

Workshop Proposal Outline form
for prospective Workshop Directors for the ECPR Joint Sessions of Workshops

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Title of proposed Workshop:	Whither the Environment in Europe?
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Outline of topic:	<p>Since the 1980s, environmental policy has been a key growth area within the European Union (EU). This has led to the development of a diverse and exciting literature covering: ideological innovation in the form of ecological modernization (Spaargaren and Mol 1992; Töpfer 1989) and the application of sustainable development (Baker 1997; Lenschow and Zito 1998); new policy challenges and programmes, with climate change being a major source of enquiry in the past ten years (see, for example, Oberthür and Roche Kelly 2008; Skjærseth and Wettstad 2010); novel forms of governance and instruments (Jordan <i>et al.</i> 2003; Knill and Lenschow 2003; Holzinger <i>et al.</i> 2006); environmental policy actors at different levels of governance, e.g. the Commission, Council, European Court of Justice and European Parliament (Koppen 1993; Judge 1992), but also green states or leaders (Andersen and Liefferink 1997), green political parties (see Carter 2008; Spoon 2009), interest groups (Mazey and Richardson 1992) and more recently, cities (Bulkeley and Kern 2006). The EU has carved out a role as an international environmental policy actor in its own right, generating new theoretical frameworks and empirical insights into the nature of leadership within and beyond Europe (see for instance Wurzel and Connelly 2011; Manners 2002). To explain these patterns, the literature from the 1980s onwards focused upon the importance of institutional analysis, social movement approaches, particular ideologies and specific interests operating in networks (e.g. Kitschelt 1996; Rüdig 1988). It often relied on limited qualitative case studies following standard behavioural science principles (e.g. Zito 2000).</p> <p>A number of key themes emerged from this body of work including: the assumption of the expansionist nature of EU policy in terms of political integration and geographic scope (Weale 1999); the importance of the EU as a global leader on international issues such as climate change (Schreurs and Tiberghien 2007); a focus on EU policy responses as being largely regulatory in nature (Majone 1994); the idea that policy coordination and policy integration necessarily follows from an explicit sustainability agenda; and the presence of environmental priorities and 'green' orientation that can rely on a stable advocacy structure in many European societies and within the EU institutions (Greenwood 2011). However, in recent times we have seen major changes in the form of: enlargement, the onset of austerity in the wake of the global financial and economic crisis, opportunities and threats to energy security and markets, and a resurgence of Euroscepticism. Combined, these factors have shifted the context within which policy is made and raised questions that challenge the conventional wisdom that underpins the study of European environmental policy.</p> <p>Moreover, just as our understanding of European environmental politics needs to evolve, the wider fields of politics and policy need to assess the greater focus on post-empiricist approaches but also the recognition for</p>
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	<p>important environmental scholars such as Elinor Ostrom. The field of environmental politics needs an intensive workshop to (a) assess the wider changes to the discipline and the implications for European environmental studies; and b) look outward to the external challenges (e.g. the Euro crisis, the Ukraine tensions and so forth), and evaluate the kind of new pathways needed to study these pressures and their impact on the European integration project and European environmental policy. Hence, this joint session will bring together both leading and junior scholars in the field to reflect upon the current state of art, and more importantly to reflect critically upon the nature of European environmental politics and policy as we move forward into the 21st Century, with a view to identifying and defining the future key trends and directions in the field. The workshop poses a range of analytical challenges for the participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Research agenda.</i> Are there new political dynamics and intervening variables that need to be acknowledged explicitly in the study of European environment? What are the implications of changes in policy priorities? What are the roles of different elements of the multi-level system that governs environmental policy (EU processes, international organizations, member state governments, subnational governments and cities, business and self-regulation norms, parties, and civil society)? • <i>Theoretical.</i> Are the theoretical frameworks of the 1980-90s still important? Is there a misfit between our current theoretical tools and the key developments and patterns in European environmental politics? How much weight should be given to new approaches? Is a greater understanding and incorporation of other disciplines required? • <i>Methodological.</i> The tendency in the field of the 1980s-1990s has been to focus on qualitative studies of cases involving limited comparisons. Have the benefits/pitfalls of other approaches (including large N studies, game theory, and post-empiricist studies) been sufficiently considered?
