

Call for Applications

RECAST TRAINING SCHOOL IN THE HUMANITIES & THE SOCIAL SCIENCES 2019 Edition

Politics, the Rule of Law and the Facets of Democracy

Norwegian Institute at Athens, Greece
5–7 November 2019

In this Second Training School of RECAST we focus on the relationship between the rule of law and democracy while continuing to use the building block tools of the RECAST research network, namely ‘concepts’, ‘practices’, ‘ideologies’ and ‘debates’. For information on the RECAST research network we refer to its website: <https://www.uma.es/costactionrecast>.

The concept of the rule of law is often understood as being central to the idea of democracy even though it has developed through different trajectories in various parts of Europe and the world. To start with, any interest in the rule of law seems to accept law as a useful tool for creating the normative framework of our societies. The practices and territorialization of law (primarily although far from exclusively state-centred) and of democracy (increasingly claimed in transnational arenas) however sometimes come into conflict. The role of debate and deliberation in defining democratic practices, at national and transnational level, and even in the context of legal interpretation, is far from established. What are today the different understandings concerning the relationship between the rule of law and democracy? Do different conceptualizations of democracy entail different understandings of the rule of law? And do different understandings of law entail different notions of democracy?

We witness today possibly contradictory trends. Rights are often included in long-standing constitutional lists (bills) of rights. However, such rights are currently being limited or even abolished through parliamentary decisions and democratic procedures. The practice of civic democratic rights may be in tension with other rights, as we witness in debates across Europe on refugees and terrorism, and on freedom of expression and association. We are also witnessing arguments that the rule of law, in general, and human rights, in particular, are functioning as ‘straightjackets’ to democracy and to majority rule.

Below are examples of further questions that can be raised in proposed presentations. How can this present-day dynamic and discourse on the uneasy relation between democracy and the rule of law be understood? How has the relationship between the rule of law and democracy looked like in the past? What are the ideological and conceptual underpinnings of this relationship? Is democracy more vulnerable during periods of economic crisis? How can a rule of law be upheld at times of conflict or economic crisis? Are rights and the rule of law to be understood as ‘luxuries’ for those having adequate resources or are they tools for those marginalised or excluded? Are issues of the rule of law a tool in the hands of the occasional elites? How can we understand the importance of formal, substantive and procedural rule of law today?



Submission of Proposals

This announcement and call for applications invites doctoral candidates and early career investigators (within 8 years after completing a PhD) to submit abstracts touching on the above matters from the broad fields of social sciences and humanities, *including* politics, philosophy, political theory, history, history of ideas, law, sociology, art and aesthetics, gender studies, area studies.

PhD students should submit an abstract of not more than 500 words summarising their PhD project and how it links to the themes of RECAST. A short CV of not more than 150 words should also be submitted, all in one single file.

Early career investigators should, similarly, submit an abstract of not more than 500 words of their ongoing or proposed research project, also highlighting its affinity with RECAST. A short CV of not more than 150 words should also be submitted, all in one single file.

Deadline: Proposals should be submitted to both convenors, Jan Harald Alnes (jan.harald.alnes@uit.no) and Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark (sia@peace.ax), no later than Wednesday, **31 July 2019**. Write 'RECAST TS2 proposal & your name' as email subject.

Selection Procedure and Funding

Selection shall be made by the interdisciplinary team responsible for the RECAST Training School, composed by Assoc. Prof. Jan Harald Alnes (UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø), Dr. Ayelet Banai (University of Haifa), Dr. Joris Gijzenbergh (Radboud University, Nijmegen), Assoc. Prof. Paul-Erik Korvela (University of Turku), Prof. Maria Marczewska-Rytko (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin), Prof. Anna Schober (University of Klagenfurt), Prof. Jennifer Todd (University College Dublin), Prof. Balázs Trencsényi (Central European University, Budapest), as well as the Action's Vice-Chair, Assoc. Prof. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark (Åland Islands Peace Institute, Mariehamn).

Applications will be ranked, with funding assigned to cover the best fourteen applications. Grants cover travel, accommodation and daily allowances. Grants are reimbursed **after** the completion of the activity. A waiting list of applications may be formed. Should further funds be available throughout the grant period, they will be granted to successful applicants. We also welcome applicants who can cover their own expenses through other research and mobility funds. Their applications shall also be ranked on the basis of merit.

Our aim is that accepted applicants shall be informed by email by 1 September 2019, in order to facilitate travel arrangements and reservations. Acceptance of the Training School Grants entails the compliance with COST Rules.

Apart from being familiarised with a basic reading list suggested by the trainers of this edition, trainees will make presentations of either their PhD projects or their ongoing research projects in the Training School. After the acceptance of their applications, they will have to send the titles of their presentations.

