



9th Central and Eastern European Forum of
Young Legal, Political and Social Theorists:
**DEMOCRACY, ACADEMIA AND THE
POLITICAL**

WROCLAW

27-28 April 2017

CALL FOR PAPERS

9TH CEE FORUM: DEMOCRACY, ACADEMIA AND THE POLITICAL

The mutual relationships between the Academia and democracy are complex and overlapping. On the one hand, democracy is a continuous object of research for the Academia: political scientists examine how democratic politics work in practice; political philosophers put forward ideas on how an ideal democracy should look like; sociologists analyse how people participate in democracy and what are their views on it; and finally, legal theorists and constitutionalists engage in debates on the juridical foundations of modern democracy and the rule of law. On the other hand, academics – in their capacity as university teachers – contribute to the shaping of future citizens by instilling in them a certain vision of civic virtues and democratic values. But also the world of democratic politics has a tangible influence on how the Academia functions, not least by laying down the legal framework on the organisation of universities, conferral of academic degrees, requirements regarding academic education, as well as by a more or less conscious funding policy. These broad phenomena, which academics are perfectly aware of and experience in their everyday professional life, have not, however, been hitherto sufficiently theorised, especially in and with regard to the region of Central and Eastern Europe.



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In this context, the aim of this year's Forum is to examine the role of Academia in democracy, with particular regard to the political (*das Politische, le politique*) which we understand as the inalienable antagonism which is at the basis of every society. Democracy is a type of political regime with distinct institutions which helps to articulate and tame antagonisms. In this perspective, the Academia is a forum for this articulation and an area for discursive search for possible solutions.

Therefore, we would like to **invite papers** dealing with the topic of "*Democracy, Academia and the Political*", in particular from the perspectives of political, social and legal theory, as well as philosophy (including especially political philosophy and ethics).

We would like to enquire, from a **theoretical perspective**, about the appropriate role of Academia in democracy, especially within the context of escalating social and legal conflicts, the crisis of democratic representation, the rise of populism, emerging questions regarding the application of the "rule of law" principle in practice, the role of the Academia in the transformation of the social antagonism into an agonism, the function of dialogue in democracy (e.g. how legal institutions can contribute to securing the equality of all voices in the democratic society which is one of the key conditions of a "radical democracy"). We also invite papers addressing the Academia in itself and its dedication to democratic virtues.



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Topics that could be pursued in papers include, but are not limited, to the following subjects, viewed from a **theoretical angle**:

- higher education (especially legal education) and the formation of democratic citizens,
- public philosophy and its role in democratic societies,
- the emancipatory potential of higher education in a pluralist and democratic society,
- the Academia and ideologies of higher education,
- post-communist legacy of higher education in CEE,
- academic research methodology as a challenge to or precondition of a democratic academia,
- social theory perspectives on the organisation of academia,
- the social responsibility of academics in a democratic society,
- academic virtues and democracy,
- ethics of research and methodological pluralism,
- Academia and the multiplicity of “rule of law” concepts,
- Academia and the judiciary,
- the legal Academia and legislation,
- the limits of legal academics’ discretionary power with regard to making proposals *de lege lata* and *de lege ferenda*, especially from a philosophical perspective,
- sources of legitimacy of academic governance, in particular the role of democracy in academia,
- contribution of the Academia to the legitimisation of political power, especially through the production of legitimate (“scientific”) knowledge.



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In order to maintain open discussion, the Forum will also provide for a **General Panel** for papers in legal, social and political theory that go **beyond the proposed topics.**

Abstracts of no more than **500** words should be submitted via the following website:

<https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=9thceeforum>

Deadline for application: **8 January 2017**

Information about acceptance of papers: **22 January 2017**

Deadline for payment of participation fee: **5 March 2017**

Conference date: **27-28 April 2017**

Participation fee: **€ 60**

Forum website: <https://www.cee-forum.org>

Host institution: Centre for Legal Education and Social Theory (CLEST), University of Wrocław, website: <https://www.clest.pl>

Organizing committee:

Paulina Bieś-Srokosz (Jan Długosz University), Michał Paździora (CLEST), Rafał Mańko (University of Amsterdam), Michał Stambulski (CLEST), Jacek Srokosz (University of Opole), Adam Szot (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University)

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