

# Call for Participants

7th PhD School on

## Elections and Voting Behaviour

Leuven, 13-17 June 2022

Elections are a major point of interest, not just for the functioning of democracy, but for political science as well. Elections are also a very challenging topic for political science research because they do not just imply profound theoretical questions about both the nature of democracy and the nature of citizenship, but usually also require a firm statistical background. That is the reason why back in 2015 the universities of Leuven (Belgium) and Montréal (Canada) decided to found an international PhD school on Elections and Electoral Behaviour.

The format of the PhD school has remained unchanged over the past six editions. It is based on **a week of intense interactions**, both with established authors within the field, as among the PhD students themselves. This year, the PhD School runs from Monday to Friday, 13 to 17 June 2022. Each day before noon we have a lecture by a key author on electoral studies. The professors for this year are: Ruth Dassonneville (Université de Montréal, Canada), Jane Green (Oxford University, UK), Michael Lewis-Beck (University of Iowa, US), Ann-Kristin Kölln (University of Gothenburg, Sweden), and Carolina Plescia (University of Vienna, Austria). In the afternoon, the PhD students present their own work, commented upon by both the staff of the PhD school and their fellow participants. In order to ensure the intense interaction that is at the heart of this PhD school, the **number of participants will be limited to twenty** (i.e., four presentations/day for the five days of the PhD School). The PhD School is an important resource for anyone working on the broad field of elections and electoral behaviour, and it has been very positively evaluated by previous cohorts of PhD students. We welcome both starting PhD researchers as those who are about to finish, as our experience is that a more diverse group leads to good discussions.

### **Practical information:**

Participation is limited to 20 PhD students, preferably from a rather diverse geographical background.

Please submit your one-page proposal by **April 1, 2022** to [WinterschoolElections@kuleuven.be](mailto:WinterschoolElections@kuleuven.be). The application should include your name, the name of your supervisor, the university you are enrolled in, when you started your PhD, and a short abstract of the paper you want to present (including its theoretical contribution and empirical design). A decision will be made by mid-April 2022. Final papers should be circulated by June 4, 2022.

After acceptance of your proposal, your registration only becomes final after paying the total sum of €350. This fee includes all the lectures, lunches, reception, and coffee breaks. The PhD School is accredited for a total of 4 ECTS Points. As some universities require a grade, we can also make sure your paper gets graded.

## **Program for the 7th edition:**

Monday 13 June: [prof. dr. Ann-Kristin Kölln](#), Associate Professor Gothenburg University (Sweden): Divided Political Parties and Electoral Success

Tuesday 14 June: [prof. dr. Carolina Plescia](#), Assistant Professor University of Vienna (Austria): Meanings of Voting, Causes and Consequences

Wednesday 15 June: [prof. dr. Michael S. Lewis-Beck](#), F. Wendell Miller Distinguished Professor, University of Iowa (US): The Economy and Voting Decisions

Thursday 16 June: [prof. dr. Jane Green](#), Professor of Political Science and British Politics, University of Oxford (Nuffield College): Educational and Generational gaps in Electoral Behaviour

Friday 17 June: [prof. dr. Ruth Dassonneville](#), Associate Professor of Political Science, Université de Montréal (Canada): A Fragmented and Volatile Electorate?

## **About the professors for the 7<sup>th</sup> Edition:**

[Ann-Kristin Kölln](#) is Associate Professor at the University of Gothenburg (Sweden). She holds an ERC Grant to investigate the effect of factionalism within political parties on their electoral appeal. Her work is mainly focused on political parties in Europe, public opinion, survey methodology, and theories of representative democracy. She was the co-principal investigator of the 2015 and the 2019 Swedish Party Membership Survey.

[Carolina Plescia](#) is Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Vienna (Austria). She holds an ERC Grant to investigate the meanings voting has for citizens. Her main research interests are comparative electoral behaviour, coalition governments, representation and research methodologies. Her PhD dissertation on electoral behaviour under mixed-member electoral systems received the ECPR Jean Blondel PhD prize for the best dissertation in Politics.

[Michael S. Lewis-Beck](#) is the F. Wendell Miller Distinguished Professor of Political Science at the University of Iowa. His research focuses on comparative politics, political forecasting, and research methodology. Since the 1990s he has published extensively on the relation between economy and the voting, and in recent years he has been one of the pioneers in the field of electoral forecasting. Most recently, he was the co-author of *The Danish Voter. Democratic Ideals and Challenges* (University of Michigan Press).