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<p>Relation to existing research:</p>	<p>The field is seeing some very exciting new work that poses analytical and empirical questions for environmental studies and European politics more generally. Large scale empirical projects have emerged to evaluate the extent to which we are seeing convergence in environmental policies (Holzinger <i>et al.</i> 2011). We have seen questioning of the dominant assumption that the European Parliament is a green champion (Burns <i>et al.</i> 2013). It has been suggested that EU environmental policy is potentially being watered down as a consequence of austerity politics and a resurgent Euroscepticism (Russel and Benson 2014). Former so-called environmental pioneers or leaders have relaxed into cost-free leadership or, indeed, have at times become veto states in environmental bargaining (Liefferink and Birkel 2010). Green parties, once a bastion of radical alternative politics, have become part of the political mainstream across Europe raising questions about their wider political identification but also of the analytical questions we should ask of them (Burchell 2014). Party politics scholars have turned their attention to the impact of the ideological composition of governments upon state compliance with international treaty obligations (Knill <i>et al.</i> 2010; Schulze 2014).</p> <p>Whilst early studies of an enlarged EU suggested that the 'new' states had</p>
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	<p>quickly been socialised into EU norms with little impact on environmental policy goals, more recent evidence suggests a more complex picture of the ‘newer’ states challenging the direction and pace of environmental policy within the EU (Braun 2014). Recent studies have also observed how Northern European leaders, in the past often the champions of policy expansion, have started to challenge regulatory burdens (Jordan <i>et al.</i> 2013).</p> <p>We have also moved away from the traditional media-specific policy concerns of air, water and soil pollution into more complex overlapping policy areas such as energy (e.g. Noorman and Uiterkamp 2014), climate change (van Teeffelen <i>et al.</i> 2013) and biotechnology (Daviter 2011). The field has seen a greater focus upon greening the European economy (Brand 2012) as well as the identification of the critical implementation challenges that face Europe (Jordan and Schout 2006). Such policy concerns require more sophisticated policy instruments and an academic study involving more complex analytical models and lenses to capture their multi-faceted nature.</p> <p>In short, many of the traditional approaches and assumptions underpinning the study of environmental policy and politics in Europe are now outdated, stale and in need of reviewing and refreshing. How relevant is ecological modernization as an ideological framework for analysing environmental leadership in a post-crisis, austerity-hit Europe? How should we understand and analyse the turn towards a green economy – is it a case of the emperor’s new clothes, with sustainable development simply being relabelled or is there a qualitative difference in the agenda now being pursued? Are the greens a spent political force in an increasingly polarised Europe seeing the resurgence of the far left and right? Can an austerity-hit Europe be an environmental policy leader in an increasingly fragmented global system? How can and should we incorporate the insights of important analytical tools, such as discourse theory, actor networks and post-empirical studies? How does the field understand and treat excluded, marginalised voices? What is the scope for complementary studies using large and small <i>n</i> approaches and where are they most appropriately deployed?</p> <p>In short, our panel seeks to re-evaluate the state of art and where necessary to challenge the ‘conventional’ portrayal of EU environmental policy – in doing so it strikes new ground - both within a ECPR context where no such workshop has been run in recent years, and more widely in terms of contributing to the broader discipline.</p>
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Likely participants	<p>Reinhard Steurer, BOKU, Austria Tom Delreux, University of Louvain, Belgium Sebastian Oberthür, VUB, Belgium Claire Dupont, VUB, Belgium Mats Braun, IIR, Czech Republic Christoffer Green-Pedersen, Aarhus University , Denmark Ian Manners, University of Copenhagen, Denmark Niko Humalisto, University of Turku, Finland Nina Tynkkynen, University of Tampere, Finland Charlotte Halpern, Sciences Po, France Tanja Börzel, FU Berlin, Germany Helge Jörgens, FU Berlin, Germany Christoph Knill, University of Konstanz, Germany Charalampos Koutalakis, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece Brendan Flynn, NUI Galway, Ireland Alessia Damonte, University of Milan, Italy</p>
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	<p>Luigi Pellizzoni, University of Trieste, Italy Duncan Liefferink, University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands Arthur Mol, Wageningen University, The Netherlands Eleftheria Vasileiadou, Eindhoven University of Technology, The Netherlands Jørgen Wettestad, FNI, Norway Erik Hysing, Örebro, Norway Kenneth Hanf, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain Annica Kronsell, University of Lund, Sweden Liliana B. Andonova, Graduate Institute, Geneva, Switzerland David Benson, University of Exeter, UK Elizabeth Bomberg, University of Edinburgh, UK Charlotte Burns, University of York, UK Harriet Bulkeley, University of Durham, UK Paul Cairney, University of Stirling, UK Neil Carter, University of York, UK Petr Jehlička, The Open University, UK Andrew Jordan, University of East Anglia, UK Duncan Russell, University of Exeter, UK Rudi Wurzel, University of Hull, UK</p>
