

EUI Workshop on Political Behaviour in Central and Eastern Europe

19 – 20 June 2025

Venue European University Institute - Villa Schifanoia & Badia Fiesolana

Via Giovanni Boccaccio, 121, 50133 Firenze FI

Organised by Professor Filip Kostelka

The EUI Widening Europe Programme initiative, backed by contributions from the European Union and EUI Contracting States, is designed to strengthen internationalisation, competitiveness, and quality in research in Widening countries, and thus foster a more cohesive European Higher Education and Research area.

Programme

Day 1 Thursday 19 June

09.00 – 09:20 Registration and Morning Coffee *Lower Sala delle Bandiere (Villa Schifanoia)*

09.20 – 09:30 **Welcome by Prof. Filip Kostelka**
Sala delle Bandiere (Villa Schifanoia)

09.30 – 11.00 **Panel 1: Causes and Consequences of Satisfaction with Democracy** *Sala Triaria (Villa Schifanoia)*

- **Costin Ciobanu**, Aarhus University, “The Election Effect: How Elections Increase Satisfaction with Democracy Among Party Activists”
- **Gabriela Greiling**, University of Georgia, “Satisfaction with Democracy and Support for the Populist Radical Right in Eastern Europe
- **Chair:** Natalia Letki, University of Warsaw
- **Discussant:** Maciej Sychowiec, SWPS University

Panel 2: Experimental Approaches to Mass Preferences and Attitudes
Sala Belvedere (Villa Schifanoia)

- **Anna Novák**, Corvinus University of Budapest, “Voter Preferences and Representation Expectations in the Light of Candidate Characteristics – Lessons from a Hungarian Survey Experiment”
- **Denis Ivanov**, Vilnius University, “Awareness of Corruption and Attitudes Toward Income Inequality: Experimental Evidence from Lithuania, Hungary, and Moldova”
- **Chair:** Kamil Marcinkiewicz, University of Wrocław
- **Discussant:** Daniel Kovarek, EUI

11.00 – 11.15 Coffee Break
Sala delle Bandiere (Villa Schifanoia)

11.15 – 12.45 **Panel 3: Politics in Electoral Autocracies**
Sala Triaria (Villa Schifanoia)

- **Ádám Reiff**, Institute of Economics (Budapest), “Programmatic Subsidies and Democratic Backsliding: Evidence from Hungary”
- **Valentina Petrovic**, University of Zurich, “Beyond Ideology: Structural Roots of Democratic Opposition in Serbia”
- **Chair:** Hanspeter Kriesi, EUI
- **Discussant:** Michał Gulczyński, EUI

Panel 4: Migration and Attitudes

Sala Belvedere (Villa Schifanoia)

- **Natalia Letki**, University of Warsaw, "Immediate backlash, long-term change or stability? Dynamics of attitudes towards immigrants in the context of Ukrainian crisis"
- **Matej Jungwirth**, Northwestern University, "Thinking About Going Back Home in War: Survey Experiment Among Ukrainian Refugees in the Czech Republic"
- **Chair:** Filip Kostelka, EUI
- **Discussant:** Konstantin Bogatyrev, Bocconi University

12:45 – 14:15

Group Picture and Lunch

Sala delle Bandiere (Villa Schifanoia)

14:15 – 15:45

Panel 5: Voting Behaviour in Poland

Sala Triaria (Villa Schifanoia)

- **Oliwia Szczupska**, SWPS University, "Beyond Official Election Results: An Experiment with Approval-Based Ballots"
- **Kamil Marcinkiewicz**, University of Wroclaw, "The Rise of a New Cleavage: Polish Urban-Rural Divide and Beyond"
- **Chair:** Michał Gulczyński, EUI
- **Discussant:** Maciej Gorecki, University of Warsaw

Panel 6: Protest Behaviour

Sala Belvedere (Villa Schifanoia)

- **Marija Radoman**, University of Belgrade, "How emotions shape student political participation in Serbia during the 2024/2025 protests"
- **Claudiu Vlasie**, University of Babeş-Bolyai, "From Observation to Opinion: Investigating the Impact of Protest Exposure on Public Attitudes Across Five Democracies"
- **Chair:** Maciej Sychowiec, SWPS University
- **Discussant:** Hanspeter Kriesi, EUI

15:45 – 16:00

Coffee Break

Sala delle Bandiere (Villa Schifanoia)

16:00 – 17:30

Panel 7: Attitudes towards Democracy and Dictatorship

Sala Triaria (Villa Schifanoia)

- **Andrei-Dumitru Olteanu**, University of Babeş-Bolyai, "Electoral Attitudes toward Communism: A Comparative Analysis of Poland and Romania"
- **Paul Matthew Loveless**, University of Bologna, "The Success and Failure of Democratization: The Cultural and Institutional Consolidation in Central and Eastern Europe"
- **Chair:** Lenka Hrbkova, Masaryk University
- **Discussant:** Paweł Charasz, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Panel 8: Political Behaviour in the Western Balkans

Sala Belvedere (Villa Schifanoia)

