

Swedish Network for European Studies in Political Science
Annual Spring Conference, University of Gothenburg, 19-20 April 2018

The European Union: Inside/Out

Call for papers and panels

Conveners: Linda Berg, Adrian Hyde-Price and Jonathan Polk

The 2016 Brexit referendum and the election of Donald Trump as President of the United States generated discussions of a “populist wave” sweeping across Europe in a year with a crowded electoral calendar. Although the Eurosceptic Party for Freedom failed to top the polls in the Netherlands, and Marine Le Pen did not advance in the second round of France’s presidential election, Eurosceptic voices continue to make themselves heard in Member States across the European Union (EU). Examples of such Euroscepticism include the electoral breakthrough of the Alternative für Deutschland in Germany, the strong showing of the Freedom Party of Austria in the October 2017 election, and the resistance to refugee quotas and other EU-based decisions from Hungary and Poland. Roughly a quarter century after the Maastricht Treaty-era marked a shift in public opinion from a “permissive consensus” to a “constraining dissensus,” what is the contemporary role of Euroscepticism for the politics of the EU? What roles do the internal processes of governance and decision-making in European institutions play in shaping the contemporary stances towards European integration of individuals, firms and other non-governmental organizations, and Member States?

Externally, the EU also faces a number of serious challenges. European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker explicitly stated that there were no plans for EU enlargement during his presidency, but what are the prospects for official candidates after 2019? How durable is the agreement struck between Brussels and Ankara on limiting migrant/refugee flows, and how does this relate to Turkey’s candidacy and perceived democratic backsliding? More generally, the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) is strained by the return of geopolitics in the EU’s near abroad – both to the East and in North Africa – and the potential trade-offs between European ideals and utilitarian pragmatism. Questions related to migration quickly become intertwined with broader questions about ethnic diversity, which can create difficult cohabitation between majorities and minorities. How are EU external relations affected when Member States are confronted with increasing internal pressures and a changing global context that potentially triggers divisions along national lines? The EU must rethink its geopolitical position on key trade and security policies as the Trump administration becomes an increasingly less reliable partner, China embarks on its “One Belt One Road” policy, and Russia continues to challenge the EU’s role in Eastern Europe, the Western Balkans and the Caucasus.

The Swedish Network for European Studies in Political Science welcomes papers that address the politics of the European Union’s internal and/or external relations for its 2018 Spring Conference in Gothenburg. We also welcome paper and panel proposals that focus on other aspects of European politics, broadly defined. The organizers are open to innovative theoretical and methodological contributions from a variety of research traditions, and welcome proposals from individuals at all points of the career trajectory.

The conference features two keynote addresses: Professor **Catherine de Vries**, from the University of Essex, will address the topic of Euroscepticism and the future of European integration; Professor **Frank Schimmelfennig**, of ETH Zurich, will speak about enlargement and the EU’s neighbourhood policy.

Please submit proposals for papers or panels to snes2018@pol.gu.se before 15 December 2017. The review of submitted proposals will be finalized with notification of acceptance sent by 29 January 2018.

Paper proposal submissions

To submit a paper proposal, please submit the following, in the order listed below, all **in a single Microsoft word file** document, by **Friday, 15 December 2017**:

1. **Applicant's name, job title, affiliation, and contact information.**
2. **Paper title and abstract** of no more than **250 words**.

Please email complete applications to snes2018@pol.gu.se. Questions or clarifications prior to abstract submission should be directed to the same email address.

Successful applicants will be contacted by **Monday, 29 January 2018**.

Registration and paper submission

Registration to the conference should be made online at the SNES webpage: www.snes.se.
Deadline: **Friday, 23 February 2018**.

Full text version of accepted papers will be possible to submit via the SNES webpage until a week before the conference.

Context and host

The SNES conference will take place at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden on 19-20 April 2018. The local host is the Department of Political Science. SNES connects academics, including graduate students, from across Sweden and Europe. It also involves policymakers and practitioners from organisations with a strong interest in understanding contemporary political developments in Europe. SNES is Sweden's leading research network dealing with questions of European politics and governance.

Submission Timeline

- **15 December 2017**: Deadline for submission of abstracts.
- **29 January 2018**: Notification of acceptance decisions sent out to applicants.
- **23 February 2018**: Deadline for registration.

Travel and accommodation

SNES will cover travel cost and hotels for participants from the member institutions.

Conference hotel: Hotel Riverton: www.riverton.se. Hotel rooms are already reserved, and will be prepaid for those participants that register at www.snes.se before the deadline.

Travel: All transportation to the conference should be booked and paid for by each member institution. Each member institution will then send one joint invoice for the total cost of travels (for all participants from that institution) to the SNES network for reimbursement. Contact your local SNES representative for more information.