



Political Conflict in Europe  
in the Shadow of the Great Recession

Max Weber Programme Multidisciplinary Workshop  
in collaboration with the POLCON project

**Wednesday, 25 May, 15:00 – 18:00,  
Max Weber Common Room, Badia Fiesolana**

## **Computational Social Science (CSS): New Frontiers of Collaboration?**

### **Abstract**

How can we develop innovative and robust methodological frameworks in order to understand complex social phenomena? Recent developments in the field of computational social science (CSS) approaches substantially enlarge the existing methodological techniques for the establishment of causality and, consequently, for the better understanding of our social world. CSS approaches can help vastly expand the span of our research inquiries. There is a growing need to analyse the increasing number of digitally available text collections.

This workshop's aim is to bring together CSS experts and social scientists to improve the dialog between the two communities. Social scientists have questioned the applicability of CSS methods to explain social phenomena. It is important to make clear that CSS approaches do not comprise alternative methodologies. Rather they are complementary with the ones currently used in social science research. They aid researchers in the social science fields to improve and reinforce their methodological arsenal. This workshop's ambition is to inform social scientists about the new opportunities offered by CSS techniques, and CSS experts of the needs and challenges of social scientists. This dialog can help the formation of robust methodological frameworks and the improvement of theoretical building.

Our workshop is organized along three key themes: computational social science techniques, event analysis, and sentiment analysis. We will bring together EUI researchers, and two senior CSS researchers. They are experts on the following fields: natural language processing, artificial intelligence, machine learning and cognitive semantics. The proposed activity is addressed to all social scientists (economists, political scientists, lawyers and historians) interested in learning new methodological tools working with "big data" and textual analysis. Therefore, the workshop will be useful for all EUI doctoral researchers, fellows and faculty members.



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## Program

### **Panel I: 15:00 – 15:45: Introduction**

“Introduction to computational social sciences: Available methods and tools for social scientists”  
Harris Papageorgiou, Athena RC and Ioannis Galariotis, Max Weber Fellow, SPS

### **Panel II: 15:45 – 16:25: Event analysis**

“The POLCON project and event analysis: A social scientist perspective”  
Jasmine Lorenzini, Post-doctoral researcher, POLCON project, EUI

“The POLCON project and protest events: A technical analysis”  
Peter Makarov, PhD researcher, Institute of Computational Linguistics, Zurich University

### **Coffee break 16:25 – 16:40**

### **Panel III: 16:40 – 17:20: Sentiment analysis**

“Sentiment analysis approaches for the explanation of the social world”  
Maria Pontiki, Athena RC and Harris Papageorgiou, Athena RC

“Examining the European citizens' sentiments about the EU security and defence policy through Twitter: The case of the Ukraine crisis”, Ioannis Galariotis, Max Weber Fellow, SPS

Chair: Olivia Nicol, Max Weber Fellow, SPS

### **Conclusions: 17:20 – 18:00**

“What can we learn from computational social sciences?”, Olivia Nicol, Max Weber Fellow, SPS

Chair: Hanspeter Kriesi, Stein Rokkan Chair in Comparative Politics at SPS, EUI

Open discussion with participants: questions, clarifications and new ideas on multidisciplinary research



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#### List of the Max Weber Fellows responsible for the workshop:

- Guillemette Aline Crouzet (HEC, Max Weber Fellow, 2015-2016)
- Ioannis Galariotis (SPS, Max Weber Fellow, 2015-2016)
- Olivia Nicol (SPS, Max Weber Fellow, 2015-2016)

#### List of speakers & participants

- Harris Papageorgiou, Principal Researcher at the Institute for Language and Speech Processing ([www.ilsp.gr](http://www.ilsp.gr)), of the ATHENA Research and Innovation Center in Information, Communication and Knowledge Technologies ([www.athena-innovation.gr](http://www.athena-innovation.gr)), Coordinator of Technical Committee & Technical Responsible of operating the clarin:el, shared distributed infrastructure ([www.clarin.gr](http://www.clarin.gr)), which is the Greek part of the European CLARIN infrastructure ([www.clarin.eu](http://www.clarin.eu)), that aims at making language resources, technology and expertise available to the humanities and social sciences research communities at large.  
(<http://www.ilsp.gr/en/research/publications?view=member&task=show&id=49>)
- Maria Pontiki, Computational Linguist- Scientific Associate at the Institute for Language and Speech Processing (ILSP), ATHENA RC  
(<http://www.ilsp.gr/en/profile/staff?view=member&task=show&id=114>)
- Hanspeter Kriesi, Stein Rokkan Chair in Comparative Politics at SPS, EUI
- Jasmine Lorenzini, Post-doctoral researcher, POLCON project, EUI  
([http://www.eui.eu/Projects/POLCON/People\\_pages/polcon\\_people\\_jasmine\\_lorenzini.aspx](http://www.eui.eu/Projects/POLCON/People_pages/polcon_people_jasmine_lorenzini.aspx))
- Peter Makarov, PhD researcher, Institute of Computational Linguistics, Zurich University  
(<http://www.eui.eu/Projects/POLCON/Home.aspx>)

**Organizers:** Olivia Nicol (MWF, SPS), Ioannis Galariotis (MWF, SPS), Guillemette Aline Crouzet (MWF, HEC), POLCON project (Professor Hanspeter Kriesi, SPS)

All welcome, for information please contact [Ioannis Galariotis](#)  
Please [register](#)