

CONFERENCE: *ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRACY IN EUROPE*

Brussels, 7 – 9 April 2014

Conveners: Linda.Berg@pol.gu.se, Kris.Deschouwer@vub.ac.be and Thomas.Persson@statsvet.uu.se

In May 2014, the citizens of the EU member states will elect a new European Parliament. Subsequently a new Commission will start working. These European elections take place in a time of economic and financial crisis that has heavily affected the European institutions, the policy choices at the national level and the relations between member states and the European Union. More than ever big questions about the form and future of the EU are being asked. The debates on the democratic quality of European governance and national and regional politics are more salient than ever before.

In some countries the European elections coincide with or are very close to national elections. In Sweden general and local elections are organized in September. In Belgium the European elections are held on the same day as the federal and the regional elections. This can be expected to increase the awareness that decision-making at different political levels are strongly interrelated.

The conference welcomes papers and panels that relate to the theme *Elections and Democracy in Europe*, broadly defined. Papers can for example focus on European elections, on the relation between European and national elections, on the role of Europe in national elections, on the impact of the (euro) crisis and of austerity policies for national and European democracy, on decision-making in the EU, on the role of the European Parliament, on parties, on policies, on trust in national and European institutions or other aspects of EU politics. We especially aim to bring together scholars specializing in the analysis of the European institutions and European policy-making with scholars working on electoral politics.

The keynote speaker of the conference will be **Simon Hix**, Professor of European and Comparative Politics, Fellow of the British Academy, and Head of Department of Government, London School of Economics and Political Science. His plenary lecture on the conference theme will be held on 9 April.



UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG
CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN RESEARCH

SNES Svenska Nätverket för Europaforskning i Statskunskap
Swedish Network for European Studies in Political Science



VPW
VERENIGING VOOR POLITIEKE WETENSCHAPPEN

EDGE
EVALUATING DEMOCRATIC
GOVERNANCE IN EUROPE

Association belge francophone
de science politique

ABSP

The Swedish National
Election Studies

Programme

Elections and Democracy in Europe

Brussels, 7-9 April 2014

Monday, April 7, 2014

12:00- Registration, *Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)*

13:30-14:00 **Welcome addresses**

Conveners:

Linda Berg, *Director of CERGU, University of Gothenburg*

Kris Deschouwer, *President VPW and Head of the Department of Political Science, Vrije Universiteit Brussel*

Thomas Persson, *Chairman of SNES, Uppsala University*

14:00-15:30 **Roundtable 1**

The Super Election Year 2014 – A Challenge for Europe

Kris Deschouwer, *Professor of Political Science and Head of the Department of Political Science, Vrije Universiteit Brussel*

Ailsa Henderson, *Professor of Political Science and Head of the Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Edinburgh*

Henrik Oscarsson, *Professor of Political Science and Head of the Swedish National Election Studies Program, University of Gothenburg*

Chair: Linda Berg, PhD, Senior Lecturer in Political Science and Director of the Centre for European Research, University of Gothenburg

15:30-16:00 **Coffee break**

16:00-17:30 **Panel session 1**

17:30-19:00 **Welcome Reception**

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

- 09:30-11:00** Panel session 2
- 11:00-11:30** Coffee Break
- 11:30-13:00** Panel session 3
- 13:00-14:00** Lunch
- 14:00-14:30** Doctoral Student meeting
- 14:30-16:00** Panel session 4
- 16:00-16:30** Coffee Break
- 16:30-18:00** Roundtable 2

European Elections 2014 - what is at stake for Europe?

***Derk-Jan Eppink**, Member of the European Parliament, European Conservatives and Reformists Group*

***Göran Färm**, Member of the European Parliament, Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats*

***Marit Paulsen (TBC)**, Member of the European Parliament, Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe*

***Bart Staes**, Member of the European Parliament, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance*

*Moderator: **Teresa Küchler**, Brussels correspondent for the Swedish daily Svenska Dagbladet*

19:00- Conference Dinner

In the presence of **Ulrika Sundberg**, the Swedish Ambassador to Belgium

Hotel Méridien, Carrefour de l'Europe 3

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

09:30-11:00 Panel session 5

11:00-11:30 Coffee Break

11:30-13:00 Panel session 6

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:30 Keynote Speech

Elections and Democracy in Europe

*Simon Hix, Professor of European and Comparative Politics and
Head of the Department of Government, London School of
Economics and Political Science*

15:30-16:30 Closing reception

16:30 Conference Closes

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