

CEP Newsletter

NO. 2. JUNE 2014
www.cep.polsci.ku.dk



THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS KEPT CEP BUSY



Due to the EP elections the spring was full of activity at CEP.

Both prior to and after the final election results were

announced researchers from CEP appeared in the national and international media commenting and analysing the outcome of the election. Moreover, CEP hosted in the run up to the elections a number of events with in-depth debates and presentations of the latest research on the European Parliament.



In collaboration with Venstre and the Social Democrats CEP hosted a special live edition of the Danish TV2 NEWS programme 'Ellemann & Lykkesoft'. Director of CEP Marlene Wind contributed with her take on the election campaign and Ulla Tørnæs and Jeppe

Kofod entered into a lively debate spurred by comments from the two former Ministers of Foreign Affairs. You can read more about the event at [CEP's website](#).

Marking the annual Europe Day the 9th of May CEP and the student organisation 'International Debate' had invited the public to discuss issues on the European agenda. Among the speakers were CEP researcher Rebecca Adler-Nissen who, together with Ulf Hedetoft, Dean at the Faculty of Humanities, discussed questions about new forms of nationalism and the consequences for the European project. Marlene Wind gave a presentation on the Unified Patent Court and answered questions from the audience. [Read more about the event here](#) (in Danish).



In connection to the publication of a special issue of the journal 'Økonomi & Politik' on the European Parliament co-edited by CEP researcher Mads Dagnis Jensen, CEP had Mads and his co-editors to present their research and give a broader academic perspective on the European elections 2014. You can read more about the event [here](#) (in Danish).

CEP PRIZE FOR BEST MASTER THESIS ON THE EU

This year Andreas Plum Forrest and Esben Bjørn Kristensen were awarded the CEP Prize for their brilliant master thesis 'Proceduren for forstærket samarbejde - Vejen til et forstærket EU? The thesis, which is written in Danish, can be found at the CEP [website](#).



HENRIK HERMANSSON - NEW POSTDOC AT CEP

In his Post doc project 'Predictions for Success: Legislative agenda-setting in the EU' Henrik investigates to what extent the Commission's ability to set the agenda is influenced by how detailed knowledge it can acquire on the Council of Ministers' and the Parliament's political preferences. More specifically, the project tests whether the Commission's draft bill is an object of amendments in cases where the Commission has made use of consultations with lobbyists and stakeholders, engaged itself in impact analyses, and involved expert groups in the drafting process.

You can read an interview with Henrik at [the CEP website](#) and get more information about his research, and his involvement in a big research project called 'GovLis', which focuses on how interest groups and lobbyists mediate between public opinion and policy-makers.



NEWS FROM CEP

This spring CEP had the pleasure of welcoming two new PhD students **Ditte Brasso Sørensen** and **Morten Jarlbæk Pedersen** as well as two new Postdocs **Henrik Hermansson** and **Chen Chen Zhang**.

On 10th of September CEP will host a seminar with **Professor Lisa Conant** from Denver University, USA. Lisa is the author of the book *Justice Contained: Law and Politics in the European Union* (2002), Cornell University Press. Lisa will present her most recent research and give feedback on research at CEP.

LATEST RESEARCH

Rebecca Adler-Nissen (2014) 'The Faroe Islands: Independence dreams, globalist separatism and the Europeanization of postcolonial home rule', in Rebecca Adler-Nissen & Ulrik Pram Gad (eds.) *Cooperation & Conflict*, 49(1): 55-79.

Rebecca Adler-Nissen & Ulrik Pram Gad (2014) 'Post-Imperial Sovereignty Games in the Nordic Region', in Rebecca Adler-Nissen & Ulrik Pram Gad (eds.) *Cooperation & Conflict*, 49(1): 3-32.

Ruxandra Lupu Dinesen & Anders Wivel (2014) 'Georgia and Moldova: Caught in the outskirts of Europe?', in Clive Archer, Alyson Bailes & Anders Wivel (eds.) *Small States and International Security: Europe and Beyond*. London: Routledge, pp. 149-166.

Mads Dagnis Jensen (2014) 'Europa-Parlamentet og Repræsentationen af de Nordiske Befolkninger', *Økonomi & Politik*, 87(2).

Mads Dagnis Jensen & Yosef Bhatti (2014) 'Europa-Parlamentet efter Lissabon', *Økonomi & Politik*, 87(2).

Peter Nedergaard (2014) *Tyskland - en grundbog i politik og økonomi*. København: System.

Rikke Wetendorff Nørgaard, **Peter Nedergaard** & Jens Blom-Hansen (2014) 'Lobbying in the EU Comitology System', *Journal of European Integration*, 36(5), pp. 491-507.

THE RESEARCH COLUMN

What do Eurovision and the Eurozone have in common?

