

Controversies in the Scholarly and Public Debates on Civic Rights and Democracy in Europe

Research Workshop
COST Action 16211 RECAST
Reappraising Intellectual Debates on Civic Rights and Democracy in Europe
Working Group 4: Debates

University of Malta, 24–25 May 2018

Msida Campus
Faculty of Information & Communication Technology (ICT), Boardroom 19

Programme

Thursday, 24th May

9:00 - 9:30 Registration

9:30 - 9:45 Welcome and Introductory Speech

Prof. Andrew Azzopardi

Dean, Faculty for Social Wellbeing - University of Malta

Session 1: 9:45 - 11:00 - 3 presentations (15 minutes each) + 30mins Q & A

Debating Democracy and Civic Rights: Positionality, Dynamics and Implications

Chair: Dr. Maria Brown (University of Malta, Malta)

1. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark (The Åland Islands Peace Institute, Finland): *Human Rights and Political Compromise – Unbearable Tension or Fruitful Challenge?*
2. Ruzha Smilova (Centre for Liberal Strategies & St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University, Bulgaria): *Understanding Civil Society Organizations in Central and Eastern Europe*
3. Jonathan Spiteri & Marie Briguglio (University of Malta, Malta): *Good Governance and Trust in Government*

11:00 - 11:30 - Coffee Break



Session 2: 11:30 - 12:30 - 2 presentations (15 minutes each) + 30mins Q & A
Democratic Debate at National and Supranational Political Levels

Chair: Dr. Phyllisienne Vassallo Gauci (Ministry for Education and Employment, Malta)

1. João Cardoso Rosas (University of Minho, Portugal): *Public Debates on Democracy and on the Role of Constitutional Courts in Upholding Social Rights Amidst Austerity Measures: The Case of Portugal (2011-2015)*
2. Taru Haapala (University of Jyväskylä, Finland): *Drafting the European Political Authority: The Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe as an Arena of Inter-Parliamentary Conceptual Controversies*

12:30 - 13:45 - Lunch Break at the University of Malta

Session 3: 13:45 - 15:00 - 3 presentations (15 minutes each) + 30mins Q & A
Challenges to Equality and Democratic Citizenship in Europe

Chair: Dr. Ruzha Smilova (Centre for Liberal Strategies & St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University, Bulgaria)

1. Linda Hart (University of Turku, Finland): *Islamic Family Law, Public Policy and State Intervention in Norway, the United Kingdom and Greece*
2. Phyllisienne Vassallo Gauci, Mr Raymond Facciol & Ms Jane Farrugia Buhagiar (Ministry for Education and Employment, Malta): *Migrant Learner Education in Malta – Equal Opportunities for All*
3. Alexander Osipov (International Centre for Ethnic and Linguistic Diversity Studies, Czech Republic/Germany): *Identity Politics: How some Utopias Affect Liberal Democracy*

15:00 -15:15 - Coffee Break

Session 4: 15:15 - 16:15

Testimonial / Workshop, including discussion

Borders and Borderlands

Dr. Maria Pisani

Activist, Integra Foundation – Malta & Lecturer, University of Malta, Malta

Friday, 25th May

9:00 - 9:30 Registration

Session 5: 9:30 - 10:30 - 2 presentations (15 mins each) + 30mins Q & A
*Understanding Debates on Democracy and Civic Rights Through Localised Case Studies,
Part 1: Legal Frameworks*

Chair: Dr. Taru Haapala (University of Jyväskylä, Finland)

1. Rafael Martínez Rivas & Elena García Guitián (Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain): *The Catalan Debate and the Concept of Democracy*
2. Francisco Javier Bellido (University of Málaga, Spain): *Civic Rights in the Spanish Constitutional Debate of 1931: Between Reform and Radical Transformation*

10:30 -11:00 - Coffee Break

Session 6: 11:00 - 12:00 - 2 presentations (15 mins each) + 30mins Q & A
*Understanding Debates on Democracy and Civil Rights Through Localised Case Studies,
Part 2: Cultural Agents, Structures and Practices*

Chair: Prof. José María Rosales (University of Málaga, Spain)

1. Lilia Raycheva & Nelly Velinova (St. Kliment Ohridsky Sofia University, Bulgaria): *Political Debates vs. Policy Actions in the Bulgarian Media Ecosystem*
2. Maria Marczevska-Rytko (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Poland): *A Critical Analysis of the Public Debate in the Newspapers Gazeta Wyborcza and Res Publica on the 2015 Referendum in Poland*

12:00 - 12:45 - Concluding Remarks

Prof. Janet Mifsud

Malta's COST Representative on the Committee of Scientific Officers

Prof. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark

RECAST Vice-Chair

Associate Professor & Director, The Åland Islands Peace Institute, Finland

13:00 - Lunch at a nearby restaurant

Conveners

Dr. Taru Haapala, University of Jyväskylä & Dr. Maria Brown, University of Malta