

PIDOP NEWSLETTER



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<http://www.fahs.surrey.ac.uk/pidop/>

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About the PIDOP project

PIDOP is a multinational research project funded by the European Commission under the Seventh Framework Programme. The project is examining the processes which influence civic and political participation in eight European states - Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Sweden, Turkey and the UK.

The project is drawing on the disciplines of Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, Politics, Social Policy and Education.

It is examining macro-level contextual factors (including historical, political, electoral, economic and policy factors), proximal social factors (including familial, educational and media factors) and

psychological factors (including motivational, cognitive, attitudinal and identity factors) which facilitate and/or inhibit civic and political participation.

A distinctive focus of the project is the psychology of the individual citizen and the psychological processes through which macro-level contextual factors and proximal social factors exert their effects upon citizens' civic and political participation.

Young people, women, minorities and migrants are being examined as four specific groups at risk of political disengagement.

The research is exploring the differences as well as the overlap between civic and political engagement, and both direct and representative participation.

Call for papers for the PIDOP Conference, Bologna, Italy, 2011

ENGAGED CITIZENS? POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AMONG YOUTH, WOMEN, MINORITIES AND MIGRANTS

**International Multidisciplinary Conference
Organised by the PIDOP Consortium in
collaboration with the
University of Bologna
May 11-12, 2011**



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

In many countries, conventional forms of political participation have declined in recent years, with growing levels of political apathy, disengagement from formal democratic processes and increasing distrust of, and lack of confidence in, political institutions. This democratic deficit poses a serious threat to the perceived legitimacy of governance.

To understand and promote active citizenship, it is vital to examine how people conceive their role as citizens, how they develop a sense of belonging and ownership in their communities, and how they subjectively experience this role and sense of belonging. It is also essential to investigate a range of diverse groups, particularly marginalised groups that are at risk of political disengagement due to age, gender or ethnicity, if the aim is to develop effective policy and practical recommendations to reconfigure democracy where participation, ownership, diversity and pluralism are key words. In addition, analysis of political participation among

marginalised groups will help to expand the concept of citizenship.

It will also make a substantial contribution to current scholarly and policy debates about democratic deficit.

Submissions from researchers, policymakers and practitioners working in any relevant field or discipline are welcomed.

Abstracts of papers for presentation at the conference should be sent to Bruna Zani (bruna.zani@unibo.it) before the 15th December 2010.

Abstracts, which should be no longer than 300 words will be anonymously reviewed by the Scientific Committee.

Notification of acceptance of abstracts: 30th January 2011.

Organizing Committee: PIDOP University of Bologna team: Bruna Zani, Elvira Cicognani, Cinzia Albanesi, Paola Villano, Davide Mazzoni, Alberto Bertocchi.

Scientific Committee: PIDOP team leaders and WP coordinators: Erik Amnå (Örebro, Sweden); Martyn Barrett (Surrey, UK); Michel Born (Liège, Belgium); Rachel Brooks (Surrey, UK); Tereza Capelos (Surrey, UK); Yvonne Galligan (Belfast, UK); Roberta Guerrina (Surrey, UK); Evanthia Lyons (Belfast, UK); Petr Macek (Brno, Czech Republic); Isabel Menezes (Porto, Portugal); Peter Noack (Jena, Germany); Tulin Sener (Ankara, Turkey); Bruna Zani (Bologna, Italy).

For further information, please contact bruna.zani@unibo.it
Conference website: www.pidop.unibo.it

PIDOP involvement at the 2010 CRONEM Conference



At the multidisciplinary conference on ‘Civic, Political and Cultural Engagement Among Migrants, Minorities and National Populations: Multidisciplinary Perspectives’, 6th Annual Conference of the Centre for Research on Nationalism, Ethnicity and Multiculturalism (CRONEM), which was held at the University of Surrey, Guildford, UK, June 29th-30th 2010, the PIDOP project was extensively represented.

The conference was attended by 196 participants, representing the full range of social science disciplines, from 23 different countries. There were also representatives from two prominent think tanks at the conference, Demos and the Runnymede Trust.

The PIDOP project received considerable attention and the conference was a highly successful dissemination event from the perspective of PIDOP members. PIDOP participants contributed two keynote addresses and gave twelve individual presentations organised within four convened PIDOP symposia plus one individual presentation. There were also four large posters about the PIDOP project on display throughout the conference.

