

Euroscepticism and the Future of European Democracy

RECON Workshop

WP 5 – Civil Society and the Public Sphere

Jagiellonian University of Krakow, May 28-29, 2010.

Within the framework of RECON Work Package 5 - Civil Society and the Public Sphere, this workshop will discuss findings from the sub-project on Euroscepticism in the 2009 EP election campaigns. With existing scholarly attention predominantly focused on party politics and public opinion, the question of how Euroscepticism is advanced in public and media discourse appears relatively uncharted. The focus of the workshop will be on how Eurosceptic discourse is made salient by political actors and journalists through the media.

Particular attention will be paid to the internet as a platform of political contestation and campaigning in the context of EP elections. This includes an assessment of the performance of professional journalism websites as well as citizens' journalism through commenting, online fora and political blogs. The results will be used in order to: a) evaluate the online European public sphere in light of existing knowledge on its 'offline' counterpart; and b) assess the nature of Eurosceptic discourse, compare manifestations of Euroscepticism across countries and websites and study the extent to which Euroscepticism features in the election campaign and results.

WP 5 partners have taken stock of the scholarly literature on Euroscepticism in a variety of member states and have identified themes, actors and forums for Eurosceptic discursive practices in the context of campaigns surrounding the European Parliament elections of June 2009. The RECON researchers will present individual country chapters covering a representative sample of 12 EU member states including Austria, Germany, the UK, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Poland and Greece. All RECON WP 5 partners will deliver two inputs for the workshop: one chapter on the shape of the EU online public sphere and its democratic assessment and a second chapter on the manifestations of Euroscepticism and the dynamics of EP election campaigning in their country of analysis.

Paper presentations will be followed by commentaries provided by distinguished scholars in the fields of media and European studies. Their critical feedback will bring an external perspective to the project's conceptual and empirical aspects and will set the framework for further discussion and evaluation of our findings.

Programme

RECON Workshop: Euroscepticism and the Future of European Democracy, Jagiellonian University of Krakow

Friday, 28 May:

08:45-09:15	Registration
09.15-09.30	Opening of the Workshop Welcoming words Zdzisław Mach <i>Jagiellonian University Kraków</i> Introductory remarks Hans-Jörg Trenz <i>ARENA, University of Oslo</i>
09.30-11.00	Research Framework The internet and EP elections Asimina Michailidou and Hans-Jörg Trenz <i>ARENA, University of Oslo</i> Comment Nick Jankowski <i>University of Nijmegen</i> Euroscepticism: A new framework of analysis Pieter de Wilde and Hans-Jörg Trenz <i>ARENA, University of Oslo</i> Comment Paul Statham <i>University of Bristol</i>
11.00-11.15	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.15-12.30	Comparative findings Comparative European New Media Election Project Carlos Cunha <i>Dowling College</i> Comment Hans-Jörg Trenz <i>ARENA, University of Oslo</i> Euroscepticism Comparative Project findings Pieter de Wilde and Asimina Michailidou <i>ARENA, University of Oslo</i> Comment Carlos Cunha <i>Dowling College</i>
12.30-14.00	Lunch
14.00-15.30	Country case studies

Poland**Natasza Styczyńska***Jagiellonian University Krakow***Comment****Barbara Jabłońska***Jagiellonian University Krakow***France and Belgium****Amandine Crespy and Francois Foret***Université Libre de Bruxelles***Comment****Florence Haegel***Science Po, Paris*15.30-15.45 *Coffee break*15.45-16.30 **Country case studies****Germany and Austria****Kathrin Packham and Hans-Jörg Trenz***University of Bremen and ARENA, University of Oslo***Comment****Ann Zimmermann***University of Aarhus*16.30-17.30 **Discussion of cases presented**19.30 **Dinner****Saturday, 29 May**

09.00-10.30 **Country case studies****United Kingdom****Asimina Michailidou***ARENA, University of Oslo***Comment****Paul Statham***University of Bristol***The Netherlands****Pieter de Wilde***ARENA, University of Oslo***Comment****Nick Jankowskip***University of Nijmegen*10.30-10.45 *Coffee break*10.45-12.15 **Country case studies****The Czech Republic****Petra Guasti and Zdenka Mansfeldova**

Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Prague

Comment

To be confirmed

Hungary

Maria Heller, Borbála Kriza and Tamas Kohut

Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest

Comment

Dora Husz

European Commission, Directorate general Communication

12:15-13:45

Lunch

13:45-14:30

Discussion of cases presented

14:30-15:00

Final Discussion and closing remarks

Magdalena Góra and Hans-Jörg Trenz

Jagiellonian University Krakow and ARENA, University of Oslo
