

APPLICATION FORM FOR PROSPECTIVE WORKSHOP DIRECTORS

If you wish to apply to direct a workshop at the Joint Sessions in Münster, Germany during 22-27 March 2010, please first see the explanatory notes, then complete this form, which will serve as the **cover sheet** for your workshop proposal. This form should be sent with your **workshop proposal** to the ECPR Central Services. You can do this by emailing both documents as an attached file (in word format .doc or rich text format .rtf) to the ECPR Central Services at ecpr@essex.ac.uk. Alternatively, you can print up the information and send it as a fax to the Central Services, fax: +44 1206 872500. **The deadline for applications is Sunday, 01 February 2009.**

Title of proposed workshop:
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS IN EUROPE

Subject area: Representative democracy in Europe

Abstract of proposed workshop. Maximum of 250 words (suitable for publication in the academic programme leaflet and on the ECPR web site):

There is a widely held tenet that increased interdependence and patterns of political and legal interweaving systematically favour executives and experts, at the behest of parliaments and representative bodies in general. The implication is that whereas executives and experts predominate in the emerging supranational and intergovernmental organisations as well as in the transnational networks, parliamentary institutions have not developed mechanisms that permit them to hold these new structures properly to account, which feeds into and reinforces a broader pattern of representative-democratic decline. Is this the case? Or might it be that parliaments have adapted to this new reality in ways that existing conceptual frameworks have not properly captured?

This workshop will bring together PhD-students, young scholars and senior professors with the aim to systematically explore whether or the extent to which parliaments are catching up to a world marked by complex interdependence. We therefore aim to build on and to broaden promising new lines of research, by analysing the ways in which parliaments relate to each other; and the rules and practices that define such relations. There are promising lines of inquiry that will benefit greatly from better integration, and given the democratic stakes involved, more systematic research on the implications for representative democracy and theories of democracy in more general terms.

Name of workshop director(s): John-Erik Fossum (ARENA, University of Oslo) and Ben Crum (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)
 (maximum of 2 persons)

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Please note that the information above is VERY important, as it will be used in all future correspondence and, if the proposal is successful, printed in the academic programme.

The proposal should be typed with 1.5 line spacing on three/four A4 pages using this sheet as the first page, and should cover the points outlined in the explanatory notes/guidelines available on the ECPR website at www.ecprnet.org.

For further information, please contact:

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Inter-Parliamentary Relations in Europe

Workshop proposal for the 2010 Joint Sessions, Münster, Germany

John Erik Fossum and Ben Crum

Outline of the topic

There is a widely held tenet that increased interdependence and patterns of political and legal interweaving systematically favour executives and experts, at the behest of parliaments and representative bodies in general. The implication is that whereas executives and experts predominate the emerging supranational and intergovernmental organisations as well as the transnational networks, parliamentary institutions have not developed mechanisms that permit them to hold these new structures properly to account, which feeds into and reinforces a broader pattern of representative-democratic decline. Is this the case? Or might it be that parliaments have adapted to this new reality in ways that existing conceptual frameworks have not properly captured? One promising line of response that is available for parliaments is to develop closer relations between and among themselves, so as to coordinate their oversight functions (Slaughter 2004: Ch.3). Such relations may take the form of *ad hoc* parliamentary networks or, at the other extreme, an integrated system of closely interacting parliaments. Note that in most federal systems, whereas representative bodies stand in a constitutionally regulated relationship there is generally little direct interaction among them. The EU, however, might be a special case precisely because of the patterns of interaction between national parliaments and the European Parliament. We argue that a loosely integrated structure has emerged, which we have labelled a 'Multilevel Parliamentary Field' (see Crum and Fossum, forthcoming).

This workshop aims to systematically explore whether or the extent to which parliaments are catching up to a world marked by complex interdependence. We therefore aim to build on and to broaden promising new lines of research, by analysing the ways in which parliaments relate to each other; the rules and practices that define such relations; and, given the democratic stakes involved, the implications for representative democracy and theories of democracy in more general terms.

Relation to existing research

The workshop draws on and seeks to integrate various relevant trends in the literature with different disciplinary backgrounds. From the IR-literature, it draws on the emerging work on the role of parliaments in a globalising world (Slaughter, 2004; Falk and Strauss 2001), and on the role of transnational assemblies (Kraft-Kasack, 2008). At the same time, the workshop aspires to draw on

established insights on inter-parliamentary relations from the literature on comparative federalism (Elazar 1987; Burgess 2006; Swenden, 2006).