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES:

Yvonne Galligan (Director, Centre for the Advancement of Women in Politics, Queen's University Belfast): *Gender democracy: the legacy of the 20th century*

Constance Flanagan (Professor of Youth Civic Development, Penn State University, USA (Member of the PIDOP International Advisory Board): *Political development of adolescents: understanding a phenomenon*

PIDOP SYMPOSIUM 1: Political participation: a multidimensional perspective

Convenor: Victoria Montgomery, Queen's University, Belfast

Discussant: Cillian McBride, Queen's University, Belfast

Paper 1: Randomly selected parliaments?
John Garry, Queen's University, Belfast

Paper 2: What are the contextual determinants of political participation?
Kateřina Vrablíková, Masaryk University

Paper 3: Political participation as a process: migrant and minority communities.
Victoria Montgomery, Queen's University, Belfast

PIDOP SYMPOSIUM 2: Education, learning and youth policy in Europe

Convenor: Rachel Brooks, University of Surrey

Paper 1: Young people's political participation: a European policy analysis
Cristiano Bee, Rachel Brooks & Roberta Guerrina, University of Surrey

Paper 2: Can European policy on education contribute to the wider goals of democratic ownership, participation and citizenship? An educationalist's viewpoint on the policy debate in Europe
Rob Mark, School of Education, Queen's University, Belfast

PIDOP SYMPOSIUM 3: *Migrants and Minorities*

Convenor: **Cristiano Bee**, University of Surrey

Paper 1: *Competing discourses on European citizenship in Italy and the UK*

Paola Villano, University of Bologna, & **Cristiano Bee**, University of Surrey

Paper 2: *Immigrants' place in the institutional discourses in Portugal*

Norberto Ribeiro, **Maria F. de Jesus**, **Carla Malafaia**, **Marta Sousa**, **Sofia M. Silva** & **Helena C. Araújo**, University of Porto, Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, CIE



PIDOP SYMPOSIUM 4: *European youth perspectives on civic and political engagement and participation*

Convenors: **Evanthia Lyons**, Queen's University, Belfast and **Isabel Menezes**, University of Porto

Paper 1: *Images and experiences of social and political participation of young people in Turkey*

Çok, F., **Şener, T.**, **Bozkurt, S.**, **Şen, M.**, **Yasav, H.** & **Ataman, A.**, Ankara University

Paper 2: *Civic and political participation among young people and migrants in Italy*

Elvira Cicognani, **Bruna Zani** & **Cinzia Albanesi**, University of Bologna

Paper 3: *Processes of political (and civic) engagement and participation in the London area: the effect of age, gender and minority status*

Dimitra Pachi, **David Garbin** & **Martyn Barrett**, University of Surrey

Paper 4: *How do young people conceptualize the citizenship and political and civic engagement: the case of the Czech Republic*

Petr Macek, **Zuzana Petrovičová** & **Jan Šerek**, Masaryk University

Paper 5: *Opportunities and constraints for civic and political engagement of young immigrants: the cases of Angolans and Brazilians in Portugal*

Norberto Ribeiro, **Carla Malafaia**, **Maria F. de Jesus**, **Tiago Neves**, **Laura Fonseca** & **Isabel Menezes**, University of Porto



INDIVIDUAL PIDOP PRESENTATION:

Political mobilization and action repertoire of Czech social movements: opportunities and resources.

Ondřej Císař, Masaryk University

Spotlight on the Masaryk University team, Brno, Czech Republic

At the Masaryk University of Brno, researchers from the Psychology and Political Science Departments (Faculty of Social Studies) are working together to form the PIDOP interdisciplinary team for the Czech Republic. Their main contribution lies in the analysis of the processes influencing the construction of citizenship, civic engagement, and political participation (Work Package 6). They are also contributing to the elaboration of the political theory of engagement and participation (Work Package 3) and the development of the psychological theory of participation (Work Package 4).



The team leader is Professor Petr Macek, and other members of the team are Associate Professors Mojmir Tyrlik and Ondřej Císař, and PhD candidates Kateřina Vráblíková, Jan Šerek and Zuzana Petrovičová.

