Final Conference

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN A TURBULENT AGE?

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NORFACE GOVERNANCE Final Conference 2024

Democratic Governance in a Turbulent Age?

February 14-16, University of Vienna

Main Building, Universitätsring 1, 1010 Vienna

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- **The conference hashtag is #norfacegov24.** Add this to all the posts you want to be seen by those following the conference.
- **Attribution is key:** Identify the speaker in your tweets (using their handle or full name).
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ABSTRACTS
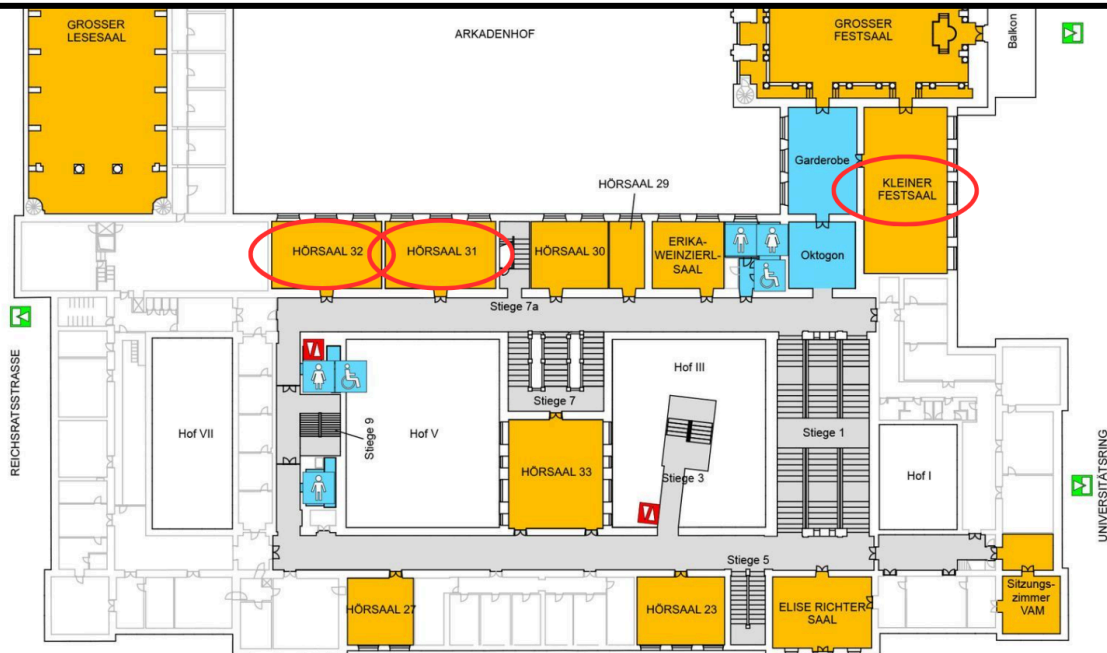
All presentation abstracts can be found here:

https://www.norface-governance.eu/abstracts-final-conference/

or use the QR code:

Conference Venue:
University of Vienna
Universitätsring 1

Pickup-Point for
Bus-Transfer to
Art performance

Conference Dinner:
Grinzinger Keller of the
Wiener Rathauskeller
Rathausplatz 1

All of the rooms are on the first floor, reached via the big staircase left after entering through the Main Entry

Panels will be conducted in HS 31 and 32

Reception, registration and lunch will be at
Kleiner Festsaal

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Tuesday, 13th of February	
17:00	**Get Together for Early-Career Scholars** (*by invitation*)
Wednesday, 14th of February	
08.00 - 08.45	**Registration and Coffee** @ conference area (Kleiner Festsaal, Main Building, University of Vienna)
08.45 - 09.00 **Kleiner Festsaal**	**Welcome and Opening** *Prof. Sophie Lecheler (Governance Programme Coordination)* *Prof. Hajo Boomgaarden (Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Vienna)* *Vice Rector Manuela Baccarini (Vice-Rector for Research & International Affairs, University of Vienna)*
09.00 – 10.30 **Kleiner Festsaal**	**Keynote Speeches** **"An illiberal surge? The far-right and the 2024 EP elections"** *Prof. Dr. Sarah de Lange (University of Amsterdam)* **"Do the facts matter? The persuasive power of statistical evidence and single exemplars among citizens and elites"** *Prof. Dr. Lene Aarøe (Aarhus University)*
10.45 – 12.30	
HS31	**PANEL 1.1 European Retirement Income Preferences**
HS32	**PANEL 4.1 Identity and Resentment in Geographical Divides**
12.30 - 13.30	**Lunch Break** *lunch* served @ conference area

