

CALL FOR PAPERS

29th Annual Conference of Central European Political Science
Association

Politicisation and Post-politics in Times of New Challenges

18-19 September 2025, Warsaw, Poland

organized by **Central European Political Science Association** in
cooperation with **Faculty of Political Science and International Relations,**
University of Warsaw

In the current political climate marked by discontent and falling participation rates, disillusionment with political elites, in the face of contemporary threats, ongoing armed conflicts, both citizens and politicians are looking for new solutions in dealing with the challenges of the modern world while preserving the democratic legal order in the state. The events of recent years, i.e. the pandemic crisis, the war in Ukraine and the Middle East, increasing conflicts, radicalisation of moods, successive waves of rising populism, public disillusionment with the internal situation in states, force a constant search for new solutions and ways out of emerging critical situations. The reaction to the hitherto politicised processes in states has been a peculiar shift away from antagonistic political discourse and the removal of citizens, hitherto occupying a significant position in states, from participation in decision-making, granting it increasingly to unelected technocrats.

One of the significant challenges in this context is the response of the authorities to the rapidly changing climate, which entails dynamic and sometimes dramatic consequences for people, regions, the environment, as well as problems with energy sources. The need for action, bold solutions and groundbreaking policy decisions makes it particularly important for action in this area to combine the efforts of scientists, analysts, politicians, social activists in this field. Convincing societies that more decisive activity in this dimension makes sense will be among the key tasks in the future, especially since there is no shortage of new challenges, threats.



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Increasing the capacity of renewable energy sources is crucial not only for achieving climate goals, but also for changing the proportion of the so-called energy mix, in which traditional fossil fuels still play a major role in ensuring energy stability and reliability. The range of issues involved is extremely wide, including such issues as the extinction of coal and lignite procurement, testing new sources of fossil fuels (e.g., shale gas), the implementation of renewable energy (e.g., the location of photovoltaic and wind farms), the legitimacy of nuclear power plant construction, the location of wind farms, among others.

Government authorities, non-governmental organizations and interested social groups are trying to identify on an ongoing basis the main challenges of implementing renewable energy sources at a pace that will enable the achievement of global climate goals as soon as possible. Various stakeholders in the field, from investors, utilities to other energy stakeholders around the world, are having an important voice in this discussion. Taking into account the interests of all these groups in view of the already irreversible climate change and the subsequent consequences of this dynamic process that threaten us, requires action here and now and is becoming one of the most important challenges facing humanity today.

As a result of the transformations taking place in societies at the turn of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, the time of post-politics has naturally arrived. Among the numerous theorists, Japhy Wilson and Erik Swyngedouw (2014) relate the post-political era to the concept of Francis Fukuyama (1992), who, in addition to the end of history, also proclaimed the 'end of politics'.



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The hitherto dominant liberal representative democracies had entered a process of non-alternative, as it was thought, retreat from involving their citizens more broadly in state processes. In such circumstances, politicking began to take on a variety of forms. In essence, post-politics was conceived to replace an often fickle, susceptible, unconstructive and non-conclusive populace with a mass of clients who are expected, through elections, to choose their administrators based primarily and above all on individual economic needs. Under such circumstances, of course, the general framework, which includes the only right representative democracy, free market economics and cosmopolitan liberalism, cannot be questioned.

Thus, post-politics brings with it negative connotations. It deprives outspoken societies of the opportunity to legislate on issues already considered settled by the elites. In such a reality, political disputes take on a ritualistic character. The peculiar political cartel formed over the years has metrified this view of the world. None of the mainstream forces have been able or willing to stand up to the masses and challenge such an agreement. Faced with such challenges and disillusionment with politics, the search for solutions began in depoliticisation, but also in a return to politicisation in its new variants and guises. Nowadays, one can speak of three dimensions of depoliticisation: institutional, i.e. when politicians use unelected administrators who have a great deal of freedom to set policy within a predetermined mandate; in rule and law-based depoliticisation; and in preference-shaping (ideological) depoliticisation.



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The search for ways out of this peculiar wedge has directed those disillusioned with politics to, among other things, deliberative democracy, i.e. in the broader, bottom-up involvement of citizens in the life of the community. Deliberation can not only be about content, but also about mechanisms and ways of deciding, i.e. institutional arrangements. In such a framework, therefore, everything can be subject to evaluation. Not only the content, but also the decision-making procedures can change. In other words, the focus on openness is restored. Ritualised decisions are no longer outside the domain of ordinary people. There is a return to the actual articulation of one's needs and values. The search for alternative ways for citizens to participate in major political decisions continues in this way, prompting us to ask new questions and seek answers as to whether we can still speak of politicisation in the contemporary world.