Pr. Petr Macek is the Director of the Institute for Research on Children, Youth and Family and Professor of Social Psychology at the Department of Psychology. His research interests include the psychosocial development of adolescents and emerging adults, and the study of self and identity. He is a member of the Executive Council of the European Association for Research on Adolescence, the Editorial Board of the European Psychologist, and the Steering Committee of the European Social Cognition Network.

He has participated in several cross-national projects, such as the *EURONET Study, Adolescents' Interpretation of the Social Contract, Responsibilities/ Entitlements: A Study in Language and Social Representations in Central and Western Europe*. Prof. Macek is coordinating an extensive project *Psychological and Social Characteristics of Children, Youth and Families: Development of the Personality in the Time of Changes of Modern Society*, funded by the Ministry of Education and Sports of the Czech Republic (2005-2011).

Dr. Mojmir Tyrlik is Associate Professor in Social Psychology and he is affiliated with the Institute for Research on Children, Youth and Family. He is managing a project on *Self-system and Relationships to Others: A Developmental Approach*, funded by the Czech Science Foundation. Together with Prof. Macek, he participated in the international project *Responsibilities/ Entitlements: A Study in Language and Social Representations in Central and Western Europe*.

Dr. Ondřej Císař is Associate Professor at the Department of Political Science and a researcher at the Institute for Comparative Political Research. His research interests include: social movements, transnational relations, non-governmental organizations, the political consequences of globalization, global governance and transnational democracy. Dr. Cisar was involved in the research project *Political Theory of Social Movements*, funded by the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic, and the project *Political Parties and Interest Representation in Contemporary European Democracies*, funded by the Ministry of Education of the Czech Republic.

Kateřina Vrblkov is a PhD student in Political Science at the Department of Political Science and a researcher at the Institute for Comparative Political Research. Her work focuses on political participation, social movements and civil society. Her dissertation looks at the contextual determinants of political participation in democratic countries. She will be a Fulbright visiting research fellow at the Centre for the Study of Democracy at UC, Irvine during the academic year 2010/2011.

Jan řerek is a PhD student in Social Psychology and a researcher at the Institute for Research on Children, Youth and Family. His main research interest is in political psychology with regard to the civic and political socialization of adolescents. He has published articles and presented conference papers on adolescents' perception of political engagement, relation between adolescents' family environment and their political beliefs, and the development of political beliefs among first-time voters.

Zuzana Petroviov is a PhD student in Developmental Psychology at the Faculty of Social Studies. She is also affiliated with the Institute for Research on Children, Youth and Family at Masaryk University. Her main research interest is in adolescent development, in particular the different aspects of responsibility-taking.



*Members of the Brno team, from left to right:
Jan řerek, Petr Macek, Zuzana Petroviov,
Ondřej Csař, and Kateřina Vrblkov*

Spotlight on the research being conducted for Work Package 6 by the Brno team (Czech Republic)

The target groups

In addition to the majority population (Czech), the Brno team is working with two minority target groups for the purpose of the qualitative and quantitative phases of the WP6 research: **Roma** (representing the largest non-immigrant minority group) and **Ukrainians** (representing the second largest immigrant group in the country).

There are approximately 150,000-300,000 **Roma** people living in the Czech Republic. The vast majority of Roma are religious and subscribe to Catholicism. In terms of education, only one fifth of the population attended secondary school and less than half of them graduated. 90% are classified as having a low socio-economic status, a figure which is reflected by the high unemployment rate (about 80 %) and high number of unskilled or non-qualified workers. An increasing number of Roma live segregated from the majority population, in precarious living conditions. In addition to negative media and public stereotypes, Roma people tend to face prejudice and discrimination in the workplace, the job market, and in the educational system, which in turn increases their marginalization and makes their incorporation into the wider society even harder. Roma people are considered by the Czech state as members of a 'minority group', with the right to preserve and promote their own heritage and cultural institutions.

Estimates about the number of **Ukrainians** living in the Czech Republic range from 130,000 to 250,000. Over half of the Ukrainians in the Czech Republic attend

secondary school and about one tenth pursue higher education. The majority of Ukrainian citizens in the Czech Republic are unskilled workers (despite having higher qualifications). There is an ambiguous relationship between Ukraine and the Czech Republic with, on the one hand, strong economic and foreign policy ties and, on the other hand, the persistence of negative images about Ukrainians (linked to the history of the Soviet Union). In addition, despite their improving level of education, negative stereotypes about Ukrainians as 'cheap' and unskilled construction and industrial workers are still widespread. Ukrainians can obtain Czech citizenship (20,000 Ukrainian nationals have become Czech citizens).