13.30 - 14.45 **Kleiner Festsaal**	**Roundtable Discussion** **"The Role of Evidence-Based Policy in Shaping Democratic Governance"** *Dr. Vera Axyonova, Marie Skłodowska Curie REWIRE Fellow (University of Vienna)* *Johanna Lutz (Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Regional Office for International Cooperation - Democracy of the Future)* *Francesco Marrella (Policy and Fundraising Adviser at OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR))* *Moderator: Krisztina Rozgonyi, PhD, JD MBA (Comms Policy Collaborative, University of Vienna; Institute for Comparative Media and Communication Studies (CMC) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and University of Klagenfurt)*
15.00 – 16.45	
HS31	**PANEL 3.1 Data-Driven Campaigning**
HS32	**PANEL 4.2 Gender, Media, and Legal Dynamics in EU**
17:45	**Bus transport → art performance → welcome reception** meeting point is @ the bus parking strip, around the corner from the main entrance, across the park "Rathauspark" (Google Maps Marker: Apcoa Busparkplatz)
18.15 - 19.30	**Art Performance** **"The Conservatory of Populism"** Spektakel - Hamburgerstrasse 14, 1050 Helena Botto (POPBACK) *(after the performance, bus pick-up in front of the theater for transport to reception)*
19.45	**Conference Dinner at "Grinzinger Saal" in the Wiener Rathauskeller** Rathausplatz 1, 1010 Vienna
Thursday, 15th of February	
8.00 - 8.45	**Coffee** @ conference area (Kleiner Festsaal, Main Building, University of Vienna)
09.00 - 10.45	
HS31	**PANEL 2.4 Hope, Grief and Livable lives. Politics of Emotion in the Context of Criminalisation**
HS32	**PANEL 5.3 Challenges to Democratic Governance in the EU Judicial System**

11.00 – 12.45	
HS31	**PANEL 1.2 Identity Politics**
HS32	**PANEL 2.2 Threats, Challenges and Possible Solutions to Sustain Democracy**
12.45 - 13.45	**Lunch Break** *lunch served @ conference area*
13.45 – 15.30	
HS31	**PANEL 5.1 Conceptualizing Democracy and Political Values**
HS32	**PANEL 3.3 Exploring Representation and Privacy in the Digital Age**
15.45 – 17.30	
HS31	**PANEL 2.3 From the Margins of Democracy: Process, Temporality, and Actors of the Threat**
HS32	**PANEL 5.2. Connecting Citizens to the State: The Administrative State in the Age of Democratic Turbulence**
Friday, 16th of February	
8.00 - 8.45	**Coffee** @ conference area (Kleiner Festsaal, Main Building, University of Vienna)
09.00 - 10.45	
HS31	**PANEL 2.1 Political Polarization in Europe**
HS32	**PANEL 3.2 Media, AI, Misinformation**
11:00 – 13.00 Kleiner Festsaal	**PANEL 4.3 Studying Muslimness in Polarized Societies: in Quest of a Balanced View of Belongings and Engagements**
13:15-14:15	**"Goodbye GOVERNANCE" Lunch** *lunch served @ conference area*
from 14:15	**Consortium Meetings** (University of Vienna, Kolingasse 14-16, 1090)
15:00	**Austrian Parliament Tour** (Dr.-Karl-Renner-Ring 3, 1017 Vienna)

PANELS DETAILS

GOVERNANCE THEME 1 – „INEQUALITY AND REDISTRIBUTION"

