

EUropean Careers: The Careers of European Political Elites and their Representative Effects

Organized by: Dr. Elena Frech (Universität Bamberg)

Workshop and Special Issue

Call for Papers

You are interested in political careers on the/involving the European level? You are a scholar of representation in the European Union?

Please consider to apply for the international workshop and resulting special issue on the *political careers of EU decision-makers and their representative effects*. The workshop will take place in May 2023 at the University of Bamberg (Germany).

Topic

The European Union (EU) is a unique international organization that has not only ensured peace in Europe for many decades, but has positively affected the life of many Europeans in various other ways. However, an ever-increasing number of Europeans do not feel represented well by European institutions and decision-makers. No matter if we speak of the president of the European Commission (viewed as “the most powerful person in the day-to-day affairs of the European Union” (Time 2019)) or of the European Parliamentarians (MEPs) (the “secret rulers of the EU” (Wirtschaftswoche 2009)), we know very little about the political careers of the European decision-makers and even less about how their political experiences affect who and how these political elites represent.

The ‘EUropean Careers’ workshop and resulting special issue aims to bring together scholars studying (empirically or theoretically) political careers on the European level with scholars focussing on representation and the democratic deficit. The aim is to exchange experiences amongst researchers of the two sub-fields. Next to an analysis of how the political career paths differ on the European level, the workshop participants will develop a broader understanding of the representative effects of political careers.

The proposed papers...

- may engage with a broad range of EU institutions and their members (e.g. European Commission or the European Parliament)
- can focus on the representation or careers of specific social groups (e.g. women)
- can use various research methods (e.g. interviews, surveys, case studies, empirical, quantitative methods)
- could tackle questions connecting the EU political careers with national/EU parties, EU member states, citizens, or (non EU) institutions

However, all papers should involve **at least one aspect or phase of political careers** (e.g. pre-parliamentary experience). Furthermore, all papers will aim to uncover the **representational effects of political careers** (e.g. descriptive or substantive). Bringing together these papers, the workshop and special issue will provide a unique overview of how the political careers of decision-makers on the EU level enforce or weaken the political representation of citizens in Europe and which other political levels and actors play a role.

To Apply:

You have a working paper or idea that fits into the topic? Please apply!

To apply for the workshop and to be part in the following special issue application, please send an extended paper abstract of ca. 400-600 words (in English or German) to Elena.Frech[at]Uni-Bamberg.de by **September 4th 2022** (23:59 CET). (In case you only want to participate in the workshop, a normal paper abstract of max. 300 words suffices.) The working language of the workshop will be English. The workshop welcomes contributions from researchers of all academic levels.

Furthermore, your application should include: your name, email address, affiliation, title of your paper as well as a short description of how it can contribute to the special issue.

Thanks to the kind support of the SPOT Programme of the University of Bamberg the workshop costs and accommodation in Bamberg for one night will be covered. Travel costs of workshop members (from within Europe) can be covered for some participants upon request.

If you have any questions please contact Dr. Elena Frech Elena.Frech[at]Uni-Bamberg.de.

Key Information:

Date of Workshop: Friday May 5th and Saturday May 6th 2023

Location of Workshop: Bamberg, Germany

Duration of Workshop: 2 Days

Submission of final papers for special issue: Summer 2023