

Governance-Corner

■ WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES 2014

EPPC April 2014 – 6th European Public Policy Conference: Left Behind? New Realities for European Youth.

The EPPC is a student-run public policy conference taking place in a different city each year. This year's conference was held in Rome and was set around one of the most urgent European public policy topics of the 21st century: youth unemployment. The so called "millennia generation" is confronted with many uncertainties linked to unemployment, migration, and globalization. In panel discussions, workshops and round tables political leaders, scholars, and students analyzed the underlying issues of youth unemployment and discussed possible ways to overcome them to turn the "millennia generation" into solid community of future-oriented Europe. The 6th EPPC offered especially young policy makers a platform to address concerns and proposals of the members of the "millennia generation" to the political and scientific debating table. Those insights were needed to tackle a long-neglected issue threatening the future of a whole generation. More information can be found via: <http://eppc2014.wordpress.com/>.

IPA 2014 9th International Conference in Interpretive Policy Analysis – Governance and Beyond: Knowledge, Technology and Communication in a Globalized World. (3-5 July 2014 in Wageningen, Netherlands)

The International Conference in Interpretive Policy Analysis offered a critical approach to current policy analysis. In different workshops on methodologies and methods to examine situated meaning(s), historical context(s), and the importance of human subjectivity conference participants were asked to think outside the box and challenge the positivistic approaches still dominating policy analytic research. The workshops was based on case studies to link theory and practice of interpretive policy analysis. Against this background the conference focused on the phenomenon that international governance regimes, global forms of scientific knowledge, large-scale industrial and agricultural technologies, and generic blueprints for socio-economic development and trade in their fight for environmental sustainability, equality and democratic self-determination often fall short of their 'promised' outcomes. During the IPA 2014 scientists, policy makers, and politicians from all over the world were critically scrutinized current governance practices, including the roles of knowledge, technology and communication to develop alternative policy approaches that meet the needs of the people affected by globalization etc. and failing policies. More information can be found via: <https://ipa2014.nl/>.

European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) General Conference/ ECPR 5th Graduate Student Conference, Innsbruck, Austria, 3-5 July 2014

The ECPR's was one of the largest European political research conferences, offering a wide variety of interesting current political issues ranging from *Analytical Politics: Theoretical*

Models and Empirical Inference to Voting Advice Applications and Elections in Europe. Panel discussions were focused on broader political themes guided by currently important research questions within the respective political field while round tables, symposia, and plenary lectures give a more detailed insight in particular topics. It was a forum for discussion and networking bringing together scholars from around the world and across all sub-disciplines of political science. This setting allowed scientists to explore and exchange ideas on the most crucial topics shaping the politics of the 21st century.

The ECPR's first Graduate Student Conference was a very good opportunity for graduate and PHD students to present their academic work. The broad topic base of the conference allowed a number of students with research interests ranging from *Area Studies – Latin America to Gender Politics* to experience the multifacetedness academia. More information can be found via: <http://ecpr.eu/Default.aspx>.

4th International Conference on Degrowth – Ecological sustainability and social equity: Bridging movements and research for the great transformation towards "Degrowth" (Leipzig, Germany, Sep. 2-6)

The 4th International Conference on Degrowth is supported by the German network *Wachstumswende* (NEWW) which is a forum for activists, scientists, and practitioners interested in the scientific concept of Degrowth. The underlying idea of Degrowth is to seek and to promote social and sustainable alternatives to growth-oriented economic policies. Among regular scientific sessions, workshops, and panels this conference format uses new innovative ways such as open spaces, world cafés and excursions to degrowth projects in and around Leipzig to stimulate the participations minds regarding the question of how a Degrowth-path could look like. Especially in regard to the world economic crisis in 2008 and the fact that it's negative effects are still visible across the globe scholars from different regions and countries will discuss differences and commonalities in the concepts and practices of degrowth and envision a future of post-growth societies, institutions, and social system. Participants' ideas will be turned into a paper to foster further research on degrowth concepts. More information can be found via: <http://leipzig.degrowth.org/en/formats/>

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