- **Dusan Pejakovic**, University of Montenegro, "Political Behavior and EU Integration: Comparing the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership Countries"
- **Sofija Ljubisic**, University of Belgrade, "The Impact of Media Consumption on Voting Behavior in Serbia: An Analysis of Television, Internet Portals, and Social Media"
- **Chair:** Alexander Mesarovich, EUI
- **Discussant:** Valentina Petrovic, University of Zurich

18:00

Keynote lecture

Theatre (Badia Fiesolana)

Hanspeter Kriesi, European University Institute, "Populists in, populism out"

20:30

Dinner in the city centre

Day 2

Friday 20 June

09:00 – 10:30

Panel 9: Attitudes and Representation in the Baltics

Sala Triaria (Villa Schifanoia)

- **Ieva Hofmane**, EUI, "Substantive Representation of Young People: Case of Estonia"
- **Olga Jerjomina**, Witten/Herdecke University, "How External Actors Reshape Public Discourse: Russia's Influence on Latvia's Russian-Speaking Minority"
- **Chair:** Raimondas Ibenskas, University of Bergen,
- **Discussant:** Oliwia Szczupska, SWPS University

Panel 10: Ideological Dimensions

Sala Belvedere (Villa Schifanoia)

- **Josef Mintal**, Matej Bel University, "Beyond the Labels: Rethinking 'Liberal' and 'Conservative' in Central Europe"
- **Lenka Hrbkova**, Masaryk University, "Belief System Structures and Generational Change in Post-Communist Europe"
- **Chair:** Simon Hix, EUI
- **Discussant:** Filip Kostelka, EUI

10:30 – 10:45

Coffee Break

Sala delle Bandiere (Villa Schifanoia)

10:45 – 12:15

Panel 11: Determinants of Party Support

Sala Triaria (Villa Schifanoia)

- **Raimondas Ibenskas**, University of Bergen, “Legislative Party Switching and Party Electoral Support”
- **Jakub Szabó**, Comenius University, “Exploring Electoral Support for Illiberal Parties in the Context of the Slovak 2023 Parliamentary Election”
- **Chair:** Daniel Kovarek, EUI
- **Discussant:** Kamil Marcinkiewicz, University of Wroclaw

Panel 12 Historical Origins of Inequalities and Far-Right Support

Sala Belvedere (Villa Schifanoia)

- **Paweł Charasz**, Chinese University of Hong Kong, “From Nobleman to Businessman: The Enduring Legacy of Poland’s Szlachta”
- **Maciej Gorecki**, University of Warsaw, “Historical Roots of Far Right Populism”
- **Chair:** Costin Ciobanu, Aarhus University
- **Discussant:** Simon Hix, EUI

12:15 – 13:45

Lunch

Sala delle Bandiere (Villa Schifanoia)

13:45 – 15:15

Panel 13: Party System Polarisation

Sala Triaria (Villa Schifanoia)

- **Maciej Sychowiec**, SWPS University, “Dimensions of Division: Party, Ideological, and Issue Polarization in Poland, 1997–2023”
- **Felix Beilin**, Princeton University, “Polarization or Crystallization? Political Learning and Measures of Ideology in New Democracies”
- **Chair:** Jakub Szabó, Comenius University
- **Discussant:** Raimondas Ibenskas, University of Bergen

Panel 14: Mobilising Party Support

Sala Belvedere (Villa Schifanoia)

- **Branka Matijević**, Institute of Social Sciences (Belgrade), “Gender attitudes and party preferences in Serbia: The role of individual authoritarianism”
- **Tibor Toró**, Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania, “Constructing a Conservative Christian minority? Mapping Changes in the Political Discourse of DAHR in Romania”
- **Chair:** Lenka Drazanova, EUI
- **Discussant:** Costin Ciobanu, Aarhus University

15:15 – 15:30 Coffee Break
Sala delle Bandiere (Villa Schifanoia)

15:30 – 17:00 **Panel 15: Historical Legacies in Contemporary Behaviour and Attitudes**
Sala Triaria (Villa Schifanoia)

- **Leon Gawenda**, Bielefeld University, "Historical Roots and Contemporary Divides: The Impact of Party Strongholds on Germany's Electoral Geography"
- **Lenka Drazanova**, EUI, "Ideological Legacies and the Long-term impact on Gender Attitudes: An Age-Period-Cohort Approach"
- **Chair:** Valentina Petrovic, University of Zurich
- **Discussant:** Lenka Hrbkova, Masaryk University

Panel 16: Mass Support for Political Regimes
Sala Belvedere (Villa Schifanoia)

- **Konstantin Bogatyrev**, Bocconi University, "Do Wartime Casualties Affect Support for the Autocrat? Evidence from Russia"
- **Kosta Bovan**, University of Zagreb, "Exploring Democracy Trade-offs: Postcard from Croatia"
- **Chair:** Josef Mintal, Matej Bel University
- **Discussant:** Paul Matthew Loveless, University of Bologna

17:15 – 18:45 Final words & apéritif
Lower Loggia
Announcement winner of Jacques Rupnik Award