting light on the interplay between democracy and digitalization within everyday politics. We especially invite studies focusing on:

- Data-Driven Campaigning and Beyond: Exploring the utilization of data not only in campaigns but also between elections.

- Intra-Party Communication and Power Dynamics: Unveiling how digitalization affects internal party discourse and redistributes power.

- Attitudes Towards Digitalization: Investigating perceptions of digital tools and platforms within parties (members and political elites) and the broader populace.

- Digital Technology and Political Participation

- AI and Democracy (representation/accountability and information/trust)

- The Political Economy of Platforms and Big Data

Language: English

32. From stable to contested higher education?

Chairs:

Associate Professor Hanne Kvilhaugsvik, University of Bergen, hanne.kvilhaugsvik@uib.no

Associate Professor Lise Degn, Aarhus University, ld@ps.au.dk

Adjunct Professor Terhi Nokkala, University of Jyväskylä, terhi.nokkala@jyu.fi

A traditional perspective on higher education as a policy domain is that it is a stable area of public policy, characterized by relatively low politicization. However, judging by the importance given to higher education in coalition negotiations as well as the attention given to higher education policy changes by political parties, interest organizations and media alike, it seems that the days of low politicization are over. In the Nordic countries, this sector has been facing a range of new policy developments which challenge previously taken-for-granted and widely accepted perspectives on governance, organization, funding, mission, and relationship to the environment and society. These developments have thus far led to transformative changes, as well as, in some cases, reform fatigue. To complicate issues further, developments within higher education are concurrent with two broader phenomena: (1) research and expert knowledge which is, amongst other, key output of higher education becoming more politically contested, and (2) increasing competition between higher education and other parts of the public sector for public funding.

In this workshop, we plan to take stock of higher education reforms within these complex and increasingly politicized frames, highlighting in particular (a) political actors (state and non-state) involved in shaping and responding to aforementioned developments, (b) their role in creation and diffusion of policy ideas, (c) their power relationships and interdependencies (both within and across higher education systems), and (d) the impact such political dynamic has on the higher education sector.

Proposals for papers have to include a clear description of the theoretical framework and a rigorous methodological approach. Priority will be given to papers with a comparative focus.

The workshop targets scholars and others interested in higher education research and policy, as well as those interested in the relationship between knowledge and politics.

The proposal is also supported by Mari Elken, NIFU and UiO (Norway), and Martina Vukasovic, UiB (Norway). The workshop aims for the proposed target of around 13-15 papers.

Language: English

33. Workshop on Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Citizen-State Interactions

Chairs:

Associate Professor Matthias Döring, Institut for Statskundskab, University of Southern Denmark, mdoering@sam.sdu.dk

Associate Professor Fabian Hattke, Department of Government, University of Bergen, fabian.hattke@uib.no

Associate Professor Pierre-Marc Daigneault, Department of Political Science, Université Laval, Québec, pierre-marc.daigneault@pol.ulaval.ca

The renaissance of research on citizen-state interactions has established an increasingly multidisciplinary area of interest. Scholars from political science, public administration, management, economics, social work, and sociology are re-discovering bureaucratic organizations as a means for servicing the common good. The development has been fueled by comprehensive government programs in response to recent socio-economic shocks, such as the great financial crisis or the Covid-19 pandemic. Simultaneously, the influx of theories and methods from the behavioral sciences has offered new perspectives on how public employees and citizens interact on the micro-level. Emerging concepts, such as administrative burden or administrative literacy, and established ones such as street-level bureaucracy, administrative disenfranchisement and exclusion, coping, and non-take-up, could allow for a fruitful amalgamation of the various disciplinary approaches. The purpose of this workshop is thus to facilitate communication between scholars from different disciplines and countries with a shared interest in micro-level approaches to citizen-state interactions in order to establish a common research agenda.

We especially welcome paper proposals in the following three areas:

1) *Administrative burden, red tape, frictions, and sludges from a citizen perspective.* How do state actions (i.e., policy design and policy implementation including the behavior of street-level civil servants) shape the experience of individuals who interact with the state? What costs do individuals incur when dealing with public authorities and how can we measure them? What are the specific drivers of individual onerous experiences and to what extent can they be acted upon? In particular, do individual characteristics such as race, education level and administrative literacy matter more than institutional drivers such as lack of administrative capacity or digitalization to understand citizens' experiences? What strategies do individuals adopt to shield from and actively counter these costly interactions with the state? Do citizens consider that some administrative burdens are legitimate and why? What impact do administrative simplification initiatives and behavioral interventions such as nudges have on individual experiences?

2) *Street-level bureaucrats and their clients.* How do street-level civil bureaucrats treat their clients and shape their experience with the state? What strategies do civil servants implement to cope with heavy workload, stress, resources constraints, professional and deontological norms and increasing performance expectations? Do these strategies always lead to bureaucratic disenfranchisement and administrative exclusion or could street-level bureaucrats go out of their way to help their clients? How do clients interpret the intentions and actions of civil servants?

3) Non-take-up and administrative exclusion. Non-take-up may derive from lack of awareness for public services and social benefits, the costs (e.g., lengthy and complex process, stigma) and benefits associated with program application, and unjustified administrative decisions? How do specific state actions influence these drivers? Do one-stop-shops, digitalization and automatic enrolment improve program take-up? What other strategies can decision makers and civil servants implement to improve participation of eligible individuals? Which target groups are more vulnerable to non-take-up and why? What role do third parties such as NGOs can play in helping citizens access social benefits? What are the consequences of non-take-up on health status, material well-being, and political participation?

Language: English