

# QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS OF DECISION-MAKING IN THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION



# WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

FRIDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2015

09:00 - 09:30

REGISTRATION

09:30 - 09:45 WELCOME

Welcome Address

Aims of the Workshop

**Ariadna Ripoll Servent** University of Bamberg

09:45 - 10:15 SESSION 01

State of the Art

An Overview of Current Research and  
Methods Concerning the Council of the  
European Union

**Isabel Winnwa** University of Bamberg

**Markus Johansson** University of Gothenburg

10:15 - 10:40

COFFEE BREAK

10:40 - 11:40 SESSION 02

How to Fill the Gaps?

Qualitative Contributions to the Gap Left By  
Quantitative Research

**Bruno Vandecasteele** University of Ghent

11:40 - 12:40 SESSION 03

Methodological Issues

How to Improve Qualitative Analyses of  
European Policy-Making?

**Derek Beach** University of Aarhus

**12:40 - 14:00**

**LUNCH BREAK / MENSA**

**14:00 - 15:00 SESSION 04**

**Problems of Access  
Techniques and Methods of Access to the  
“Black Box” of the Council**  
**Sandrino Smeets** Radboud University

**15:00 - 15:20**

**COFFEE BREAK**

**15:20 - 17:15 SESSION 05**

**Bringing In the Experts  
A Roundtable of Council Officials and People  
Working on the EU Institutions**  
Chair: **Raphael Bossong** European University  
Viadrina  
**Hans Nilsson** Council of the European  
Union  
**Christof Roos** Vrije Universiteit Brussels  
**Natascha Zaun** University of Mainz

**17:15 - 17:30 CONCLUSION**

**Where to Go From Here?  
Conclusions and Suggestions for Future  
Research**  
**Ariadna Ripoll Servent** University of Bamberg  
**Isabel Winnwa** University of Bamberg

**17:30 - 18:00**

**DRINKS & NETWORKING**

## [INTRODUCTION]



he Council of the European Union is a key player in European decision-making and still one of the most puzzling institutions for EU research with regard to its inner workings. Over the last years, a number of pertinent quantitative and qualitative studies have addressed key questions, such as voting patterns and coalitions in different policy areas, socialization effects, the influence of external actors such as interest groups, informal negotiations, etc.

To improve research on the Council and gain better insight in the dynamics of decision-making processes, we wish to connect researchers of different theoretical and methodological backgrounds and encourage a debate about where research stands, what current methods can and cannot achieve and where we should head towards.

**With this workshop, we intend to provide an opportunity for young scholars to benefit from the advice of established researchers and discuss their research approaches. Indeed, research on European policy-making is a dynamic and evolving field and qualitative methods are being increasingly discussed as an alternative to study key EU institutions.**

The workshop can thus help to share experiences of research done on and in the Council as well as establish links between all those dealing with this research area. The workshop will encourage interdisciplinary debates and provide opportunities to exchange on methods and findings of other disciplines.

[HOST]



**Ariadna Ripoll Servent**

**UNIVERSITY OF BAMBERG**

Ariadna Ripoll Servent is Junior Professor of Political Science at the University of Bamberg. She holds a degree from Sciences Po Paris and the College of Europe in Bruges and obtained a DPhil in Contemporary European Studies from the University of Sussex. She has previously worked at the Institute for European Integration Research in Vienna and the College of Europe.

She has published, among others, in the *Journal of European Public Policy*, *European Foreign Affairs Review* and *Journal of European Integration*. Her latest publications include “Policy Change in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice: How EU Institutions Matter” (2015, Routledge, with Florian Trauner) and “Institutional and Policy Change in the European Parliament - Deciding on Freedom, Security and Justice” (2015, Palgrave).

Her research interests include European institutions (with a special interest on the European Parliament), decision-making, institutional and policy change as well as internal security policies (in particular, migration, borders and data protection policies).

[HOST]



Isabel Winnwa

UNIVERSITY OF BAMBERG



Isabel Winnwa is a doctoral fellow at the University of Bamberg and member of the Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences (BAGSS). She holds two Masters Degrees from Sciences Po Paris and London School of Economics and a BA in Intercultural Communication and Comparative Literature from Saarland University as well as an undergraduate diploma of the International Program of Sciences Po Paris.

Her research interests include the role of actors in EU decision-making processes, EU institutions, in particular the Council of Ministers, and the Justice and Home Affairs policy area. In her doctoral project, she investigates the key role of actors and their strategies in legislative negotiations in intra- and interinstitutional decision-making processes.

## [SESSION 01]

STATE OF THE ART

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# An Overview of Current Research and Methods Concerning the Council of the European Union

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presented by:

**Isabel Winnwa**

University of Bamberg

**Markus Johansson**

University of Gothenburg

# Markus Johansson

UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG



Markus Johansson holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Gothenburg and the University of Antwerp. He defended his thesis on two-level games and domestic constraints in the EU Council in spring 2015. In the thesis it is investigated how domestic constraints are communicated, by which negotiators, and whether it leads to influence.

