



*Ninth edition and first virtual edition of the conference*

# BELGIUM: THE STATE OF THE FEDERATION

17 December 2020

#VirtualSOF2020

A joint organisation of the two Belgian political science associations

*Vereniging voor Politieke Wetenschappen*

*Association belge francophone de science politique*

Organizing team : Robin Devroe, Anna Kern, Gilles Pittoors,

Audrey Vandeleene and Bram Wauters

**Ghent University – Research group GASPAR**

## Final programme

### 9:00 – 10:45: Parallel session I

#### **PANEL 1: Political parties**

Chair: Audrey Vandeleene (Universiteit Gent)

Discussants: Benoît Rihoux (UCLouvain), Jean-Benoit Pilet (ULB) and Sarah Engler (University of Zurich)

- Thomas Legein (ULB): *It is not all about members exiting. A Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) of intra-party democratic reforms in Belgium*
- Pieter Moens (Universiteit Gent): *From knowledge to power. The distribution of staff expertise in political parties*
- Leen Lingier, Anna Kern & Bram Wauters (Universiteit Gent): *Lost and blown away? How do losers of party leadership contests react?*
- Jérémy Dodeigne, Gert-Jan Put (Université de Namur) & Ferdinand Teuber (UCLouvain): *Intraparty competition in urban versus rural settings. The Belgian Lower House elections (2003-2019)*

## **PANEL 2: Public policies**

Chair: Sigrid Van Trappen (Universiteit Gent)

Discussants: Bram Verschuere and Ellen Wayenberg (Universiteit Gent)

- Colin Glesner (ULiège): *Two sides of the same coin? Exploring the interactions between safety and security in the Belgian nuclear industry*
- Damien Piron (UCLouvain): *Pension financialization in a multilevel setting: Redrawing the pension schemes of local public agents in Belgium*
- Jean-Baptiste Fanouillère (ULiège): *Public policy analysis of digitalization and centralization of medical data in Belgium*
- Hélène Dodion & Maxime Petit Jean (ULiège): *Process tracing in practice: building trust in policy evaluation*

## **PANEL 3: Democracy**

Chair: Benjamin de Vet (Universiteit Gent)

Discussant: Hannah Werner (KULeuven)

- Marco Ognibene (ULB): *The bifurcated effect of perceived injustice on political violence justification: A Parallel and Serial Mediator Model*
- David Talukder (ULB): *Does inequality in representation bring democratic dissatisfaction? An inquiry into Belgian disadvantaged groups' attitude toward representation and its consequences on democratic dissatisfaction*
- Kenza Amara Hammou (VUB) & Heidi Mercenier (VUB & UCLouvain): *Unpacking emotions of resentment towards political representation: An exploratory analysis through focus groups with citizens in Brussels*

## **PANEL 4: Problems of political representation**

Chair: Robin Devroe (Universiteit Gent)

Discussants: Christophe Lesschaeve (University of Luxembourg)

- Awenig Marié (ULB): *National or partisan representation? Explaining the MPs' perceptions of both the national mean voter and the partisan voter*
- Lucas Kins (ULB): *A crisis of representativeness? Comparative analysis of congruence between parties and their electorate in the 2019 regional election in Flanders*
- Laura Jacobs (ULB) & Sjifra de Leeuw (University of Amsterdam): *Does claiming issue ownership also mean getting issue ownership?*

**10:45 – 11:00: Coffee break**

## 11:00 – 12:45: Parallel session II

### PANEL 5: European Union

Chair: Jasmien Luypaert (Universiteit Gent)

Discussants: Ferdi De Ville (Universiteit Gent)

- Gilles Pittoors (Universiteit Gent): *Lost in translation? Multilevel party organisation in an EU context*
- Wouter Wolfs & Jan Jaap Veldhuis (KULeuven): *Regulating Social Media: a Curse or Blessing for European Political Parties and for Elections in Belgium?*
- Sophie Kopsch, Jérémy Dodeigne & François Randour (Université de Namur): *Pathways to the European Parliament: an exploratory analysis of career patterns of Belgian, German and British MEPs*

### PANEL 6: Federalism

Chair: Lorenzo Terriere (Universiteit Gent)

Discussants: Peter Bursens (Universteit Antwerpen) and Catherine Xhardez (VUB)

- Coree Brown Swan (University of Edinburgh): *Framing the Case for Self-Government: Flanders & Scotland, 2014*
- Benjamin Blanckaert, Didier Caluwaerts & Silvia Erzeel (VUB): *Holding together or tearing apart? Cross-ethnic voting in Brussels*
- Dave Sinardet (VUB), Kris Deschouwer (VUB), Lieven De Winter (UCLouvain), Jérémy Dodeigne (Université de Namur), Christoph Niessen (Université de Namur and UCLouvain) & Min Reuchamps (UCLouvain): *Measuring (sub)national identities in surveys: Some – new – lessons from Belgium*
- Laura Pascolo (UCLouvain): *The reversal of dynamics of Belgian federalism: the points of views of political elites*

### PANEL 7: Voters

Chair: Bram Wauters (Universiteit Gent)

Discussants: Emilie van Haute (ULB) and Ruth Dassonneville (Université de Montréal)

- André Blais, Ruth Dassonneville (Université de Montréal) & Mathieu Turgeon (University of Western Ontario): *What do citizens know about compulsory voting?*
- Robin Devroe & Emma Boone (Universiteit Gent): *Leftist women, leftist parties? An experimental test of whether party leader gender causes gender-biased misperceptions about a party's ideological position among Flemish voters*
- Emilien Paulis & Marco Ognibene (ULB): *The moderation role of interpersonal networks in the relationship between satisfaction with democracy and radical voting choices*
- Sophie Panel (Université Grenoble-Alpes), Emilien Paulis, Jean-Benoît Pilet, Sébastien Rojon & Davide Vittori (ULB): *Voters' preferences for "technocratic" ministers in Europe: a conjoint experiment*

## **12:45 – 13:40: Lunch break**

## **13:40 – 14:45: Plenary session**

### **Roundtable - *The COVID-19 crisis as stress test for Belgian federalism?***

The roundtable is **open for everyone interested in the topic**, upon registration (via Chantal.Tant@UGent.be). Please spread the news (but not the zoom link)!

