As shown by population surveys in many democracies, dissatisfaction with the responsiveness of parliaments and elected representatives has become widespread in many contemporary democracies. One possible explanation to this pattern is a felt discrepancy between the citizens’ normative expectations on political representation on the one hand and the perceived practice of representation by parliaments as collective agencies and members of parliament on the other. If a large segment of the public doubts whether parliaments and parliamentarians do adequately perform their roles as representatives of the citizens, the idea of representative democracy is challenged. This holds true for normative as well as empirical reasons. A perceived discrepancy between the normative idea and the practice of representation can be interpreted as a cultural misfit, leading towards phenomena such as a lack of compliance to political decisions, distrust in political institutions and actors, withdrawal of support for the political regime, abstention from vote, and participation in (illegal) protest activities.

The aim of the workshop is to analyze the attitudes towards parliamentary representation in contemporary democracies and to explore the impact of the respective attitudes on the citizens’ broader relationship towards the political system. Starting from the classical theoretical debates on the concept of representation, the papers should focus on a comparative or single case study of the citizens’ and/or elite’s attitudes towards the normative idea and practice of parliamentary representation at the various levels of the political system. The contributions should not only describe prevailing patterns of representation but also include explanations of the respective views and their impact on political trust, support for the democratic regime, and political participation. Very welcome are papers confronting data on both MPs and citizens’ views about parliamentary representation, or comparing national cases by using standardized data.

The Workshop will attempt to include specialists but also be open to people interested in the issue. Possible participants will be people from the Bordeaux-Halle-Stuttgart research group and the following scholars: Bernhard Weßels (Berlin), Heinrich Best (Jena), Jacques Thomassen (Twente), Jean-Benoît Pilet (Brussels), André Freire (Lisbon), Cristina Leston-Bandeira (Hull), Luca Verzichelli (Sienna).
The workshop directors fill try to find financial support from research funding associations such as DFG-ANR, Thyssen foundation or French-German University.

**Olivier Costa, Centre Emile Durkheim, University of Bordeaux**

**Oscar Gabriel, Institute for Social Sciences, Stuttgart University.**

Olivier COSTA is Senior Research Fellow at the CNRS (National Center for Scientific Research). He is a head of the team « Political Institutions » of the Centre Emile Durkheim (University of Bordeaux, France). He is also Visiting Professor at the College of Europe (Bruges), the Université Libre de Bruxelles and the University of Geneva. He co-chairs the European studies section of the French Association of Political Science. His priorities in research include European Parliament, French Parliament, comparative legislative politics and EU policy-making. He is chairing the ANR-funded project “LEGIPAR” (« Parliamentary legitimization and democratic government in France and in the European Union »). [http://spirit.sciencespobordeaux.fr/PagesCV/Costa%20Olivier.htm](http://spirit.sciencespobordeaux.fr/PagesCV/Costa%20Olivier.htm)

Oscar GABRIEL is Professor of Political Science (Political Sociology and Comparative Politics) at the Stuttgart University. He director of the French-German Study BA and Master programs Bordeaux-Stuttgart, co-chair of the Laboratoire Européen Associé “Comparing Democracies in Europe” (Bordeaux Stuttgart) and of the ANR-DFG-funded Research Project “Citizens and Representatives in France and Germany (CITREP)”. His research interests include comparative analyses of political attitudes and behaviors of European publics. [http://www.uni-stuttgart.de/soz/avps](http://www.uni-stuttgart.de/soz/avps)