Markus is currently involved in research at the University of Gothenburg on interest groups and lobbying, on EU foreign policy leadership, and on cooperation and negotiations in the EU Council.

## [SESSION 02]

HOW TO FILL THE GAPS?

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# Qualitative Contributions to the Gap Left By Quantitative Research

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presented by:

**Bruno Vandecasteele**  
University of Ghent

# Bruno Vandecasteele

UNIVERSITY OF GENT



Bruno Vandecasteele joined the Centre for EU Studies in October 2011. In May 2015 he obtained his doctoral degree in political science with a grant of the Research Foundation Flanders (FWO). He also holds a Master in criminology and a Master in international politics from Ghent University. Previously he has been a trainee at the Belgian Embassy in Lithuania and he has worked for a solar energy company.

During his PhD research, Bruno has been a visiting researcher at the Institute of International Relations of Warsaw University (2012), the Institute of International Relations and Political Science of Vilnius University (2013 and 2014), and the Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies (2015). His teaching experience includes Master courses, seminars and guest lectures on a broad range of topics, including decision-making in the EU, EU-Eastern Partnership relations, EU external policy, theory of European integration, and transport policy in the EU.

## [SESSION 03]

METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES

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# How to Improve Qualitative Analyses of European Policy-Making?

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presented by:

**Derek Beach**

University of Aarhus

# Derek Beach

UNIVERSITY OF AARHUS



Derek Beach is Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Aarhus, Denmark, where he teaches international relations and methodology. He has been a visiting fellow at American University, Georgetown University, and Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

He has authored numerous articles, chapters, and books on case study methods, international negotiations, and European integration, including a book that traces negotiation processes within the EU titled *The Dynamics of European Integration* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2005), and co-authored the book *Process-tracing Methods: Foundations and Guidelines* (Michigan, 2013). He serves as an Academic Co-convener of the ECPR methods schools.

Derek teaches qualitative case study methods at ECPR and IPSA summer and winter schools, and he holds numerous workshops and seminars on qualitative methods throughout the world.

## [SESSION 04]

PROBLEMS OF ACCESS

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# Techniques and Methods of Access to the “Black Box” of the Council

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presented by:

**Sandrino Smeets**  
Radboud University



# Sandrino Smeets

RADBOD UNIVERSITY



Sandrino Smeets is historian, journalist and political scientist. He currently works as teacher and researcher in the fields of research methodology and political science. His primary research interest concerns power in (socio-political) interaction. In his PhD project he studied the negotiations in the EU Council of Ministers. The project focuses on Council negotiations with regard to the Western Balkans (2000-2010). This project was conducted in close cooperation with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Representation of the Netherlands to the European Union in Brussels. He was a member of the Dutch delegation to the Council's Working Party on the Western Balkans (COWEB) and the Council's Working Party on Enlargement (COELA). In terms of current research, his interests pivot around negotiations in general and the intricacies of EU decision making in particular. Thereby focussing on the nitty-gritty behind closed doors part of the proceedings, rather than just the high level deal making.

From September 2012, he has been working as an Assistant Professor at the departments of Research Methodology and Political Science of the Radboud University Nijmegen, teaching a wide variety of course in the fields of (quantitative and qualitative) methodology and general political science. Next to this, he is a lecturer and simulation leader for Eurosoc, which develops and organizes EU simulations.

## [SESSION 05]

BRINGING IN THE EXPERTS

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# A Roundtable of Council Officials and People Working on the EU Institutions

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**Chair:**

**Raphael Bossong**

European University Viadrina

**Panel Guests:**

**Hans Nilsson**

Council of the European Union

**Christof Roos**

Vrije Universiteit Brussels

**Natascha Zaun**

University of Mainz

# Raphael Bossong

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY VIADRINA



Raphael Bossong is a lecturer at the Europe University Viadrina and affiliated with the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy, Hamburg. He is also a member of the Europe Viadrina B/Orders in Motion Centre, where he recently completed a project on EU border and internal security cooperation. He holds a BA in Social and Political Sciences from the University of Cambridge and a MA and PhD in International Relations from the London School of Economics.

His research focuses on European crisis management, transnational networks and the extension of risk or security governance across modern societies. Over the last years, he participated in several international research consortiums on these topics and contributed to leading academic journals. His recent publications include “European civil security governance” (2015, Palgrave, with H. Hegemann) and “Explaining EU Internal Security Cooperation” (2014, Routledge, with M. Rhinard).

