



1st ECPR/ODIHR Summer School on Political Parties and Democracy

Date: 9-15 July 2018

Organised under the auspices of the Standing Group on Central East European Politics and with the support of the Standing Group on Political Parties of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), the Summer School will bring together an international team of academics and practitioners to train and instruct a group of 20 MA/PhD researchers, practitioners and civil society leaders in the field of political parties and democracy.

Sponsored by the [European Consortium for Political Research](#), the OSCE [Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights \(ODIHR\)](#), [Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw](#) and the [Centre for the Study of Parties and Democracy](#)

Aims

The main aims of the Summer School include :

- to provide instruction and discussion on a wider range of analytical perspectives in the study of political parties, party systems, elections and democracy;
- to develop a multinational forum for both junior scholars and practitioners to critically discuss their research projects and the development of the subfield;
- to assist PhD researchers to develop their dissertation projects at the cutting edge of the field, contributing to innovation in conceptualisation, measurement, analysis and theory;
- to prepare PhD researchers for the requirements and criteria of international academic publishing, and to encourage them to submit their work to academic journals;
- to help practitioners to understand the main academic findings regarding party politics and democracy promotion;
- to build on the most recent developments of political party development and democracy promotion presented at most recent interdisciplinary International Conference in Birmingham (26-27 April 2017) and Brussels (18-20 June 2017);
- to stimulate international collaboration in the field of parties, party systems, elections and democracy and to encourage PhD researchers and practitioners to take part in such collaboration.

Participants

The Summer School is open for MA/PhD researchers, practitioners and civil society leaders in the field of political parties, elections, representative democracy and closely related areas (e.g. corruption) from and working on the following OSCE participating States: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. The Summer School is also open for participants from Kosovo. The maximum number of participants is 20. Organizers will attempt to achieve both a gender and a regional (i.e. Central and South-Eastern European as well as post-Soviet region) balance.



Your application should be submitted to Fernando.Casal.Bertoa@nottingham.ac.uk and k.grzybowska-walecka@uksw.edu.pl by **Friday 11 May 2018** and contain a 500-word abstract of your proposed paper.

Staff

The teaching staff consists of 8 leading scholars and practitioners in the field of parties and democracy from European and American universities and international organizations.

Teaching format

The Summer School comprises an intensive programme of lectures and seminars by leading scholars and practitioners in the field, and presentations with in-depth discussions of participants' projects. The teaching language will be English. The Summer School contains 7 teaching days, each of which is organised around a topical research question related to the overall theme of the Summer School. Each day will comprise two main elements, each of which is scheduled to last three and a half hours. The overall number of class contact hours will thus be 50.

The first element consists of a presentation by a staff member on a specific topic related to the theme of the Summer School. This will be followed by a question-and-answer session. The second element consists of presentations by participants of their projects (which may, but do not have to be part of their PhD research). Each of these presentations will be followed by rigorous discussion (approximately 30 minutes) with all other participants and staff. Each day up to three participants will present their work.

Assessment and accreditation

Each participant fulfilling the above-mentioned requirements will receive a certificate of participation.

On special request, PhD researchers' papers may be assessed and credited by staff members of the Summer School. The credits awarded for successful participation and assessment will be 6.5 European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credits. PhD researchers wishing to have their work accredited are advised to consult the directors of the Summer School at an early stage.

Accommodation

All participants of the Summer School will be accommodated at [Ibis Warszawa State Miasto \(Old Town\)](#), 10 minutes walking distance from the OSCE/ODIHR premises.

Fees

There are no fees. Accommodation (7 nights starting on July 8th), tuition, lunches and two reception-dinners are sponsored by the organisers.

Travel arrangements/expenses will be organised/covered by the participants. However, a limited number of participants will have the opportunity to get their travel reimbursed on a merit-base.



Location

The Summer School will be hosted by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). The OSCE/ODIHR premises are located in [Warsaw's Old Town](#).

Directors

The Summer School is directed by Dr [Katarzyna Grzybowska - Walecka](#) (Assistant Professor at the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University, Head of the MA Programme on Politics in Cyberspace and editor of the journal *Politologia*) and Dr [Fernando Casal Bértoa](#) (Assistant Professor at the University of Nottingham, co-director of REPRESENT, chair of the Council for European Studies Research Network on "Parties, Party Systems and Elections", member of the OSCE/ODIHR "Core Group of Political Party Experts" and co-editor of the Routledge Book Series on Political Parties and Party Systems).