



**Biennial Report on RN25 – Social Movements
2017-2019**

1. Name and Number of RN

Social Movements RN25

2. Names and email addresses of:

a. outgoing Coordinators and board members (past term)

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b. incoming Coordinators and board members (new term after this year's conference)

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3. Activities:

Activities of RN25 in the past two-year term:

- a) **Organization of a midtem conference:** As the main event, the RN organized a midterm-conference “1968-2018, fifty years after: Where is the social movement field going?” in Florence in May 2018 in collaboration with COSMOS/SNS and with the standing group on participation and mobilization of the ECPR. It was the first time the RN25 and the ECPR Standing group on participation and mobilization collaborated on the organization of a joint event. Taking the 1968 anniversary as a stimulating moment for reflection, this conference provided space for looking at the implications of that period on social movement research as well as addressing a number of key questions in current social movement research. The call for papers has attracted almost 200 proposals out of which 55 papers were presented at the conference. There were nine keynote speakers: Donatella Della Porta (COSMOS, Scuola Normale Superiore), Mario Diani (University of Trento), Olivier Fiellieule (University of Lausanne), Marco Giugni (University of Geneva), Béla Greskovits (Central European University), James Jasper (City University of New York), Hanspeter Kriesi (European University Institute), Michele Micheletti (Stockholm University), Eva Anduiza (Autonomous University of Barcelona), and a roundtable discussing the second edition (2017) of the *Handbook of Social Movements Across Disciplines* by Conny Roggeband and Bert Klandermans. At the conference there were around 140 participants. The quality of papers presented was very good and we received a very positive feedback from the participants.
- b) **Organizing of the ESA RN25 at the ESA Conference in 2019:** We organized 10 sessions at the ESA Conference in Manchester with the help of a number of RN members who acted as peer-reviewers and chairs for some of the sessions. A call for papers was circulated among different mailing lists. We received 66 abstracts and accepted 49 oral presentations. Chairs were chosen not only among board members but also among affiliates to widen participation and diversify discussions. The sessions were very well attended, the rooms allocated to our RN turned out to be too small for several sessions. The ambitious work of our designated session commenters was very appreciated by the presenters, which shows that we have developed a good format for making the sessions as rewarding as possible. During the coference we have also organized a business meeting that was attended by more than 30 people.
- c) **Update of the ESA RN website:** We have developed and have been udating the ESA RN website to provide information to our members and other scholars interested in the RN, especially the call for papers for our events.
- d) **Improving participation of PhD students and early career researchers:** We encouraged participation of young scholars at the midterm conference with organization of the mentoring session for PhD students. 10 PhD students applied with short reviews of their dissertation research projects and were paired with two senior scholars working on their topic that were selected from the keynote speakers, panel chairs and participants of the conference.
- e) **International Cooperation and Inclusion of Non-European Researchers:** Both of the events organized in the last two years (midterm conference as well as sessions at the ESA general conference) had a number of presenters from North America and Central Eastern Europe.

- f) **Improving Collaboration with other Research Networks:** We have strengthened our collaboration with the European Consortium for Political Research's standing group on mobilization and participation.
- g) **Future activities:** We are organizing a midterm-conference in Tartu, Estonia, May 27-30th 2020 "Democratic struggles: contention, social movements and democracy". The conference will be co-organized with the University of Tartu and, as in the case of the previous mid-term conference, with the Standing Group of Participation and Mobilization of the European Consortium for Political Research. The conference will present keynote speakers and panel chairs that focus on the role of social movements in democratic regimes and climate change, such as Walter Nicholls (University of California, Irvine), Antoaneta Dimitrova (Leiden University), Jacquelin van Stekelenburg (VU Amsterdam), Nicolle Doerr (University of Copenhagen), Ondrej Cisar (Charles University). The call for papers will be sent out by the end of November 2019.
- h) **Plans and goals:** The goal for the upcoming two-year term is to further develop the RN as a crucial network for European and non-European scholars of social movements with a particular focus on its long-term maintenance. In order to do that, we will focus on: A) providing support to under-privileged groups of researchers by offering financial support, B) Development of more formalized rules to manage the functioning of the RN (nomination and election procedure of coordinators and board), C) Further cooperation with other organizations and networks focused on social movements and protest, D) The maintenance and growth of the membership of the RN and a periodic communication with the members via the mail-list.