	PANEL 1.1 European Retirement Income Preferences **Wednesday, 14.02.2024** **10:45 - 12:30** **Hörsaal 31** **Chair: Justyna Struzik** **Discussant: Anastasia Ershova**
1	Public preferences on the public-private mix for retirement income in European countries **Tobias Wiß** *(Johannes Kepler Universität Linz)*, Juan J. Fernández *(University Carlos III Madrid)*, Karen M. Anderson *(University College Dublin)* *(DEEPEN)*
2	A Conjoint Analysis of the Willingness to Increase Contributions into Occupational Pension Plans **Sara Gonzales** *(University Carlos III Madrid)*, Juan J. Fernández *(University Carlos III Madrid)*, Hayley James *(University College Dublin)*, Tobias Wiß *(Johannes Kepler Universität Linz)* *(DEEPEN)*
3	Doing finance without being finance – the uniqueness of Danish funded pensions Hayley James *(University College Dublin)*, **Karen M. Anderson** *(University College Dublin)* *(DEEPEN)*
4	Who is Anxious about Her/his Retirement Income? **Juan J. Fernández** *(University Carlos III Madrid)*, Tobias Wiß *(Johannes Kepler Universität Linz)* *(DEEPEN)*
	PANEL 1.2 Identity Politics **Thursday, 15.02.2024** **11:00 - 12:45** **Hörsaal 31** **Chair: Marlis Stubenvoll** **Discussant: Gerhard Schnyder**
1	Educationism in comparative perspective: exploring the particularities of education-based identity and prejudice across nine European countries **Jochem van Noord** *(Vrije University Brussels)*, Bram Spruyt *(Vrije University Brussels)*, Toon Kuppens *(University of Groningen)*, Filip Van Droogenbroeck *(Vrije University Brussels)* (UNDPOLAR)

2	Identity Politics old and new – Appeals to Social Groups in Parliamentary Debates Over Time **Marvin Stecker** *(University of Vienna)*, Fabienne Lind *(University of Vienna)*, Hajo G. Boomgaarden *(University of Vienna)*
3	Measuring Party Campaigning: A New Framework and Approach **Stephanie Luke** *(University of Sheffield)* and **Katharine Dommett** *(University of Sheffield)* (DATADRIVEN)
4	The Unexpected Democrats? Protecting Democratic Norms in Context of Affective Polarization Morgan Le Corre Juratic *(Aarhus University)*, **Markus Wagner** *(University of Vienna)*, Daniel Bischof *(Aarhus University)*
5	When money drives health and education: Diminishing acceptance of economic inequality showing its spill-over effects **Francisco Miguel Soler-Martínez** (University of Granada), Efraín García-Sánchez (Standford University), Guillermo B. Willis (University of Granada)

THEME 2: THE EVOLVING POLITICS OF THREAT	
	PANEL 2.1 Political Polarization in Europe **Friday, 16.02.2024** **09:00 - 10:45** **Hörsaal 31** **Chair and Discussant: Sonja Zmerli**
1	Populist economic policies: East Central European governments and foreign direct investment **Andreas Nölke** *(Goethe University Frankfurt am Main),* **Gerhard Schnyder** *(Loughborough University London),* Dorottya Sallai *(LSE),* Daniel Kinderman *(University of Delaware)* (POPBACK)
2	Varieties of information control and media instrumentalization in populist and authoritarian political regimes of Central-Eastern Europe **Marko Ribać** *(Peace Institute Slovenia),* Burçe Çelik *(Loughborough University London),* Mojca Pajnik *(Peace Institute Slovenia),* Marlene Radl *(University of Vienna),* Fanni Toth *(Loughborough University London),* Tjaša Turnšek *(Peace Institute Slovenia),* Lana Zdravković *(Peace Institute Slovenia)* (POPBACK)
3	Supranationalism v. Populism: The variegated sheltering of EU assets in populist countries **Andreas Nölke** *(Goethe University Frankfurt am Main),* Dorottya Sallai *(LSE),* **Gerhard Schnyder** *(Loughborough University London)* (POPBACK)
4	Are Populist Governments Really Pro-People and Anti-Elite? **Irakli Barbakadze** *(University of Cambridge),* Simon Deakin *(University of Cambridge)*
5	Austrofascism and populism – what can an examination of the overlapping factors teach us for the present? **Hubert Niedermayr**
	PANEL 2.2 Threats, Challenges and Possible Solutions to Sustain Democracy **Thursday, 15.02.2024** **11:00 - 12:45** **Hörsaal 32** **Chair: Karolina Koc-Michalska** **Discussant: Jan Nicola Beyer**

