What is democracy to Citizens? Understanding Perceptions and Evaluations of Democratic Systems in Contemporary Europe


ABSTRACT
The object of this thesis is Europeans’ orientations to democracy. It is argued in this dissertation that an important variable has been missed in the literature, namely, citizens’ cognitive support for democracy. By including this concept in the analysis of Europeans’ support for democracy, a number of aspects which had been much uncertain until now are inspected. First, conceptual clarification of support for democracy is possible, by distinguishing different types of orientations to democracy. Second, and from an empirical perspective, classical indicators of support for democracy are examined.

Jury Members: Alexander Trechsel (EUI, Supervisor), Hanspeter Kriesi (EUI), Bernhard Wessels (WZB), José Ramon Montero (University of Madrid, by videoconference)

SHORT BIO
Monica Ferrin Pereira (Geneva, 1979) finished her LL.M at the University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain) in 2002. She obtained the M.A. in Contemporary Political Science in 2004 in Santiago de Compostela. From 2004 to 2008 she has been involved in different projects at the University of Santiago de Compostela and the Escola Galega de Administracion Publica (Spain) In 2008 she started her PhD at the European University Institute, where she has mainly worked on public opinion and democracy.