[Ruth Dassonneville](#) is Associate Professor at the Université de Montréal (Canada), where she holds a Canada Research Chair in Electoral Democracy. Her research interests include electoral behaviour, dealignment, economic voting, compulsory voting, and women and politics. She is also an associate editor of *Electoral Studies* and *French Politics*.

[Jane Green](#) is Professor of Political Science and British Politics at the University of Oxford (UK). She is director of the Nuffield Politics Research and co-director of the British Election Study. Her research is primarily concerned with assessing the relationship between policy and performance and political attitudes and vote choice, with a focus on how political actors and mass publics respond to external events and shocks. She is co-author of *Electoral Shocks. Understanding the Volatile Voter in a Turbulent World* (Oxford University Press).

\*\*\* Covid Policy \*\*\*

Self-evidently, we are concerned about your health. The PhD School is only meaningful when there is an intense interaction not just with the professors but also among the PhD students. In the past we have succeeded in creating in this manner a real cohort of students on elections. We also realize that the Covid situation is still rather unpredictable at the moment. Therefore, we will decide only on April 14, whether the PhD School actually takes place or not. If health conditions permit (and it can be assumed that Covid-19 will become a more seasonal phenomenon, at least in Western Europe), we will move ahead and only then will you be requested to pay your registration fee.

### **Best Paper Award**

The best student paper, presented at the PhD School will be awarded the **7<sup>th</sup> Victor D'Hondt Prize**. Previous laureates are:

1<sup>st</sup> Victor D'Hondt Prize: Constantin Boscancianu (currently WZB, Berlin)

2<sup>nd</sup> Victor D'Hondt Prize: Liran Harsgor (Ass. Prof., University of Haifa)

3<sup>rd</sup> Victor D'Hondt Prize: Frederico Ferreira da Silva (Lausanne)

4<sup>th</sup> Victor D'Hondt Prize: Jessica Zarkin (Cornell University)

5<sup>th</sup> Victor D'Hondt Prize: Jack Bailey (University of Manchester)

6<sup>th</sup> Victor D'Hondt Prize: Anne Stroppe (Universität Mannheim)

7<sup>th</sup> Victor D'Hondt Prize: TBA (June 2022)

### **Practical Information**

Leuven is a small university town, close to the international airport of Brussels. The direct train takes you in twelve minutes from the airport to the center of Leuven. Brussels is also an important international railway hub (with direct connections to France, UK, the Netherlands and Germany). There are several hotels closeby (ranked according to budget):

- Youth Hostel Leuven (ca. 30 €/ night)
- Ibis Budget Hotel (ca. 65 €/night)
- Ibis Hotel (ca. 80 €/night)
- Park Inn Leuven (ca. 90 €/night)
- Novotel (ca. 100 €/night)



All these hotels are within easy walking distance of the venue. Leuven itself offers a pleasant setting as it has a small inner city, that is dominated by old university building. The city itself has 100,000 inhabitants, with an additional 60,000 university students during the academic year. As rightfully can be expected in a traditional university town, Leuven has a good offer of museums, restaurants, pubs, etc. Most of these venues are within walking distance. Leuven has recently been ranked fifth in the list of top destinations in Europe.

## Winter school venue

Provinciehuis, Provincieplein 1, 3010 Leuven, Room 2+3 (Isabella) ([location and information](#) – in Dutch – for a translation see our website below). Closing reception and prize ceremony on Friday 17 June at 17:30 in Provinciehuis (main location of the winter school)

For all further information, please visit the website:  
<https://soc.kuleuven.be/winterschool-elections-2022>

Organizing committee: Dieter Stiers, Marc Hooghe & Greet Louw, Political Science, University of Leuven

or send an e-mail to [WinterschoolElections@kuleuven.be](mailto:WinterschoolElections@kuleuven.be)



### *A 'Winter'school in June?*

*You may know this PhD School as the 'Winter School' on Elections. Indeed, all the previous six editions of this PhD school took part during the winter months, either in Montréal or in Leuven. In 2021 we had to abandon this tradition, for a well-known reason. All models allow us to assume that health conditions will be better during the summer of 2022, and for this reason the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Winter School will take place in June 2022. In this way we truly become a 'PhD School for All Seasons'. In 2023 we envision to organize the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the PhD School (with the exact season to be decided, depending on the circumstances).*