1	Political microtargeting: Assessing the effects of being (mis)targeted on topic attitude, topic importance, and ad liking Annelien van Remoortere *(ASCoR)*, Susan Vermeer *(ASCoR)*, **Sanne Kruikemeier** *(Wageningen University)* (DATADRIVEN)
2	Don't Believe the Hype?: Evaluating the Democratic Impact of Political Micro-targeting (PMT) in Election Campaigns in Europe **Rachel Gibson** *(University of Manchester)*, Katharine Dommett *(University of Sheffield)*, Sanne Kruikemeier *(Wageningen University)*, Sophie Lechler *(University of Vienna)* (DATADRIVEN)
3	Perceptions on reasons and consequences of selective news exposure across Europe **Agnieszka Stępińska** *(Adam Mickiewicz University)*, Denis Halagiera (*Adam Mickiewicz University)*, Nicoleta Corbu *(National University of Political Studies and Public Administration Romania)* (THREATPIE)
4	Democratic Problem or Healthy Audience Practice? How Different Operationalization of News Avoidance Relate to Political Knowledge, Efficacy, and Life Satisfaction Kim Andersen *(University of Southern Denmark)*, **David Nicolas Hopmann** *(University of Southern Denmark)*, Klara Langmann *(Johannes Gutenberg-University)*, Christian Schemer *(Johannes Gutenberg-University)*, Morten Skovsgaard *(University of Southern Denmark), et al.* (THREATPIE)
	PANEL 2.3 From the Margins of Democracy: Process, Temporality, and Actors of the Threat **Thursday, 15.02.2024** **15:45 - 17:45** **Hörsaal 31** **Chair and Discussant: Ajmal Hussain**
1	The reflexive dilemmas of the researcher using the category 'Muslim' in Europe **Alexandra Poli** *(Centre d'Etudes des Mouvements Sociaux)* (QUEST)

2	Roundtable Discussion **"Doing research in polarized contexts: epistemic and ethical challenges"** Dr. Agata Chelstowska (*Jagiellonian University*) Juulia Kela (*University of Helsinki*) Dr. Monica Five Aarset (*Norwegian Social Research institute, OsloMET*) Prof. Dr. Ghufran Khir Allah (*Nebrija University/Complutense University of Madrid*) Moderator: Prof. Dr. Berta Alvarez Miranda (*Complutense University of Madrid*)
3	Discussion with the Audience
	PANEL 2.4 Hope, Grief and Livable Lives. Politics of Emotion in the Context of Criminalisation **Thursday, 15.02.2024** **09:00 - 10:45** **Hörsaal 31** **Chair: Juulia Kela** **Discussant: Beate Binder**
1	Confining boundaries of agency in criminalised settings. On lived experiences of people who use opioids in Poland **Justyna Strujik** (*Jagiellonian University*)
2	The ethnographic novel as texturing research **Juulia Kela** (*University of Helsinki*)
3	On productive disappointment. Reflections from the pro-abortion movement in Poland **Agata Chełstowska** (*Jagiellonian University*)

THEME 3 - DEMOCRATISATION OF INFORMATION AND EXPERTISE	
	PANEL 3.1 Data-Driven Campaigning **Wednesday, 14.02.2024** **15:00 - 16:45** **Hörsaal 31** **Chair: Sophie Lecheler** **Discussant: Agnieszka Stępińska**
1	Effects of data-driven campaigning on polarization **Xiaotong Chu** *(Amsterdam School of Communication Research)*, Rens Vliegenthart *(Amsterdam School of Communication Research)*, Lukas Otto *(Amsterdam School of Communication Research)*, Sophie Lecheler *(University of Vienna)*, Claes de Vreese *(University of Amsterdam)*, Sanne Kruikemeier *(Wageningen University)* (DATADRIVEN)
2	Citizens' acceptance of data-driven political campaigning: a 25-country cross-national vignette study **Rens Vliegenthart** *(Amsterdam School of Communication Research)*, Jade Vrielink *(Wageningen University)*, Katharine Dommett *(University of Sheffield)*, Rachel Gibson *(University of Manchester)*, Esmeralda Bon *(University of Manchester)*, Xiaotong Chu *(Amsterdam School of Communication Research)*, Claes de Vreese *(University of Amsterdam)*, Sophie Lecheler *(University of Vienna)*, Jörg Matthes *(University of Vienna)*, Sophie Minihold *(University of Vienna)*, Lukas Otto *(Amsterdam School of Communication Research)*, Marlis Stubenvoll *(University of Vienna)*, Sanne Kruikemeier *(Wageningen University)* (DATADRIVEN)
3	Data-driven campaigning in a multiparty system **Linn Sandberg** *(University of Bergen),* Anamaria Dutceac Segesten *(Lund University)*
4	Data-driven campaigns in Spain? Temptative evidences from regional parties **Adrià Mompó** *(Universitat Oberta de Catalunya)*, Oscar Barberà *(Universitat de València)*
5	Examining the (Un)Intended Consequences of Data-Driven Campaigns: A Focus on Information Asymmetry due to Exclusion Criteria Sophie Minihold *(University of Vienna),* **Fabio Votta** *(University of Amsterdam)* (DATADRIVEN)