In the specific context of the European Union, analyses of the European Parliament on the one hand and of the role of national parliaments in the EU on the other, have often been conducted in isolation from each other. There have however been some interesting attempts to integrate them. From the mid-1990s onwards, Neunreither (1994; 2006) has charted the relations between the EP and the national parliaments, as well as the range of proposals that have over time been put forth to improve this relation. Speaking to the EP, Wessels and Diedrichs (1997) have underlined that a proper evaluation of the EP's legitimacy requires "a new concept of legitimacy for a new kind of parliament", which can appreciate its performance in the wider context of the EU's multilevel system in which European, national and sub-national processes of decision-making are increasingly fused. Maurer (2002) has proposed the concept of European multilevel-parliamentarism (*europäischen Mehrebenenparlamentarismus*) as an over-arching label for the empirical analysis of the EP's and the national parliaments' engagement in EU affairs. One of the most ambitious theoretical attempt to integrate the study of the channels of representation in the EU has come from Benz (2003), who has proposed to conceive of the EU as a 'compound polity', with a multiplicity of interacting structures of interest representation.

Finally, inter-parliamentary relations are of particular interest in light of current debates among theorists of democratic representation who also highlight how current political challenges elude established representative institutions and require us to reconsider the concept and standards of democratic representation (Dryzek 2000; Bohman, 2007; Dryzek and Niemeyer 2008; Saward forthcoming). Is the development of inter-parliamentary relations best understood as a reflection of profound changes in representative institutions along the lines identified in this literature (from government to *governance*); is it rather a pragmatic and incrementalist response to heightened interdependence; or is it a part of a new theory of representative democratic *government*?

Participants and Type of papers

In line with ECPR's general goals, we aim to compose the workshop of a well-balanced mix of junior scholars and PhD-students, together with senior scholars, from a mix of disciplinary backgrounds (IR, public policy, comparative federalism and democratic theory. The workshop directors are able to draw on the Reconstituting Democracy in Europe (RECON: EU-funded 6th framework program) network but the issues explored in this workshop is only marginally addressed under RECON. A clear majority of participants in the workshop will therefore *not* be part of the RECON network.

We will for instance solicited papers that analyse the role of parliaments and their relations in the tradition of comparative federalism, so as to clarify the similarities and differences between the EU and federal systems. But we are equally interested in the more behavioural aspects of inter-parliamentary relations in Europe, such as how and the extent to which inter-parliamentary coordination is facilitated by political parties or the career patterns of politicians travelling up and down through these parliaments. We are also interested in studies that analyse differences in resources and the allocation of tasks between parliaments: Do some parliaments enjoy higher standing than others? Do parliaments deliberately delegate certain oversight functions to other parliaments? Other possible contributions can involve case studies of particular political dossiers and the way different parliaments have been involved in them and have communicated (or not) about them. Finally, we are particularly interested in the normative issues that inter-parliamentary relations raise in light of established norms of representative democracy. For instance, with parliaments representing different constituencies, what are the implications for political representation and for lines of accountability? How may political equality be guaranteed (or not) within such systems?

Funding

Give an indication of foundations or research councils to which you would apply for funding the workshop. Note that workshop directors are strongly urged to seek such financial support before depending on hard-pressed ECPR funds.

The workshop directors will solicit other sources of funding to the greatest extent possible. The workshop directors themselves will have their expenses covered from their respective institutions. In addition, they will apply for funds from the European Science Foundation; seek additional funds from ARENA and the RECON project; and explore other venues of support.

Biographical notes

Please outline (in 60-80 words) your current research interests, most recent publications, academic affiliation and status.

John-Erik Fossum is professor at ARENA Centre for European Studies at the University of Oslo, Norway. He is substitute coordinator of the 6th framework program Reconstituting Democracy in Europe (RECON). He is series editor (with Erik Eriksen) of the Routledge Series on Democratizing Europe and has published a wide range of books and articles on the broader themes of the workshop, within the European setting as well as on Canada.

Ben Crum is an associate professor at the department of Political Science at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. In the last years his research has focused on the issues of democracy and constitutionalisation in the European Union, looking in particular at the making of the EU Constitutional Treaty. He has published on these topics in a.o. the *Journal of Common Market Studies*, *Politics*, *the European Law Journal*, *the Journal of European Public Policy* and *European Union Politics*. He is a member of RECON, an Integrated Project on 'Reconstituting Democracy in Europe', sponsored under the EC 6th Framework Programme.

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