



# Belgium: The State of the Federation

17 December 2021

A joint organization of the two Belgian political science associations  
Vereniging voor Politieke Wetenschappen (VPW)  
Association belge francophone de science politique

*Organizing Committee:*

*Jérémy Dodeigne, Archibald Gustin, Elisa Minsart, Gert-Jan Put and Carine Remy  
University of Namur*

## Final programme

All papers can be uploaded on the conference's [Google Drive Folder](#) (deadline to circulate paper: Friday 10 December).

In case of technical problems during the conference, please contact Gert-Jan Put (0494/46 26 90) or Carine Remy (0475/55 28 98).

### **9.00-10.40: Parallel session I**

**Panel 1:** Federalism and regionalism

**Teams Link :** [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_OTFiMTg5ZmUtZjMxMC00MjE4LTlmNGYtNTEExZTZkOTdkNWl5%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%225f31c5b4-f2e8-4772-8dd6-f268037b1eca%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22acf2c3f3-cf7b-4a6f-be4e-32b20e3a6c4e%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_OTFiMTg5ZmUtZjMxMC00MjE4LTlmNGYtNTEExZTZkOTdkNWl5%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%225f31c5b4-f2e8-4772-8dd6-f268037b1eca%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22acf2c3f3-cf7b-4a6f-be4e-32b20e3a6c4e%22%7d)

Chair: Gert-Jan Put (UNamur)

Discussant: Min Reuchamps (UCLouvain)

- Jakob Frateur (UAntwerpen): *Assessing the state of democracy of multilevel polities and their reforms: the case of Belgium.*
- Laura Pascolo (UCLouvain): *The federal dynamics in Belgium: the points of views of political parties and their members*

- Lorenzo Terrière (Universiteit Gent): *When crossing the Rubicon: regionalist parties in government*
- Maxime Vandenberghe (Universiteit Gent): *Federalization and Accommodative Power-Sharing: Curse or Cure? The Impact of Federalization on Communal Conflict in Belgian Cabinets*

**Panel 2: Democratic innovations I**

**Teams Link :** [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_YzA5Nzc1NDAtYzM3Zi00MjZkLTg2MmMtODFiZWVhZWE2M2Rj%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%225f31c5b4-f2e8-4772-8dd6-f268037b1eca%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22acf2c3f3-cf7b-4a6f-be4e-32b20e3a6c4e%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YzA5Nzc1NDAtYzM3Zi00MjZkLTg2MmMtODFiZWVhZWE2M2Rj%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%225f31c5b4-f2e8-4772-8dd6-f268037b1eca%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22acf2c3f3-cf7b-4a6f-be4e-32b20e3a6c4e%22%7d)

Chair: François Randour (UNamur)

Discussants: Ramon van der Does (UCLouvain) & Lisa van Dijk (KU Leuven)

- Maxime Gaborit (Université Saint-Louis Bruxelles) & Selma Tilikete (Université Paris 8) : *Délibérer pour le climat en France et en Belgique*
- Vincent Jacquet (UNamur), Jérémy Dodeigne (UNamur) & Elisa Minsart (UNamur): *Which public authorities invest in participatory budgeting?*
- Julien Vrydagh (VUB & UCLouvain): *Driving the same vehicle but with a different itinerary? How initiators justify the use of minipublics in Belgium (2001-2021)*
- Nina De Smedt (Universiteit Gent): *The changed face of local councilors: The impact of citizen participation on local councilors.*

**Panel 3: Political Communication**

**Teams Link :** [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_NTZiZiJlOMTctZDNkMy00ODRjLTJYjctYmJiZmRiMzMwNmM5%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%225f31c5b4-f2e8-4772-8dd6-f268037b1eca%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22acf2c3f3-cf7b-4a6f-be4e-32b20e3a6c4e%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NTZiZiJlOMTctZDNkMy00ODRjLTJYjctYmJiZmRiMzMwNmM5%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%225f31c5b4-f2e8-4772-8dd6-f268037b1eca%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22acf2c3f3-cf7b-4a6f-be4e-32b20e3a6c4e%22%7d)

Chair: Archibald Gustin (ULiège)

Discussant: Laura Jacobs (ULB)