	PANEL 3.2 Media, AI, Misinformation Friday, 16.02.2024 09:00 - 10:45 Hörsaal 32 Chair: Oscar Barberà Discussant: Tjaša Turnšek
1	The more you read the more you know? The relationship between news use behavior and knowledge and misperceptions in 18 democracies **Luisa Gehle** *(Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz)*, Peter van Aelst *(Universiteit Antwerpen)*, Jesper Strömbäck *(University of Gothenburg)*, Christian Schemer *(Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz)*, Alon Zoizner (University of Haifa) (THREATPIE)
2	The Threat of AI-fuelled Online Extremism, **Stephane Baele** *(Louvain School of Political and Social Sciences) (*ExId*)*
3	Truths, lies and fears: a comparative analysis of authoritarian populist discourse on the Russo-Ukrainian War **Fanni Toth** *(Loughborough University London)*, Tjaša Turnšek *(Peace Institute Slovenia),* Marko Ribać *(Peace Institute Slovenia),* Marlene Radl *(University of Vienna),* Sonja Gassner *(University of Vienna),* Sinem Aydinli *(Loughborough University London),* Maja Dodić *(University of Rijeka),* Burçe Çelik *(Loughborough University London) (*POPBACK*)*
4	Governing AI-base Automated Decision Making Systems in EU Public Law **Herwig C. H. Hofmann** *(University of Luxembourg) (*INDIGO*)*
	PANEL 3.3 Exploring Representation and Privacy in the Digital Age Thursday, 15.02.2024 13:45 - 15:30 Hörsaal 32 Chair and Discussant: Stephane Baele
1	Give the People What They Want? How Issue and Political Fit Affect Visual Attention to and Cognitive Processing of Political Microtargeting **Selina Noetzel** *(University of Vienna)*, Alice Binder *(University of Vienna)*, Jörg Matthes *(University of Vienna*) (DATADRIVEN*)*

2	Power to the people? How collective, proxy, or individual solutions to data protection affect privacy fatigue **Marlis Stubenvoll** *(University of Klagenfurt)*, Selina Noetzel *(University of Vienna)*, Sophie Minihold *(University of Vienna)*, Alice Binder *(University of Vienna)*, Jörg Matthes *(University of Vienna) (*DATADRIVEN*)*
3	Exploring citizens' preferences towards representation through a mixed-method design **Bartolomeo Cappellina** *(University of Vienna)*, Dylan Paltra *(University of Vienna)*, Christopher Wratil *(University of Vienna)* (RUDE)
4	Citizens' Preferences for Multidimensional Representation Jack Blumenau *(University College London)*, Fabio Wolkenstein *(University of Vienna)*, **Christopher Wratil** *(University of Vienna)*

	THEME 4 - SHIFTING IDENTITIES AND REPRESENTATION
	PANEL 4.1 Identity and Resentment in Geographical Divides **Wednesday, 14.02.2024** **10:45 - 12:30** **Hörsaal 32** **Chair: Gerhard Schnyder** **Discussant: Stefan Svallfors**
1	Rural and urban as identity forming entities? **Antonia Lang** *(Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main) (*RUDE*)*
2	Where do place-based identity and place-based resentment come from? **Rubén García Del Horno** *(Universitat Autònoma)*, **Antonia Lang** *(Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main)*, **Alina Zumbrunn** *(University of Bern)* *(*RUDE*)*
3	Geographical Divides in Citizens' Discontent **Kathrin Ackermann** *(Heidelberg University)*, Antonia Lang *(Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main)*, Sigrid Roßteutscher *(Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main)* *(*RUDE*)*
4	An unrequited conflict: Affective polarisation among ruralites, suburbanites and urbanites in Switzerland **Alina Zumbrunn** *(University of Bern) (*RUDE*)*
5	Roots of resentment: Fact or fiction? **Michael Webb** *(Sciences Po Grenoble)*, Sonja Zmerli *(Université Grenoble Alpes)*, **Alina Zumbrunn** *(University of Bern) (*RUDE*)*
	PANEL 4.2 Gender, Media, and Legal Dynamics in EU **Wednesday, 14.02.2024** **15:00 - 16:45** **Hörsaal 32** **Chair: Marko Ribać** **Discussant: Nikoleta Yordanova**
1	A Revolution in Representation? Lessons from a Failed Democratic Experiment **Bartolomeo Cappellina** *(University of Vienna)*, Camille Bedock *(Sciences Po Bordeaux)*, Pierre-Etienne Vandamme *(KU Leuven) (*RUDE*)*

