

# CALL for PAPERS

## Doctoral Course

### *Democracy, Human Rights, and the Porous Boundaries Between Domestic and International Politics*

University of Málaga, 16–17 December 2015  
Sala de Juntas, Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, Campus de Teatinos

This two-day doctoral course resumes themes and discussions of the POLITU doctoral course *Crossing the Divide Between Internal and External Politics: Rhetoric of Deliberation and Negotiation*, held in September 2010 at the Åland Islands Peace Institute. The course further elaborates on one of its argumentative guidelines, namely, the redrawing of the traditional frontiers separating domestic from international politics, and on the consequences it has for the way politics is conducted.

As is well known, in the context of globalization a rising number of political phenomena are no longer demarcated in terms of ‘international politics’ as opposed to ‘domestic politics’. This is clearly visible in policy-making, as many domestic policies have an effect on wider concerns, and the diffusion and benchmarking of policies means that many of them originate outside national governments. Foreign policy *is* indeed foreign politics in the sense of debating and negotiating conflicting views and interests, instead of implementing our ‘policy’ on something. Furthermore, the whole separation between *domestic* and *foreign* practically melts into the air with political constructions such as the European Union, which is in some sense a novel type of international institution. Also in other parts of the world regional cooperation renders traditional processes and boundaries porous. Processes that are deemed global, regional, horizontal or multileveled, further exemplify the need to refocus the study of ‘politics’. They give rise to different sorts of questions – from practical to historical, from conceptual to normative – which deserve close scholarly scrutiny.

Thus, exploring politics has ceased to be a compartmentalized endeavour, and challenges to the traditional boundaries of academic disciplines have grown of late. The new jargons of governance and globalization attest to this trend, which is reminiscent of previous cases like federalism, internationalism, and the more recent languages of democratization and human rights. For this course, we aim to fine tune the research focus by addressing the effects and conceptual foundations of the spread of phenomena like democracy and human rights on the changing understanding of politics.

Has politics been ‘displaced’ when many of its central processes are in a way escaping from the traditional concepts used to describe them? Why, and how, to democratize the internationalization of politics? Has the spread of democracy halted in the face of the tough competition from alternative models, or are we talking about different understandings of democracy? What correlation exists between democratization and the spread of human rights? Is it possible to secure human rights in non-democratic regimes? Is the ‘retreat of the state’ leaving politics to the international markets and governance networks, thus leading to a kind of ‘post-democratic’ era? What kind of historical and contemporary developments challenge the domestic/foreign politics divide? What methods are available in order to study them?

*The course welcomes papers dealing with this wide conundrum of contemporary politics, arising from the conceptual displacement of politics, crossings of democracy and human rights, examined from a variety of scholarly perspectives, from political science and political theory to history, philosophy, international relations, and law. The course combines lectures by senior scholars with presentations by PhD students whose research papers will be commented by senior scholars in debate sessions.*

## Convenors

Paul-Erik Korvela, University of Jyväskylä (paul-erik.korvela@jyu.fi)  
José María Rosales, University of Málaga (jmrosales@uma.es)

**Deadlines** for submitting to both convenors

Paper proposals: up to 150-word abstracts, Monday, 9 November 2015.

Extended abstracts, or outlines, of accepted proposals: up to 1500 words, Monday, 31 November 2015.

The course is organized with the cooperation of the Finnish Academy project *Conceptual Contestation Between East and West* (2015-2018), the Finnish National Graduate School of Political Studies (POLITU), the Doctoral Programme *Estudios Avanzados en Humanidades*, and the research project *Civic Constellation II: Debating Democracy and Rights* (FFI2014-52703-P).