

Call for Participation

9th Annual Meeting
European Civil Society Ph.D. Dissertation Network
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium
May 28-31, 2009

This call is directed towards:

PhD students from European universities doing research on civil society and third sector issues.

What is the Ph.D. network about?

The meeting is a unique opportunity for young academics to get to know fellow researchers from across Europe and to discuss their research in small working groups. In addition, the program consists of plenary lectures addressing both scientific themes (e.g. the governance of non-profits, social capital and volunteering) and practical issues (e.g. supervisor-student relationship, the writing process). The active participation of academic staff and graduated PhD students also allows for informal discussion about academic work and (post-)doctoral life. Former network meetings were held in Windsor (2001 & 2002), Dublin (2003), Stockholm (2004), Rolduc (2005), Vienna (2006), Münster (2007), and Kaunas (2008).

The main goals of the network meeting are:

- To create a forum for PhD students working on civil society and the third sector, where they can present their work to a group of peers. To allow them to benefit from the feedback of fellow students and the advice of faculty who facilitate the group discussions.
- To introduce students to main theories, approaches, and developments in the field through lectures by renowned scholars.
- To meet and network with fellow young academics from across Europe and from a broad variety of disciplines. To assist students in becoming part of an emerging network of young European scholars working on similar themes.

Structure of the network meeting:

- A number of 45-50 participants will be invited to the network meeting.
- The meeting will include lectures and group sessions. During the group sessions, students will present their PhD work, and focus on current topics or questions in relation to which they like to receive feedback and advice. This means the network

meeting does not use the paper-presenting format of regular conferences. It is intended to discuss the PhD project as such among young academics in different stages of their PhD project.

- The meeting will start on Thursday evening and close on Sunday around noon.
- Participants get free accommodation and a refund of travel costs (max. 250 euro).

Selection Criteria:

To guarantee that the working groups leave each participant sufficient time to thoroughly discuss his/her project we restrict the number of participants. The selection of participants will be based on the following criteria:

- We aim at a good mix of topics, disciplines, countries and stages in the PhD process.
- To consolidate the network we re-invite a number of participants from previous network meetings (max. 3 times).
- Because participants get funding for travel and accommodation costs through EU-funds we are limited to accepting participants from European universities

How to apply?

Interested students should send their application to Dr. Lesley Hustinx (Lesley.Hustinx@soc.kuleuven.be) no later than **February 2, 2009** and include the following information:

- Full name and gender
- Contact details (including e-mail and phone number)
- Disciplinary background
- Institutional affiliation and supervisor(s)
- Participation in previous PhD Network Meetings (date and place)
- Working title of PhD project and formal start/end dates
- Abstract of PhD research (max. 500 words)
- A brief description (100-150 words) of key issues and questions with regard to the PhD project that you would like to discuss with fellow participants during the meeting

Applicants will be notified by **March 15, 2009** whether they will be able to participate in the 9th Annual Meeting or not.

We look forward to receiving your applications!

Dr. Lesley Hustinx
Postdoctoral research fellow of the Research Foundation - Flanders
Centre for Sociological Research, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven