

Welcome to the ECPR

The professional association of the political science community



Guide to membership year 2015–16

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What is the ECPR?

The European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) is a professional, membership association for those concerned with the study, research and teaching of political and social science

As such, the ECPR offers opportunities to access training, present and publish work and grow and develop networks - all to support the development of your career, no matter what stage you are at.

The ECPR was founded over 40 years ago with the aim of furthering political science in Europe and it has achieved this aim tenfold. It is a membership association but the members are universities, and any student or scholar at a member institution can access all of the ECPR's benefits, which include funding* to attend events, free publications and reduced fees for ECPR conferences and training schools.

*Applies to Full members only



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Am I a member?

If your university is a member then yes, you are too

To check whether your university is member please see the list on our website. We currently have around 350 members, spanning all of the major research universities in the world, so there is a good chance your university is on the list. If not? Let us know and we'll speak to them about joining - just email membership@ecpr.eu

Because the ECPR's membership is institutional each member university appoints an Official Representative (OR) who is the key point of contact between that institution and the organisation. The OR's job is to promote the ECPR throughout their institution, ensuring that all individuals benefit from its membership. They also represent their university on the ECPR's Council*, its governing body. To find out who your OR is log in to your MyECPR account and see 'Institution Members'.

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How do I get started?

If you haven't already done so, the first step is to create a MyECPR account on our website

It only takes a few minutes but you can then sign up for email alerts about all aspects of the ECPR and its activities. You can also read the latest issue of *ECPR News*, available in digital format on the website - the quarterly newsletter gives a flavour of all ECPR events as well as containing news and information to help you make the most of your membership.

If you already have a MyECPR account make sure it is up to date with your correct institutional affiliation; it is very important that if you move universities you don't create a new account, but instead update your existing one, since this is where important data for conference programmes, apps and badges are drawn from.

You can also...
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Governance

The ECPR is governed by a Council, comprised of one Official Representative from each member institution, and an Executive Committee, elected every three years by Council

At the heart of the ECPR's activities and decision-making lies the Executive Committee (EC) a 12-member board of trustees that has overarching responsibility for the long term strategic development of the ECPR. Executive Committee members are elected for six-year terms, and these are staggered, with elections occurring every three years when half of the Committee is replaced. The Chair of the Executive Committee is elected by the EC itself every three years from those members who have served for three years and therefore have the experience working for the ECPR to take on the job.

The current EC will stay in post until March 2018, when half of the members will stand down.

ECPR for students

Preparing young scholars for a career in political science is a key aim of the ECPR's work. Membership benefits are available for all students from Masters level onwards; below is a summary of the key activities and benefits on offer:

Methods School

The annual ECPR Winter School and Summer School in Methods and Techniques provide cutting-edge courses in the full span of qualitative and quantitative topics. A diverse range of experienced teaching staff, all supported by a group of dedicated Teaching Assistants, teach small groups alongside a plenary programme designed to support the young academic at the start of their career. ECPR members receive a reduced rate and can apply for funding*.

Graduate Student Conference

The traditional conference format is used to create an environment where students can get their first experience of taking part in an international, high-profile event. The Conference is run by students for students but with the experience and expertise of the ECPR providing the framework. An exciting social and plenary programme designed to build networks essential for the furtherment of a career in political science runs alongside the academic content. ECPR members receive a reduced rate and can apply for funding*.

Jean Blondel PhD Prize

Awarded to an outstanding thesis presented at an ECPR member institution each year, the Jean Blondel PhD Prize rewards excellence in the discipline with both a cash prize and the opportunity to have their work published by the ECPR Press.

Graduate Student Network (GSN)

The GSN aims to facilitate postgraduate academic research activity and networking. Membership is open to any graduate student, PhD candidate or postdoctoral researcher enrolled at an ECPR member institution.

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High profile, international events

The ECPR offers three very different annual events where scholars can come together to share their own work and in that of their peers; grow and enhance their networks; and collaborate intensively to create new research groups or publications

Joint Sessions of Workshops

The unique format of the Joint Sessions has made it a must-attend event for political scientists throughout all stages of their career. Held every spring in a different European city, the Joint Sessions bring together academics from across the world through closed groups focussed on key research questions against the backdrop of a stimulating and enjoyable social programme.

ECPR members receive a reduced rate and can apply for funding*. Individuals from Full Member institutions are eligible to Direct a Workshop and Associate Members to Co-Direct.

General Conference

The ECPR's General Conference is the largest political science conference in Europe. Held every autumn at an ECPR member institution, the General Conference provides scholars with the opportunity to engage with the key topics in their field whilst attending roundtables, a plenary lecture and a social programme designed for excellent networking.

ECPR members receive a reduced rate can apply for funding*.

Research Sessions

The Research Sessions are held every summer to help small, pre-established groups of researchers develop a project towards publication. The event is limited to six groups of six people and to ECPR members only. Members of ECPR Standing Groups are given priority. There is a small registration fee, but costs of accommodation and food are covered for all participants for the duration of the Sessions.