- Moderator: Kris Deschouwer (VUB)
- Speakers:
  - Maxime Vandenberghe, PhD student, Ghent University
  - Catherine Xhardez, Postdoctoral researcher, VUB
  - Céline Romainville, Professor of Constitutional Law, UCLouvain
  - Francesco Palermo, Professor of Comparative Constitutional Law, University of Verona

## **15:00 – 16:45: Parallel session III**

### **PANEL 8: Democratic innovations**

Chair: Anna Kern (Universiteit Gent)

Discussant: Kristof Steyvers (Universiteit Gent)

- Sophie Devillers (UCLouvain): *Coercive or deliberative leaders? How do representatives behave and make others behave in deliberative settings?*
- Pierre-Étienne Vandamme (ULB): *Democratic innovations and electoral legitimacy*
- Lisa van Dijk, Hannah Werner & Sofie Marien (KULeuven): *Pinpointing the role of dissatisfaction in support for participatory processes. Examining the effect of perceptions of dysfunctional representation*
- Wouter Vanbroekhoven (KULeuven): *Where representation fails, democratic innovation prevails: incongruent citizens and a call for participatory processes*
- Jehan Bottin (UCLouvain): *The participatory public servants: key actors in the institutionalization of democratic innovations in Belgium? A study of the profiles of participatory public servants in Belgium*

### **PANEL 9: Political elites**

Chair: Pieter Moens (Universiteit Gent)

Discussants: Caroline Close (ULB) and Peter Thijssen (Universiteit Antwerpen)

- Gertjan Muylers (KULeuven), Gert-Jan Put (Université de Namur) & Bart Maddens (KULeuven): *Talk is cheap because supply exceeds demand? Longitudinal analysis of candidate turnover drivers in the flexible-list PR system of Flanders (Belgium) (1987-2019)*
- Hilde Coffé (University of Bath), Robin Devroe, Audrey Vandeleene & Bram Wauters (Universiteit Gent): *Preferences and Perceptions about Politicians' Goals, and How They Impact on Women's Political Ambition*
- Jean-Benoit Pilet, Davide Vittori & Emilien Paulis (ULB): *A longitudinal study of technocratic ministers across Europe*
- Sigrid Van Trappen (Universiteit Gent): *Candidate selection and ethnic minority aspirants. Exploring the effect of party selectors' cognitive ethnic biases in a PR system*

### **PANEL 10: Communication**

Chair: Gilles Pittoors (Universiteit Gent)

Discussants: Peter Van Aelst (Universiteit Antwerpen) and Laura Jacobs (ULB)

- Emma Turkenburg & Ine Goovaerts (KULeuven): *Enlightening Discussion or Empty Rhetoric? Analyzing the Informative Quality of Televised Election Debates Over Time (1985-2019)*
- Clémence Deswert (ULB): *Gender in the discourse of the Belgian French-speaking press on Prime Minister Sophie Wilmès in a context of coronavirus crisis: a call for a "feminine" leadership?*
- Maela Guillaume Le Gall (Sciences Po Rennes & UCLouvain), Laura Pascolo & Min Reuchamps (UCLouvain): *How does the big French brother look at Belgian political crises?*
- Rebecca Gebauer (UCLouvain): *The role of the media in realising the potential of mini-publics to enhance modern democracies. A case study of the Bürgerdialog in Ostbelgien*

### **PANEL 11: Parliament**

Chair: Richard Schobess (Universiteit Gent)

Discussants: Tom Louwerse (Universiteit Leiden)

- Yf Reykers (Maastricht University): *Parliamentary oversight of defence procurement in Belgium: All bark and no bite*
- Benjamin de Vet (Universiteit Gent): *Strategic parliamentary oversight among coalition partners in the bipolar Belgian polity*
- Petra Meier & Peter Bursens (Universiteit Antwerpen): *The representation of the people and the constituting entities in the two chambers of the Belgian federal parliament*

### **17:00 – 18:00: Christmas home apéro**

Virtually connect with your peers. Choose your break-out room and start chatting ☺

## **Practical information**

### **Papers**

All participants are invited to upload their paper to a shared Google Drive folder where all papers can be accessed. To receive access to the google drive, email [Audrey.Vandeleene@UGent.be](mailto:Audrey.Vandeleene@UGent.be). Please upload your papers (in English) to fellow panellists and discussants **by Friday 11 December 2020** at the latest so they have time to prepare comments and questions.

### **Observers**

We are aware of colleagues or students who would like to attend the conference without presenting or discussing a paper. This is possible upon registration via [Chantal.Tant@UGent.be](mailto:Chantal.Tant@UGent.be).

### **Platform**

The conference will be organized in a full virtual mode through Zoom. Please do not share these links and passwords with persons who are not attending the conference.

The Zoom-sessions will not be recorded, apart from the roundtable. However, participants might want to share screenshots on social media. If you don't want to appear on these, please disable your camera or notify it to your panel's participants. Please also switch off microphones during the presentations.

### **Contact in case of technical problem**

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**Thanks for participating in this conference ! 😊**