# Hans Nilsson

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION



Hans Nilsson holds a law degree (1979) from Uppsala University in Sweden. He has worked as a judge at the Court of Appeal in Jönköping, Sweden before entering private practice. In 1986 he joined the Legal Directorate of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg where he served the European Committee on Crime Problems and the European Committee on Legal Cooperation and its Sub Committees for 10 Years. He was a Secretary to Committees that drafted the 1990 Money Laundering Convention and two Conventions on corruption as well as Conventions on drugs trafficking and environment crime. In 1996 he was appointed as Head of the Division of Fundamental Rights and Criminal Justice at the Council of the European Union in Brussels. He was responsible for the implementation of the programme of measures on mutual recognition and all EU negotiations on legislative acts in the field of criminal law (and civil law from 1996 to 2004).

Since January 2015, he is responsible for all Procurement in the Council of the European Union and the European Council. In 2009, he joined the Swedish Permanent Representation as Minister and Head of the JHA Counsellors to head a team of Counsellors dealing with the Swedish Presidency until 31 December 2009 before returning to his Council post. He was also responsible at the Permanent Representation for the negotiations in Brussels for the Stockholm Programme on behalf of the Presidency and aspects of the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty. Mr Nilsson is a visiting Professor of the College of Europe since 1997, a member of the Advisory Board of the International Criminal Law Network and an author of more than 70 articles on International law, criminal law and EU law. He has been awarded the degree of Jur. Dr. honoris causa by the Uppsala University.

# Christof Roos

VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSELS



Before joining the Institute for European Studies at Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Christof Roos worked as research associate at University of Bremen (2007-2014). At Bremen International Graduate School for Social Sciences and the Collaborative Research Centre “Transformations of the State” he researched EU integration in Justice and Home Affairs. His focus is on EU immigration politics as well as single market issues such as freedom of movement, Schengen cooperation, and the common European asylum system.

As a member of the interdisciplinary research project “From Containers to Open States. Border Regime Change and the Mobility of Persons” he was co-author of the project monograph *Liberal States and the Freedom of Movement. Selective Borders, Unequal Mobility*. He studied political science at Free University Berlin (2000-2006) and at York University Toronto (2003-2004). Questions of in- and exclusion and the right to membership and community are core to his studies. Outside of academia Christof Roos worked for the European Commission’s DG Joint Research Centre in Ispra (Italy). There he contributed to a study on emigration from West African countries (2006-2007).

In 2013 and 2014 he consulted the European Affairs Department of the Senate Chancellery of the State of Berlin on the European strategy on Roma Inclusion as well as on the European Smart Cities and Communities Initiative.

# Natascha Zaun

UNIVERSITY OF MAINZ



Natascha Zaun is a Lecturer and Researcher in International Relations at the University of Mainz. She holds a PhD in Political Science from Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences, an M.A. in Political Science from Bonn University and a B.A. in Franco-German Studies from Université de Paris III- Sorbonne Nouvelle.

She has published, among others, in the Journal of European Public Policy, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies and Journal of European Integration. Her research interests and expertise cover European Integration and International Relations with a particular focus on asylum and immigration policies, EU decision-making and EU institutions.



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# [SPONSORS]

## 01.

### **BAGSS**



he Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences was established in 2010 to create an innovative working and learning environment for exceptionally qualified doctoral researchers.

As a multidisciplinary graduate school BAGSS offers a structured programme of training and education for doctoral researchers in the Faculties of Social Sciences, Economics, Business Administration and Human Sciences. While firmly anchored in one academic discipline, doctoral students are encouraged to search for innovative solutions to their research problems beyond the confines of a single subject. A tailored and flexible doctoral training in courses on the frontiers of subject-specific knowledge, on research methods and on professional skills supports doctoral students who aim for international excellence both in their aspirations and in their work.

Workshops as “Qualitative Analysis of Decision-making in the Council of the European Union” are the result of a course programme that is personalized and based on an individual assessment of its students’ prior education and research needs.

## 02.

### UACES

**E**stablished in 1969, UACES is the academic association for contemporary European Studies with the object of promoting research and teaching in this interdisciplinary field. UACES has a membership of 1187 with over 57 percent of members based outside of the United Kingdom. With over 308 student members UACES has members in 46 countries; 26 European countries and 20 countries beyond Europe's borders.

Apart from organising or supporting various conferences and events, other initiatives of UACES include:

- UACES Arena, a Brussels-based seminar series aimed at connecting academics with practitioners
- Financial support for our members through funding grants, scholarships and travel assistance
- Supporting the UACES Student Forum, a network run for and by postgraduate students
- Ideas on Europe, an open-access, multi-user blog-hosting platform for academics and practitioners
- Experts on Europe, an online directory of experts on European integration
- Publications include the prestigious Journal of Common Market Studies (JCMS); the Journal of Contemporary European Research (JCER); the quarterly UACES Newsletter; the Routledge-UACES Contemporary European Studies book series

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