By Holly Grace Snaith, Postdoc, Department of Political Science, University of Copenhagen



For those fortunate enough to be in Copenhagen during May, it has been impossible to avoid the spectre of Eurovision. Eurovision has nothing at all formally in common with the European Union, being instituted by the

European Broadcasting Union in 1956 when the ECSC was only just getting off the ground. However it shares a strikingly similar aim – to unite a war-stricken continent – and for many people who might show little interest in the EU elections, it remains a potent and visible symbol of the continent's cultural commonalities. Can Eurovision, therefore, illuminate anything about the controversies of European integration? At face value, it seems that Eurovision might actually tell us quite a lot about what it means to be European. As some analysts – such as Alan Renwick of Reading University, writing in the *New Statesman* – have shown, there was actually remarkably strong coalescence within the public vote, with Austria's winning act coming in the top 5 in every country bar Estonia. The convincing nature of the win came as a relief to many, as controversy dogged Austria's submission of Conchita Wurst, a drag act, as their entry. (Indeed, the Russian Ministry for Communications was the recipient of a petition calling for the Austrian entry to be cut from the broadcast, on the basis that the competition had 'become a hotbed of sodomy, at the initiation of European liberals!'). One thing Eurovision might teach us, then, is that there is rather more commonality amongst European citizens than we might imagine – a welcome lesson at the time of the Euro crisis.

Despite the surprising harmony of the result, controversy has still raged over the matter of whether the system of voting is 'fair'. Since 2009, the final country votes have been determined by a combination of 50% popular televote, and 50% 'jury vote', decided by a panel of five industry professionals from each voting country. The impetus for this change from the previous system, based entirely on the popular vote, came with the 2007 results where no Western European country finished in the top half of the competition. The functions of the EBU are largely financed by the so-called 'Big Four' countries ('Big Five' since Italy joined in 2010) of Germany, France, the UK and Spain; who since the

addition of jury voting, have tended to do rather better than before. There are obvious parallels with the current state of the Eurozone. The narrative of 'rich' countries winning the right to make the rules because they pay for the consequences has found particular expression in the popular responses to the crisis, provoking equal bitterness from publics of both 'creditor' and 'debtor' nations, both of whom seem convinced that they have the worse end of the deal. The simplicity of the argument about Eurovision's voting mechanism thus raises deeper questions about how European integration accommodates or exacerbates national power differentials.

In both Eurovision and the Eurozone, it is the extreme discrepancies that highlight the systemic contradictions of the compromise. This year, controversy was focussed on Poland's entry, which came top of the popular vote in both Ireland and the UK, but due to their low-ranking jury scores, received no points from either. In this case, the trade-off between technocracy and democracy is very stark, but it is not an unusual conflict within European integration.

The justification that popular opinion should be eclipsed by the conclusions of industry experts, better able to judge the quality of the song and resist the temptation to vote 'politically', is uncannily redolent of the long-running debates that have swirled around the Eurozone's monetary policy. As Berman and McNamara (1999) argue, the decision to grant the ECB an unprecedented degree of independence in the name of making better policy rests on two empirical canards: that monetary policy is too complex for ordinary people to understand; and that independence correlates with more positive macroeconomic outcomes (Spain, with 25% unemployment, might disagree). They thus suggest that the price of removing democratic oversight is not justifiable. As the current argument over Eurovision's voting arrangement highlights, what is a 'better' outcome is often not straightforward (who's to say that Austria's entry had more musical integrity than Poland's? Who's to say that sub-2% inflation is the most preferable outcome for the Eurozone's population?) and there may be no right answer in the trade-off between democracy and technocracy.

The researcher column is written in turn by the researchers at CEP, and does not represent a common CEP-position.

CEP RESEARCHERS

Marlene Wind, Director and Professor
Ben Rosamond, Deputy Director and Professor

Ian Manners, Professor and Research Coordinator

Dorte Sindbjerg Martinsen, Professor

Martin Marcussen, Professor

Peter Nedergaard, Professor

Anne Rasmussen, Professor

Jens Ladefoged Mortensen, Associate Professor

Rebecca Adler-Nissen, Associate Professor

Caroline Grøn, Assistant Professor

Julie Hassing Nielsen, Post doc

Mads Dagnis Jensen, Post doc

Holly Snaith, Post doc

Ayca Uygur, PhD fellow

Lau Øfjord Blaxekjær, PhD fellow

Nikolay Vasev, PhD fellow

Ruxandra Lupu Dinesen, PhD fellow

Christine Søby, PhD fellow

Ditte Maria Brasso Sørensen, PhD Fellow

Morten Jarlbæk Pedersen, PhD Fellow

Majka Holm, Research Assistant and Coordinator at CEP

For more information visit CEP's website: www.cep.polsci.ku.dk

ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

Editor: Marlene Wind (mwi@ifs.ku.dk)

Contributors to this edition: Holly Snaith, Majka Holm, and Line Bachmann Lund.

The newsletter is published four times a year and includes the latest updates on activities and research at the Centre for European Politics. To subscribe or unsubscribe to the newsletter send an email to: student.cep@gmail.com