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Type of Papers required:	<p>We want to draw from a wide range of scholars in order to reflect wider trends and currents in the politics and policy disciplines. Thus we welcome contributions from those working in IR, public policy, party behaviour and policy studies more widely. Our primary interest is to set the intellectual agenda for the study of European environmental policy for the foreseeable future. Consequently, whilst we wish to reflect upon the existing literature, we want to see novel questions, data, methodological and analytical insights that can inform the future study of the subject. Papers should reflect broad concerns with ideology, party behaviour, response to current global and local challenges, and analytical innovation.</p>
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Funding:	<p>Both workshop directors will receive funding from their Universities to attend this conference. As a supporting activity for this proposed workshop, Anthony Zito will pursue an internal Newcastle University seed grant to develop an academic-practitioner dialogue meeting. He will also seek funding for such a meeting with the Jean Monnet Programme. The idea is to get the Directors and some of the academic colleagues involved in the workshop to meet face to face with practitioners (both public officials and civil society representatives) in the EU Commission and EU member states. Academics will present briefly their ideas and findings. The practitioners will react to these ideas and research in light of their own experiences. Depending on the timing of the Jean Monnet submission rounds and decisions, this workshop (if successfully funded) may have to be scheduled as a post-workshop assessment, as opposed to a preparatory sounding board for Pisa.</p>
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Biographical notes:	<p>Bio of Dr. Anthony R. Zito, Professor of European Public Policy, Newcastle University UK</p> <p>Dr. Anthony R. Zito is Professor of European Public Policy at Newcastle University since August 2013. Professor Zito is currently Politics Postgraduate Director and Co-Director of the Jean Monnet Centre for Excellence at Newcastle University. He is Joint Editor of the leading international environmental politics journal, <i>Environmental Politics</i>. His broad research interests focus on the European Union decision-making process and governance, policy-making processes and expert networks. Dr.</p>
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	<p>Zito was a 2007 Leverhulme Fellow, and has been conducting a comparative analysis of environmental agencies in the EU and United States. In 2000-2003, he was co-investigator (with his co-researchers Drs. Wurzel and Jordan) of a project (within the UK ESRC Future Governance Programme) that examined the use of new environmental policy instruments and was rated as 'Outstanding' by the ESRC. As part of the project effort, he co-chaired two successful ECPR workshops on new environmental policy instruments (2001 Grenoble and 2005 Grenada).</p> <p>He has authored <i>Creating Environmental Policy in the European Union</i> (Palgrave 2000) and has co-authored <i>Environmental Governance in Europe</i> (2013). He has numerous articles in <i>Political Studies</i>, <i>Public Administration</i>, <i>Governance</i>, <i>Journal of European Public Policy</i> and other journals, focusing on the European Union policy process and environmental actors and policy-making. He is currently funded by a British Academy grant to compare governance arrangements in Germany and the Netherlands to Australia and Canada.</p> <p>Bio of Dr. Andrea Lenschow, Professor of European Integration, University of Osnabrück, Germany</p> <p>Andrea Lenschow is Professor of European Integration at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Osnabrück. In 2007 she received a Jean Monnet Chair "European Union governance" and since 2011 she has been Director of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence in European Studies. Prior to joining the faculty in Osnabrück initially as a Junior Professor in 2003, she was Assistant Professor (Hochschulassistentin) at Salzburg University (1998-2003) and held postdoctoral fellowships at the European University Institute in Florence and at the Erasmus University of Rotterdam. Andrea Lenschow received her PhD in political science at New York University (1996), and Master Degrees in political science and public administration at Pennsylvania State University (1991/2). She has published on comparative and EU environmental policy, theories of institutional and policy change, Europeanization, policy implementation and policy convergence. She has published a number of articles in leading political science journals, including <i>Journal of Common Market Studies</i> and <i>Journal of European Public Policy</i>. Dr. Lenschow has edited/co-edited a number of path-breaking volumes in the study of EU environmental policy, most especially: <i>Implementing European Environmental Policies</i> (1998), <i>Environmental Policy Integration</i> (2002), <i>Innovation in Environmental Policy?</i> (2008) and <i>Understanding Environmental Policy Convergence</i> (2013).</p>
<p>References:</p>	<p>Andersen, M. and Liefferink, D. (1997) 'Introduction: the impact of the pioneers on EU Environmental Policy', in M. Andersen and D. Liefferink (eds), <i>European Environmental Policy: The Pioneers</i>, Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1-39.</p> <p>Baker, S. (ed) (1997) <i>The politics of sustainable development</i>. London: Routledge.</p> <p>Brand, U. (2012) 'Green economy—the next oxymoron? No lessons learned from failures of implementing sustainable development', <i>GAIA-Ecological Perspectives for Science and Society</i>, 21 (1), 28-32.</p> <p>Braun, M. (2014) <i>Europeanization of environmental policy in the new Europe: beyond conditionality</i>. Farnham: Ashgate Publishing, Ltd.</p>

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