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A world-renowned publishing imprint

Launched in 2005, the ECPR's in-house imprint, ECPR Press, has established itself as an influential, high-quality publisher, with a catalogue of more than 100 titles

The Press has published seminal texts by the founding fathers of political science, including Richard Rose, Giovanni Sartori, and Stein Rokkan. In recent years it has become a thriving forum for the work of emerging younger scholars, and for texts that push the boundaries of the discipline. Recent examples include Hanspeter Kriesi & Takis Pappas' *European Populism in the Shadow of the Great Recession*, the first comparative analysis of the impact of the current recession on populist politics, Eleni Panagiotarea's *Greece and the Euro*, examining the complex forces behind the Greek debt crisis; and Lorenzo Bosi, Niall Ó Dochartaigh and Daniela Pisoiu's *Political Violence in Context*, examining how time, space and supportive milieux shape the pattern and pace of political violence.

ECPR members receive significant discounts on ECPR Press books, while students from member institutions are eligible to enter the Jean Blondel PhD Prize, winners of which are invited to submit a proposal to publish with ECPR Press. Past winners/authors include Daniel Mügge, Kevin Casas Zamora, Laura Morales and Virginie Van Ingelgom.

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A young woman with long brown hair and glasses, wearing a white sweater and a grey backpack, is looking at a book in a library or bookstore. She is holding the book with both hands. In the background, other people are visible, and there are shelves of books. The lighting is bright and even.

Stay one step ahead with world leading publications

Keeping up to date with the latest published research is essential for your career

The ECPR publishes three leading journals, including the *European Journal of Political Research (EJPR)* which is ranked 8 in the 2014 Social Sciences Citation Index - one print copy of each issue is delivered to each ECPR member institution upon publication, while free access to the *Political Data Yearbook Interactive* (the annual Yearbook of the *EJPR*) is available to all. While the *EJPR* is considered one of the leading political science journals in the world, the *PDYi* is a unique and rich archive of elections and parties data, fully searchable and downloadable.

If you want a picture of where the political science profession is, then *European Political Science (EPS)* is a must-read - essential for political scientists at all stages of their career. *EPS* is available online, free of charge to all ECPR members via their library.

European Political Science Review (EPSR) is the general journal of the ECPR and the go to publication for cutting edge new research across the discipline. In 2016 the ECPR is offering free online access to individuals from member universities via the publisher's website. Look out for emails with the special code, or ask your OR for details.

Finally, the ECPR also co-publishes one of the key book series in political science - Comparative Politics, with Oxford University Press. Many of the seminal texts in the discipline have been published in this series and ECPR members receive a 30% discount on all books.

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Join specialist groups and networks

Creating and growing networks for the purpose of advancing the discipline is a key aim of the ECPR. Often initiated at its events, informal networks of scholars can become formalised groups, supported by the ECPR

From 'Immigration and Ethnicity' to 'Kantian Political Thought', 'Organised Crime' to 'Religion and Politics', the ECPR has over 50 Standing Groups and Research Networks covering the full spectrum of political science, thus reflecting the scope of the ECPR and its membership. Whilst membership of a Standing Groups or Research Network is open to non-members, only members of the ECPR can create or convene one.

The ECPR supports its SGs both practically and financially, and they are given priority in applying to organise Sections at the General Conference or propose groups for the Research Sessions.

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Celebrating excellence

In recognition of the contributions made to all areas of European political science, the ECPR awards six prizes each year. These prizes cover a wide spectrum of achievement, from the Jean Blondel PhD Prize awarded for the most outstanding thesis at an ECPR institution, to the Lifetime Achievement Award presented to those individuals whose work has contributed significantly to the furtherment of the discipline

Cora Maas Award

Given annually for the best evaluated course at the ECPR Summer School in Methods and Techniques.

Dirk Berg-Schlosser Award

Given for the best participant poster in the poster session at the ECPR Summer School in Methods and Techniques.

EPS Prize

Awarded annually by the Editors of the ECPR's professional journal *European Political Science (EPS)*, for the best article of the volume.

Gender and Politics PhD Prize

Awarded biennially for an outstanding PhD dissertation in the field of gender and politics, including gender and/or sexuality studies.

Hans Daalder Prize

Awarded for the best Paper presented at the ECPR Graduate Student Conference.

Jean Blondel PhD Prize

Presented for the best PhD thesis in politics awarded to an individual from a Full ECPR member institution.

Fondation Mattei Dogan Prize in European Political Sociology

Awarded to a scholar (or group of scholars) who has produced a major contribution to the advancement of political sociology.

Stein Rokkan Prize for Comparative Social Science Research

Awarded by the International Social Science Council upon the recommendation of an independent jury set up by the ECPR.

Rudolf Wildenmann Prize

Awarded to the presenter of the best Paper at the annual ECPR Joint Sessions of Workshops.

ECPR Lifetime Achievement Award

Awarded on a biennial basis to a scholar who has made an outstanding contribution to European political science.

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Make the most of your membership...

2016 events

Winter School in Methods and Techniques
University of Bamberg, 26 February – 4 March

Joint Sessions of Workshops
Scuola Normale Superiore, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna and
University of Pisa, 24 – 28 April

Research Sessions
Radboud University Nijmegen, 28 June – 1 July

Graduate Student Conference
University of Tartu, 10 – 13 July

Summer School in Methods and Techniques
Central European University, Budapest, 28 July – 13 August

General Conference
Charles University in Prague, 7 – 10 September

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