- Nicolas De Vadder (ULB) & Lukas Kins (ULB): *Party organisation and campaign digitalisation: analysing tasks and role perceptions among digital communication staff in French-speaking Belgian parties*
- Elise Storme (Universiteit Gent): *How About the Female Voice: Evaluating the Representation of Flemish Ministers in Newspaper Articles*
- Gunther Vanden Eynde (KU Leuven) & Gert-Jan Put (UNamur): *The coming of age of paid digital campaigning: Equalization or Normalization in the 2019 Belgian federal elections*

**10.40-11.00: Coffee Break**

## **11.00-12.40: Parallel session II**

### **Panel 4: Political parties**

Teams Link: [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_MzkyMjZiY2YtYjRhOS00ZjhjLWFhNDktZmlxZWFIYmI4ZGU0%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%225f31c5b4-f2e8-4772-8dd6-f268037b1eca%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22acf2c3f3-cf7b-4a6f-be4e-32b20e3a6c4e%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MzkyMjZiY2YtYjRhOS00ZjhjLWFhNDktZmlxZWFIYmI4ZGU0%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%225f31c5b4-f2e8-4772-8dd6-f268037b1eca%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22acf2c3f3-cf7b-4a6f-be4e-32b20e3a6c4e%22%7d)

Chair: Alban Versailles (UCLouvain)

Discussant: Min Reuchamps (UCLouvain)

- Floriane Geels (Saint-Louis University): *Basic income(s): support and opposition of Belgian political parties*
- Jasmien Luybaert: (Universiteit Gent): *When do parties change their political product? Causes of programmatic-, organizational – and personnel reforms in Belgian mainstream parties*
- Raf Reuse (Universiteit Gent): *Ideological nationalization within Flemish parties. An exploratory study based on computerized coding of local party manifestos*

### **Panel 5: Multi-level politics**

Teams Link : [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_MWY4OWVjMWMtODIzNi00ZmE3LWE4M2YtOTY4ZTg5OWJhZmMw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%225f31c5b4-f2e8-4772-8dd6-f268037b1eca%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22acf2c3f3-cf7b-4a6f-be4e-32b20e3a6c4e%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MWY4OWVjMWMtODIzNi00ZmE3LWE4M2YtOTY4ZTg5OWJhZmMw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%225f31c5b4-f2e8-4772-8dd6-f268037b1eca%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22acf2c3f3-cf7b-4a6f-be4e-32b20e3a6c4e%22%7d)

Chair: Thomas Laloux (UCLouvain)

Discussant: Gilles Pittoors (University of Groningen)

- Loris Gathy (KU Leuven): *The influence of country-specific recommendations: the case of "spending reviews" in Flanders and Wallonia*
- Sophie Kopsch (UNamur & UCLouvain): *So close but still too far away from power? Unveiling women's careers in the European Parliament*
- François Randour (UNamur) & Scott Hamilton (University of Antwerp): *Parliamentary resistance in a multi-level environment: Belgian parliaments and the CETA saga*

### **Panel 6: Voting and Electoral Behavior I**

Teams Link: [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_MTNmMmE4MjMtYTVjNC00NzEyLk0YTMtYWVjOGZiZDViYjI0%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%225f31c5b4-f2e8-4772-8dd6-f268037b1eca%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22acf2c3f3-cf7b-4a6f-be4e-32b20e3a6c4e%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MTNmMmE4MjMtYTVjNC00NzEyLk0YTMtYWVjOGZiZDViYjI0%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%225f31c5b4-f2e8-4772-8dd6-f268037b1eca%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22acf2c3f3-cf7b-4a6f-be4e-32b20e3a6c4e%22%7d)

Chair: Vincent Jacquet (UNamur)

Discussant: Gert-Jan Put (UNamur)

- Jérémy Dodeigne (UNamur), Jean-Benoit Pilet (ULB) & Peter Thijssen (UAntwerpen): *Can voters correctly assess the electability of candidates in PR list systems? A study of Belgian local elections*
- Silke Goubin (KU Leuven): *Do Belgians care about economic inequality? How inequality does (not) drive political engagement in an “equal” society*

**12.40-14.00: Lunch break**

### **14.00-15.40: Parallel session III**

**Panel 7: Public Opinion and Attitudes**

**Teams Link:** [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_OWfKODYwOGYtYjY3My00ZWm1LTg5YWMtZDYxMzljNTBhOWI3%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%225f31c5b4-f2e8-4772-8dd6-f268037b1eca%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%22acf2c3f3-cf7b-4a6f-be4e-32b20e3a6c4e%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_OWfKODYwOGYtYjY3My00ZWm1LTg5YWMtZDYxMzljNTBhOWI3%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%225f31c5b4-f2e8-4772-8dd6-f268037b1eca%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%22acf2c3f3-cf7b-4a6f-be4e-32b20e3a6c4e%22%7d)