2	Structural Masculinism and Women's Media Ownership in the Context of Authoritarian Populism: A Feminist Political Economy of Communication Perspective Marlene Radl *(University of Vienna),* **Burçe Çelik** *(Loughborough University London),* **Mojca Pajnik** *(Peace Institute Slovenia),* Birgit Sauer *(University of Vienna)* (POPBACK)
3	For Whom the Court Rules: A Study of How the CJEU Shapes the Separation of Powers in EU Migration Law **Martin Westlund** *(University of Gothenburg)* (SepaRope)
PANEL 4.3 Studying Muslimness in Polarised Societies: in Quest of a Balanced View of Belongings and Engagements **Friday, 16.02.2024** **11:00 - 13:00** **Kleiner Festsaal** **Chair and Discussant: Monica Five Aarset**	
1	Gender and Generations **Monika Grønli Rosten** *(Oslo Metropolitan University),* **Cecilia Eseverri Mayer** *(Universidad Complutense de Madrid)*
2	A Segregated Urban Space **Bartolomeo Conti** *(École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales),* **Berta Alvarez** Miranda *(Complutense University)*
3	Engagements and Muslimness **Ajmal Hussain** *(Warwick University),* **Alexandra Poli** *(École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales)*
4	Roundtable Discussion **"Being Muslim in the turbulence of local democracy in Europe"** Dr. Monika Grønli Rosten *(Norwegian Social Research institute, NOVA)* Dr. Cecilia Eseverri Mayer *(Complutense University of Madrid)* Dr. Bartolomeo Conti *(École des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales)* Prof. Dr. Berta Alvarez-Miranda *(Complutense University of Madrid)* Dr. Ajmal Hussain *(Warwick University)* Prof. Dr. Alexandra Poli *(Centre d'Etudes des Mouvements Sociaux, EHESS)* Moderator: Dorra Mameri-Chaambi, *(EHESS)*

	THEME 5: CHANGING AUTHORITY OF INSTITUTIONS
	PANEL 5.1 Conceptualizing Democracy and Political Values **Thursday, 15.02.2024** **13:45 - 15:30** **Hörsaal 31** **Chair: Juan J. Fernández** **Discussant: Rachel Gibson**
1	Fight or unite? How democratic institutions moderate the link between polarization and political violence in 36 democracies over time (1970-2018) **Didier Caluwaerts** *(Vrije Universiteit Brussel)*, Kamil Bernaerts *(Vrije Universiteit Brussel)* (UNDPOLAR)
2	The Long-Term Consequences of Automation Risk on Electoral Behaviour Bernt Bratsberg *(University of Bergen)*, **Henning Finseraas** *(Norwegian University of Science and Technology)*, Peter Egge Langsæther *(University of Oslo)*, Ole Rogeberg *(University of Oslo)*
3	Red Colossus: How Ideological Flexibility Allowed The Chinese Communist Party To Save Its Leninist Leviathan **Noah Prill** *(San Diego State University)*
	PANEL 5.2 Connecting Citizens to the State: The Administrative State in the Age of Democratic Turbulence **Thursday, 15.02.2024** **15:45 - 17:30** **Hörsaal 32** **Chair and Discussant: Martin Lodge**
1	Maintaining Montesquieu: Reconnecting the legal administrative state to citizens through collaborative incrementalism Are Vegard Haug *(Oslo Metropolitan University)*, **Nick Sitter** *(Norwegian Business School)*
2	Regional Consumer Authorities in Spain: Building Consumer Protection Coalitions with and without Citizens Jacint Jordana *(Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals / Universitat Pompeu Fabra)*, Joaquín Rozas *(Universitat Pompeu Fabra)*, **Juan Carlos Triviño-Salazar** *(Universitat Pompeu Fabra)*
3	A Citizen Re-Connect? Comparing dynamics in citizen-administrative state encounters

