

Call for Applications

RECAST TRAINING SCHOOL IN THE HUMANITIES & THE SOCIAL SCIENCES 2021 Edition

Democratic Constitutionalism *and* Rights

Hosted by the Institute of Legal, Political and Sociological Research
Moldovan Academy of Sciences
Chişinău, Republic of Moldova

Second half of February 2021

In this Third Edition of COST Action 16211 RECAST Training School, originally scheduled for November 2020, we focus on the relationship between constitutions and rights while continuing to use the building block tools of RECAST, namely ‘concepts’, ‘practices’, ‘ideologies’ and ‘debates’. For information on the RECAST research network we refer to its website: <https://www.uma.es/costactionrecast>.

A fundamental role of constitutional democracy, especially in the European traditions, is to protect basic human rights, such as freedom of speech, freedom of movement, free association, freedom of religion, gender equality and non-discrimination. An aspect of the populisms, nationalisms and cultural or religious mistrust that we experience throughout Europe today, is the questioning of some, or even of all of the human rights protected by constitutions.

What are the major debates about constitutionalism and rights in today’s Europe, in individual countries but also at a regional level? Some of the measures introduced by states as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic since early 2020 have been criticised, domestically or internationally, from a constitutional and a human rights point of view. Similar discussions took place some years ago with regard to migration. To what extent are human rights aspects present in public discourses around Europe today? How have relations between ‘centres’ and ‘peripheries’ within states been modified in recent months and years?

We invite proposals that address these issues, in one way or another, encouraging approaches from different disciplines from the humanities and the social sciences.

Submission of Applications

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, conceptual 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 text 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 text file.

Deadline: Friday, 11 December 2020

Proposals should be submitted to both convenors of the Training School, Jan Harald Alnes (jan.harald.ernes@uit.no) and Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark (sia@peace.ax). Kindly write 'RECAST TS3 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 in principle to cover the best fourteen applications. Travel, accommodation and daily allowances are eligible costs for trainees and trainers. Reimbursements are processed *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 in the first half of January 2021. Acceptance of the Training School invitation entails the compliance with COST Rules. By then, and depending on how the pandemic keeps affecting international mobility, and according to COST instructions, we'll have to decide whether to keep the Training School as planned, or to have it as an online event.

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