Summary of some of the preliminary findings from the focus groups

So far, the Brno team has conducted 12 focus groups with young people from the three target groups at two age groups (16-18 year olds and 20-26 year olds). The themes and issues discussed during the focus groups include: the meaning of citizenship, civic engagement and participation, and sources of knowledge on social and political issues.

Some views and opinions were recurrent among all the groups, while others were specific to certain groups. Various forms of civic engagement were mentioned during the discussions, ranging from simple interest in current affairs to activities such as volunteering, financial donations to various charities and NGOs, to voting and participation in public demonstrations. People from all three target groups considered interest in social issues as a main determinant of civic engagement. One participant mentioned that '*...this interest is like the engine that forms one's future actions*' (Roma female, 26).

Participants also stressed the importance of young people's participation: *'Who else than young people should care? They are the ones that can influence the future'* (Ukrainian female, 23).

Many participants linked the need for participation with problems and issues affecting them directly and personally. Statements such as *'most people start to participate...or get interested, when they get affected [by the problem]'; 'unless there is a fire in my kitchen, I really don't care'* (Ukrainian male, 19) or *'unless personally affected by the problem, one is not going to try to solve it'* (Ukrainian female, 16) were common in most of the groups. Many participants also deplored the lack of action despite the existence of discussion about some specific issues: *'Most people just sit and talk about it [the particular issue]. But very few people actually get up and do something'* (Ukrainian male, 26).

In terms of sources of information about civic engagement and political participation, family and friends were said to play an important role: *'My parents tell me their opinions and with their help I understand what is best'* (Ukrainian female, 18) or *'When parents tell the child, from an early age, that he/she should be interested in politics, for his/her own future, then the child will develop an interest in politics'* (Ukrainian female, 18).

The media were also mentioned as an important source of information about civic and political issues. However some participants expressed scepticism and talked about the difficulties when searching for the information they need. One participant argued that *'there is too much information rather than too little...the problem is not to find something, but to find the relevant information'* (Czech male, 26).

Concerning the differences between the target groups, Ukrainians and Roma raised specific issues, more connected to their minority status, and talked about racism, prejudice, discrimination in the job market or immigration laws: *'When you call for a job, they tell you to come for the interview but then when you show up and they see that you are Cikán ['gipsy'] they tell you that the position is no longer available'* (Roma female, 16); *'They tell me that they don't want problems with foreigners so they rather hire Czechs, even though I have all the documents in order'* (Ukrainian female, 16); *'When I go to a shop, all the shop assistants are watching me, just me!'* (Roma male, 16).

Young Czechs, on the other hand, conceived these issues in a more 'abstract' way - none of these issues seemed to have a special importance for them. The Roma youth stressed that basic socio-economic conditions must be met (e.g., being employed or educated) before any political involvement and civic engagement. They also mentioned that contacts with people already involved in the political or civic sphere can, in turn, increase individual and collective civic engagement. One participant reported that civic engagement was *'about being at the right place at the right time with the right people'* (Roma female, 20).

The Ukrainian participants linked civic engagement and political participation with the notion of 'personal responsibility' and stressed the importance of the 'everyday' dimension of civic engagement. They also argued that better family dynamics, access to education, and school activities, as well as the tackling of social problems (such as unemployment and poverty) can increase the civic engagement and political participation of young people and excluded groups.

Past and Future PIDOP events

Four meetings of the PIDOP consortium have taken place so far: at the University of Surrey, UK, in May 2009; at the University of Liège, Belgium, in July 2009; at the University of Porto, Portugal, in November 2009 and at the University of Surrey in July 2010. The fifth meeting of the consortium will take place on 4th and 5th November, 2010, at the University of Örebro, Sweden.

The PIDOP Conference in Bologna, Italy, will take place on May 11-12, 2011.

Further information

For further information about the PIDOP project, please either consult the project website at:

<http://www.fahs.surrey.ac.uk/pidop/>

or contact Dr. David Garbin, the Project Manager, at: D.Garbin@surrey.ac.uk

You can also contact the leaders of each PIDOP team:

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