Martin Lodge *(Centre for Analysis of Risk and Regulation, London School of Economics)*, Christel Koop *(King's College London)*, **David Wilson** *(Centre for Analysis of Risk and Regulation, London School of Economic)*	

PANEL 5.3 Challenges to Democratic Governance in the EU Judicial System **Thursday, 15.02.2024** **09:00 - 10:45** **Hörsaal 32** **Chair: Henning Finseraas** **Discussant: Martin Westlund**	
1	Judicial Ideology at the European Court of Justice. Evidence from the Attitudes at the ECJ Survey (AECS) **Henning Deters** *(University of Vienna)*, Moritz Klock *(University of Vienna)*
2	Just to be clear? European Parliament position-taking and public opinion Aleksandra Khokhlova *(Leiden University),* **Anastasia Ershova** *(Queen's University Belfast),* **Nikoleta Yordanova** *(Leiden University)* (EUINACTION)
3	Negotiating European Integration: Council Responsiveness to Public Opinion, **Nikoleta Yordanova** (Leiden University), **Anastasia Ershova** (Queen's University Belfast), Aleksandra Khokhlova (Leiden University) (EUINACTION)
4	Is it all Cheap Talk?: The effects of international climate agreements on domestic political debates Patrick Bayer *(University of Glasgow)*, Zachary Greene *(University of Strathclyde)*, **Christine Sylvester** *(University of Strathclyde)* (EUINACTION)
5	The Role of Superior Courts in Democratic Erosion and Resilience: Evidence from Venezuela and Colombia **Farah Adeed** (Boston University, USA), Saleha Anwar (San Diego State University, USA)

ART PERFORMANCE

"The Conservatory of Populism"

Helena Botto (POPBACK)

Link for the Trailer: https://vimeo.com/790144677

In 'The Conservatory of Populism' Helena Botto addresses the theatricality of politics and question the way theatrical devices can be deployed to construct reality.

In this humourous performance, she 'teaches' the audience - her 'students' of populism - how they can use theatrical techniques to deliver efficient populist political speech. Within this frame, Helena enacts (in)famous right-wing populist speeches (e.g. Donald Trump, Jair Bolsonaro, Marine Le Pen, Victor Órban, etc.) while taking a critical stance on them. The

audience is called into a, at times hilarious, at times uncomfortably risky experience, where they are asked to interpret if what they are experiencing is a quoted political speech or a fictional one. What is real, and what is made to believe becomes diffused.

Key to her artistic process are over-identification strategies. Helena Botto, a PhD student, a performer and performance-maker, is both a real and a fictional character, who radically identifies in a comical and amplified manner with the very subjects she is criticising. Through the performance, she critiques theatricality in itself (and the processes of theatre-making) and populist theatricality.

The Conservatory of Populism' is conceived and performed by Helena Botto in collaboration with sound designer Rob Hart, visual artist Sonia Roshal and associate producer Lorenza Peragine. Exhibition videos: Helena Botto and Rob Hart. Lighting design and props construction: Jonathan Wilson. Academic supervision: Joe Kelleher and Simon Bayly. POPBACK project leader: Gerhard Schnyder. It is funded by Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, Norface, POPBACK and is supported by the University of Roehampton and The Old Operating Theatre.

More about the artists:

Helena Botto is a performer, a performance-maker and a PhD candidate at the School of Arts, Roehampton University, in London to which she holds a studentship from Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia. In her practice-as-research thesis she has been exploring the rhetoric and performativity of populist leadership, fictional writing and the thinking of democracy as an 'improper', monstrous, dissonant and inclusionary space. http://helenabotto.weebly.com/https://www.popback.org/wp4-populism-on-stage

Rob Hart is trained in Sound Design at Edinburgh University (Msc with Distinction). His works for theatre include Eclipse (Theatre Royal, Stratford), Rosaura (Women and War Festival), Iyalode of Eti (West Yorkshire Playhouse), The Foley Explosion (The Yard Theatre), Here's What She Said To Me (Sheffield Crucible) and No Future (Camden People's Theatre). He regularly performs experimental music and expanded cinema as a solo artist and in the collaborations 'Swab' and 'The Hellfire Project'. His sound design can be heard in the recent video series for the V&A 'ASMR at the Museum. robhartav.com