

Call for Papers

Citizenship Education in European Democracies: Appraisals and Debates

Third Workshop of COST Action RECAST Working Group 4: *Debates*
4–5 March 2021

Autonomous University of Madrid
Cultural Centre *La Corrala*, Museum of Arts and Popular Traditions

Now in its fourth and final year, COST Action *Reappraising Intellectual Debates on Civic Rights and Democracy in Europe* (RECAST) has as its task to show the plural argumentative uses of the relations between civic rights and democracy in European public debates, and to study the dissensual features of their conceptual and institutional relationship as well as their national legal and political traditions. This will be done by bringing together policy-makers, journalists and NGOs with scholars to provide new insights into the links (theoretical, political and institutional) between civic rights and democracy in Europe, illustrating the controversies, often underlying and diverse, behind them.

The aim of RECAST Working Group *Debates* is twofold: To study, firstly, the argumentative links connecting practices with concepts and arguments in debates on civic rights and democracy in Europe and, secondly, the practices and procedures of historical, moral, political and legal debates on civic rights and democracy.

In this framework, the WG *Debates* targets a scrutiny of European democracies experiencing various emergencies and facing serious political, social as well as economic issues triggered by technological developments, irregular and economic migrants, ageing society, Covid-19 pandemic and climate change. These directly or indirectly challenge the rule of law, equality and representation in Europe, which have only been aggravated in the recently applied state of exception contexts. While citizens are at risk of social exclusion or self-isolation, if not quarantined, they are potentially more vulnerable to misuse of power in the form of *divide et impera* by their governments. Technology is a key factor in this as it provides tools for communication and participation as well as knowledge production. But, at the same time, there is a dire need for critical thinking in terms of providing means for analysis of the excess amount of opinions and data available for consumption in the media and online.

Education is a key aspect of public debates. In order to successfully participate in political debates, citizens have to be well informed of the framework, the tools of communication and, more importantly, the contents of what they are reading, watching, and listening to, particularly online. In recent years, the promotion of citizenship education has been advocated as a proactive or formative and sustainable response to the increasing threats to fundamental values such as peace, equality and human rights Europe is faced with, and several countries are making changes to their policies in this area. But, is the citizenship education currently provided targeting these goals, and in an effective manner? What formal, informal and non-formal knowledge and pedagogies are being used in different educational contexts of the

lifelong learning cycle? How is citizenship education taught and how are students engaged or assessed? What training and support do (or should) citizenship educators receive?

What knowledge is valued in this field, and what knowledge is considered as subaltern or controversial? How related content is created and disseminated? Additionally, what are the promises and the potential of citizenship education in Europe during these troubled times? Is citizenship education being practised in a sustainable, rigorous manner or simplistically advocated as a panacea? What debates do European democracies need to grapple with to foster sustainable citizenship education?

Invitation

WG *Debates* invites scholars from various disciplines in the humanities and the social sciences and practitioners in broader society (educators, journalists, policy-makers, activists) willing to propose constructive ideas and amplify debates related to the above questions during an interdisciplinary workshop.

The workshop will be held in person or in virtual format, depending on the developments with Covid-19 pandemic. We invite submissions of abstracts for oral or poster presentations and/or extended academic papers in matters engaging with the theme of the workshop, including:

- (a) rationales for citizen education: risk management, resistance (e.g. subaltern alternatives, education and liberation movements), geopolitics (e.g. north-south, east-west relations), etc.
- (b) politics of representation and/or dislocation in citizenship education
- (c) the impact of globalised phenomena (e.g. neoliberalism, digital revolution, Covid-19)
- (d) approaches / legacies / narratives / models / case studies
- (e) pedagogies (possible andragogies and geragogies)
- (d) methodologies of citizen education
- (e) platforms (physical or virtual)
- (f) resources (human, educational, cultural, social, political, technological, etc.)

Submission Information

Submissions are invited from academics and non-academic stakeholders who share interest and commitment to contribute to the RECAST Working Group *Debates* agenda. Submissions' format can comprise of oral appearances (particularly from non-academics) as well as academic papers and poster and other audio-visual presentations that stimulate discussion and debate.

In case physical attendance is possible, due to budgetary limitations, COST Action can fund a limited amount of travel expenses. Kindly inform the convenors if funding is required at the time of submission. Self-funded presenters are also welcome to submit and stand an equal chance of acceptance.

Abstracts should be of **maximum 200 words** in length, with 3-4 keywords and a 50-word bio of the author. **Kindly use the form provided here to submit your abstract:**
<https://forms.gle/FiBZu9gHi29C1pV79>

Key Dates

- Final date to submit abstracts: **Friday, 5 February 2021**
- Acceptance / rejection: **Friday, 12 February 2021**
- Workshop dates: **4–5 March 2021**
- All queries should be addressed to: recastdebates@gmail.com

Organisers

Working Group *Debates*, COST Action CA 16211 RECAST *Reappraising Intellectual Debates on Civic Rights and Democracy in Europe*

<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA16211> & <https://www.uma.es/costactionrecast>

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<https://www.uam.es/Derecho/Home/1234889421445.htm?language=en>

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