It also forces us to look for solutions, new forms and mechanisms to influence the reality around us in a changing world. So, is the inevitable solution that awaits us a departure from politicisation? Or is it still necessary for us? What is post-politics today and how should we understand it? Is it an alternative or a threat to the known and established ways of operating within the state? We encourage all scholars to seek answers to these and other questions and to share the results of their research at the next - 29th annual CEPSA conference, scheduled for 17-19 September in 2025 at the Faculty of Political Science and International Studies, University of Warsaw.

We invite all scholars to participate in this event!



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Paper and panel proposals

The academic program for the conference will be organized in the usual format of panels. Each panel should comprise minimum of four and maximum of five papers plus a potential discussant. We welcome individual paper proposals and / or complete panel proposals as well. Please note that in order to accommodate as many paper presenters as possible, we will limit one (1) paper presentation per individual, but individuals may – in addition of presenting a paper – also participate in other roles (chairs, discussants). We also welcome participants that do not want to present a paper, but would like to be moderators, discussants or to just attend and enjoy the conference.

The organisers also encourage young scholars/PhD students in the conference to submit their papers. We plan to organize special panels for them with invited reviewers to discuss the papers. For the best PhD paper, we also offer a special prize i.e. the possibility of publication in one of the CEPSA journals.

Proposals for panels should include:

- Name, institutional affiliation, and email address of the proposed panel chair
- Proposed panel title and summary of its theme (approx. 500 words)
- Panelists including their names, institutional affiliations, and emails

The tasks for a panel chair include:

- proposing a panel around a theme
- maintaining a balance between established and younger scholars
- maintaining a balance with regards to the national affiliation of panelists



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The closing date for panel proposals (title and 500 words abstract):
31st of May 2025.

Deadline for submitting (title and 500 words abstract) for closed panels:
31st of May 2025

Proposal for papers should include:

- Name, institutional affiliation, and email of the proposed contributor
- Proposed paper title and summary of its theme (approx. 500 words)

The closing date for paper proposals: **31st of May 2025**

Proposals should be submitted to: **via system ExOrdo**

<https://cepsa2025.exordo.com/>

Participants will be informed of the acceptance: **15th of June 2025.**

The first draft of a program will be available by **5th of July 2025.**



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Publication possibilities

The organizers do not provide for the publication of the conference papers. Nevertheless, we would like to encourage and offer to all scholars presenting their contribution the possibility to publish their papers in the form of a scientific article in the University of Warsaw and CEPSA journals:

- Political Science Studies (Studia Politologiczne, <http://www.studiapolitologiczne.pl/About-the-Journal,1997.html>)
- European Studies Quarterly (Przegląd Europejski, <https://przegladeuropejski.com.pl/cms/depositsmanuscript>)
- Social Policy Issues (Problemy Polityki Społecznej, <https://www.problempolitykispolecznej.pl/en>)
- Studia Wschodnioeuropejskie (<http://swe.uw.edu.pl>)
- Journal of Comparative Politics (www.jofcp.org)
- Politics in Central Europe (www.politicsince.eu)
- Political Preferences (<https://www.journals.us.edu.pl/index.php/PP>)
- Baltic Journal of Political Science (<https://www.journals.vu.lt/BJPS/>)
- Politické Vedy (<http://www.politickevedy.fpvmv.umb.sk/en/>)

Financial issues

- There is no conference fee!
- The organizers will provide coffee breaks and gala dinner
- The organizers do not cover any travel and/or accommodation costs.



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Location

Conference venue is the Main Campus of the University of Warsaw, 26/28 Krakowskie Przedmieście St.

Venue in the center of world-famous town of Warsaw, just steps from the Old Town, allows quick access by various means of transport (metro, bus, taxi). There is the Warsaw Chopin Airport just ca. 10 km away, with daily flights to many European destinations available. There are also rail (Central Railway Station in the City Centre, 1,7 km away from the venue) and bus links available.

Organizing Committee

Prof. Dr. Boglárka Koller (CEPSA President)

Prof. Dr. Agnieszka Kasińska-Metryka (CEPSA Vice-President and Polish representative in the CEPSA Executive Committee)

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Simona Kukovič (CEPSA General Secretary)

Prof. dr hab. Maciej Raś (University of Warsaw)

Prof. dr hab. Katarzyna Kołodziejczyk (University of Warsaw)

Prof. dr hab. Jacek Wojnicki (University of Warsaw)

Dr hab. Dominika Mikucka-Wójtowicz (University of Warsaw)

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Dr Agnieszka Bejma (University of Warsaw)

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