Chair: François Randour (UNamur)

Discussants: Anna Kern (Ghent University) and Jérémy Dodeigne (UNamur)

- Lore Baeten (UGent) & Anna Kern (UGent): *To what degree is policy-making responsive to electoral losers? A comparative analysis of policy responsiveness in European democracies*
- Kamil Bernaerts (VUB and University of Warwick) & Benjamin Blanckaert (VUB): *Institutional design and polarisation: do consensus democracies fare better in fighting polarisation than majoritarian democracies?*
- Thomas Laloux (UCLouvain), Virginie Van Ingelgom (UCLouvain), Soetkin Verhaegen (Maastricht University) & Alban Versailles (UCLouvain): *Citizens' perception of globalization: a systematic review and research agenda*
- Heidi Mercenier (VUB and UCLouvain): *Understanding citizens' resentment towards politics: a matter of time?*

**Panel 8: Voting and Electoral Behavior II**

**Teams Link:** [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_OGE0NGNkZDktYWYwOC00ZWQ1LWI2YzctNDE4MTU2ZjNmYWwEw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%225f31c5b4-f2e8-4772-8dd6-f268037b1eca%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%22acf2c3f3-cf7b-4a6f-be4e-32b20e3a6c4e%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_OGE0NGNkZDktYWYwOC00ZWQ1LWI2YzctNDE4MTU2ZjNmYWwEw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%225f31c5b4-f2e8-4772-8dd6-f268037b1eca%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%22acf2c3f3-cf7b-4a6f-be4e-32b20e3a6c4e%22%7d)

Chair: Sophie Kopsch (UNamur)

Discussant: Peter Thijssen (UAntwerpen)

- Gert-Jan Put (UNamur), Jean-Benoit Pilet (ULB) & Jérémy Dodeigne (UNamur): *Somewhere between open and closed, but where exactly? A new approach to classify flexible list PR electoral systems*

- Peter Thijssen (UAntwerpen), Rozemarijn van Dijk (UAntwerpen) & Patrick van Erkel (UAntwerpen): *Playing the (wo)man: the effect of centralized personalized voting on affective polarization*
- Laura Jacobs (ULB), Caroline Close (ULB) & Jean-Benoit Pilet (ULB): *The Angry Voter? The role of emotions in explaining the populist vote at the 2019 Belgian elections*
- Archibald Gustin (ULiège) & Geoffrey Grandjean (ULiège): *The political consequences of the use of constructive motions of no-confidence at the local level in Wallonia (2006-2018)*

## Panel 9: Democratic Innovations II

Teams Link: [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_YzA5MDhiZjgtZDFjZS00NTgxLTgyYTgtYzcxYTkwZTE0NzNj%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%225f31c5b4-f2e8-4772-8dd6-f268037b1eca%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22acf2c3f3-cf7b-4a6f-be4e-32b20e3a6c4e%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YzA5MDhiZjgtZDFjZS00NTgxLTgyYTgtYzcxYTkwZTE0NzNj%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%225f31c5b4-f2e8-4772-8dd6-f268037b1eca%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22acf2c3f3-cf7b-4a6f-be4e-32b20e3a6c4e%22%7d)

Chair: Elisa Minsart (UNamur)

Discussant: Sebastien Rojon (ULB)

- Loïc Cobut (Université Saint-Louis Bruxelles) : *Local governance and the (non)emergence of renewable energy cooperatives. The case of Wallonia.*
- Rebecca Gebauer (UCLouvain), Ann-Mireille Sauter (UCLouvain), Christoph Niessen (UCLouvain/European University Institute) & Min Reuchamps (UCLouvain): *Public perceptions of institutionalized deliberative mini-publics*
- Christoph Niessen (UCLouvain/European University Institute), Sean Mueller (Université de Lausanne) & Min Reuchamps (UCLouvain): *Democratic Innovations in Multilingual Federations: Taking Group-Level Dynamics for Demand Seriously*
- Ramon van der Does (UCLouvain): *Societal Fragmentation and the Rise and Fall of Deliberative Politics*
- Lisa van Dijk (KU Leuven), Emma Turkenburg (KU Leuven) & James Pow (Queen's University Belfast): *The perceived legitimacy of deliberative minipublics: A polarised perspective.*