

Studying spillover at national and European Parliament elections in Europe: A collaborative project between EP and national election studies

To held at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences and Humanities (NIAS), Wassenaar, February 27th to March 1st 2013 under the title “Dysfunctional by Design: Addressing the Consequences for National Politics of Deficiencies in European Parliament Elections”

Funded by NIAS with co-funding from the EU’s Robert Schumann Center for Advanced Studies

Organized by Mark Franklin (EUI and MIT) and Wouter van der Brug (University of Amsterdam)

This workshop will have as its object the crafting of a research programme that, over the course of forthcoming national and European elections, will assemble systematic evidence to support conjectures relating to the consequences of EP elections for national politics in the EU’s member states, along with effects in the other direction – by-products of elections at each level that we refer to as “spillover”. Essentially, election studies at each level constitute part of the context in which election studies at other levels are conducted and we seek to design innovative strategies for taking account of the previously understudied contextual effects involved.

There is a lack of systematic comparative research into the type of spillover that exists between elections conducted at different levels. Therefore, we propose to bring together scholars of European Elections Studies and scholars responsible for National Election Studies in order to discuss possibilities for integrated research designs that would enable us to focus on the ways in which elections organized at different levels impact each other (see the appended conference agenda for further details).

One relevant mechanism linking the two levels is the socializing force that EP elections may have on those for whom these are the first electoral contests they experience as adults (about half of Europe’s voters, on a random basis, experience an EP election before having experienced an election to their own national parliament). This has only just begun to be an area of research, with turnout at national elections being so far the only topic subjected to systematic enquiry of this

kind. One purpose of the proposed workshop will be to identify other possible systematic consequences of EP elections for national political life, and to discuss the design of a research agenda that would address these possible consequences.

Spillover in the other direction, from national to European elections, has been more obvious, and has indeed provided the reason for labeling these as “Second Order National Elections”. But the ways in which national elections spill over into European electoral processes has been described mainly in anecdotal fashion or, even when the descriptions have been more systematic, generally without reference to specific behavior at the individual level. A more systematic approach depends on the provision of linkages (perhaps amounting to as little as one or two survey questions) between national and European election studies, which have always until now been conducted quite separately.

If successful, this would be the first time that national and EP election studies in Europe have united in a single EU-wide project, and it is hoped that the meeting will lay the ground-work for future collaborative ventures including the establishment of an EU-wide infrastructure to support systematic investigations into the quality of electoral processes in the EU and its member states. The workshop will meet under the auspices of the Consortium for European Research with Election Studies (CERES) that will provide a vehicle for propagating and building on the workshop’s achievements.

Because we have limited funding, we are requesting that PIs of national election studies with travel budgets should finance their own travel costs. Accommodation and meals will be provided by the organizers. Those without available travel funds will be supported by the travel budget supplied by the RSCAS.

List of participants:**

Austrian National Election Study: Sylvia Kritzinger (University of Vienna) current NIAS Fellow in Residence - social science methodology, political science

British Election Study: Edward Fieldhouse (University of Manchester) - political science
Cees van der Eijk (University of Nottingham) – social science methodology, political science
Geoffrey Evans (University of Oxford) – sociology, political science

Danish Election Study: Kasper Hansen (University of Copenhagen) - political science

European Election Study: *Wouter van der Brug, *Claes de Vries, *Hajo Boomgaarden (University of Amsterdam) NIAS Fellows in Residence - political science, communications
Mark Franklin† (MIT) current NIAS Fellow in Residence - political science (Chair of the Executive Board of CERES: the Consortium for European Research with Election Studies).
Herman Schmitt† (MZES, Mannheim and University of Manchester) - political science (PI of the COST-funded “True European Voter” programme of research.
Susan Banducci (University of Exeter) – political science
Jacques Thommassen (University of Twente) – political science

French Election Study: Bruno Cautres (Sciences Po, Paris) - political science
Nicolas Sauger (Sciences Po, Paris) – political science

German Longitudinal Election Study: Bernhard Wessels (WZ Berlin) – political science
Rudiger Schmitt-Beck (MZES Mannheim) - political science
Till Weber (Humbolt University, Berlin) - political science

Hungarian Election Study: Gabor Toka† (CEU, Budapest) - political science

Italian Election Study: Lorenzo de Sio (LUISS, Rome) - political science and sociology
Paolo Segatti (University of Milan) – sociology
Paolo Bellucci (University of Sienna) – political science

Netherlands Election Study: Henk van der Kolk† (University of Twente) - political science
Jean Tillie (University of Amsterdam) – political science
Kees Aarts (University of Twente) – political science

Portugese Election Study: Pedro Magalhães†(University of Lisbon) - political science

Polish Election Study: *Radodoslaw Markowski (Warsaw School of Social Psychology) - political science and psychology

Slovak Election Study: Olga Gyarfasova† (Institute for Public Affairs, Bratislava) - sociology

Swedish Election Study: Henrik Oscarsson (University of Gotteborg) - political science
Maria Oskarson† (University of Gotteborg) - political science

Spanish Election Study: Mariano Torcal (Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona) - political science

* In residence at NIAS, February 2013

† Current CERES board member

** Revised but still provisional list.

Programme

Thursday and Friday morning panels are scheduled to last 75 minutes each, comprising a 20-30 minute presentation followed by 45-55 minutes of discussion. Friday afternoon panels are shorter.

Wednesday Feb 27th: Arrival of participants, late afternoon

1800: Welcome reception and dinner (NIAS)

Thursday Feb 28th,

0930: Introductory remarks (Professor Aafke Hulk, Rector of NIAS, and Mark Franklin)

0945: Turnout research – state of the art and possible spillover (Edward Fieldhouse)

1100: Coffee break

1130: The Role of the Media - the state of the art and possible spillover (Claes de Vrees and Hajo Boomgaarden)

1245: Lunch break

1400: Party strategy research - state of the art and possible spillover (Lorenzo de Sio)

1515: Coffee break

1545: Party preference research - state of the art and possible spillover (Wouter van der Brug and Till Weber)

1700: Closing discussion

1815: Dinner (NIAS)

Friday March 1st

0930: Election outcomes - state of the art and possible spillover (Cees van der Eijk)

1045: Coffee break

1115: Archiving concerns in cross-national survey research (Alexia Katsanidou)

1145: An agenda for cross-national electoral research in Europe (Mark Franklin)

1245: Lunch break

1330: Meeting of Executive Board, Consortium for European Research with Election Studies

1430: Status and funding of European Election Studies (Hermann Schmitt)

1500: Status and funding of National Election Studies (Round Table)

1530: Coffee break

1600: Closing discussion

1700: Workshop ends

1830: Dinner (hotel)

Saturday March 2nd: Departure of long-distance participants after breakfast