SYNERGY CREATION IN EMOTIONS & POLITICS RESEARCH IN EUROPE WORKSHOP

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Center for Social Studies
University of Coimbra

Colégio de S. Jerónimo
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PARTICIPANTS

Ana Allen Gomes (PROTEMO Team)

Ana Allen Gomes is a psychologist working as an associate professor at the University of Coimbra. Her main research interests include clinical and health psychology, especially morningness-eveningness and sleep disorders. Her current projects are about cognitive behavioural intervention and sleep-related research. She recently published about dysfunctional beliefs and attitudes about sleep scale as well as cognitive behavioural therapy for insomnia.

Ana Teixeira de Melo (CES-Moderator)

Ana Teixeira de Melo is a researcher and psychologist at CES, University of Coimbra. She is an elected member of the Executive Committee and of the Council of the Complex Systems Society as well as Academic Editor of Complexity. Her research focus is on processes of human flourishing, development and resilience in families and communities especially in contexts of multiple risks. Recent publications concentrate on 'Complex Thinking'.

Anna Pospech Durnova (CIDAPE-Coordinator)

Anna Pospech Durnova is a professor of political sociology at the University of Vienna and holds a habilitation at SciencesPO in Paris. She is an editor of Policy & Politics and vice-President of the International Public Policy Association. Her main research interests lie in the sociology of emotions and the intersection of expertise, culture and politics. She recently published on post-factual politics and the role of emotions in public policies and discourses.

Beatriz Carbone (PROTEMO-PI & S.Consortium Manager)

Beatriz Carbone is working as a research associate at Saarland University. She holds a PhD in political science from Frankfurt University. Her main areas of interest are gender studies, critical race studies, postcolonial theory, right wing populism, and welfare state. She is co-editor of the Political Ethnography series (Springer). In her current research at PROTEMO she focusses on the awareness to emotional needs of security on the part of migrants and BIPOCs.

Clara Cruz Santos (PROTEMO-Team)

Clara Cruz Santos is working as a professor of social work at the University of Coimbra where she is the coordinator of the Observatory of Citizenship and Social Intervention. Social policies, social innovation, social deservingness as well as social protection are some of her main fields of interest. She predominantly works in projects about social work. In her latest publications, she concentrates on human rights and citizenship and social intervention policies.

Cristiano Gianolla (PROTEMO & CO3-PI)

Cristiano Gianolla is a sociologist and researcher at CES, University of Coimbra. Past and current projects include UNPOP, ECHOES and FRANET. He is a member of the "Inter-Thematic group on Migrations" as well as editor of Alice News and Rights! blog. He currently studies emotions and narratives in democratic processes including effects on political behaviour. His latest publications are about affect in political crisis, intercultural democratisation and populism.

Emilia Palonen (CO3-PI & PLEDGE-Coordinator)

Emilia Palonen is a political scientist and associate professor at the University of Helsinki. She is a senior member of various associations and societies and her previous projects include WhiKnow. She is an expert on discourse theory, populism and local participative governance. She has been working on politics of memory in symbolic urban landscapes and populist movements. Recent publications include works on the European public sphere and the far right.

Gabriella Szabó (PLEDGE & MORES-PI)

Gabriella Szabó is a senior research fellow at the HUN-REN Centre for Social Sciences in Budapest. She currently works in the projects PLEDGE and MORES. Her research interests lie in political communication, media studies, expressivity and emotionalization in politics. Her latest publications and projects focus on the management of shame in politics as well as heroization and victimisation in populism and national narratives.

Gaia Giuliani (PROTEMO-Team)

Gaia Giuliani is an associate professor and researcher at CES, University of Coimbra. Previous and current projects include (De)OTHERING, UNPOP and UrbanoScenes. She is mainly interested in the history of political ideas as well as critical race and gender studies. Currently, she works in projects on European migration and border control and post-colonial imaginaries of urbanisation. Her latest publications are about migration and postcolonialism.

Georg Wenzelburger (PROTEMO-Coordinator)

Georg Wenzelburger is a political scientist working as a professor at Saarland University. His research concentrates on comparing public policies in Western countries with a focus on the welfare state, the politics of law-and-order policies and insecurity. His current projects include STRAKOSIM, POINS, Linking Borderlands, and PROTEMO. His latest publications are about the punitive turn in criminal justice policies, welfare state policies, digitization and democracy.

Katarzyna Hamer-den Heyer (PROTEMO-PI)

Katarzyna Hamer-den Heyer is a psychologist working as an associate professor at the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw. She is Guest Editor of a research topic in Frontiers in Psychology and a member of various associations and societies. Her research is mainly concerned with predictors and consequences of broad social identifications. Her latest publications focus on global human identification and the role of early intergroup experiences.

Katja Stempel (PROTEMO-Team)

Katja Stempel is a political scientist working as a doctoral research associate at Saarland University. She holds an undergraduate degree in European Studies from the University of Aberdeen in Scotland. She obtained her Master's degree from the University of Helsinki where she studied in the media and democracy track, specializing in democracy and democratic advancement, affective polarization and discourse theory.

Leo Caves (CES-Moderator)

Leo Caves has a PhD in Computational Biophysics and throughout his career has operated at the interface of the physical, biological and computational sciences. He is a collaborator of the Centre for the Philosophy of Sciences of the University of Lisbon (CFCUL). His research experience encompasses computational biophysics, data science and evolutionary computation. He is interested in complex thinking and, in the investigation, and facilitation of interdisciplinary processes.

Lisete M. Mónico (PROTEMO-PI)

Lisete M. Mónico is a psychologist and professor at the University of Coimbra. She is a member of the Centre for Research in Neuropsychology and Cognitive and Behavioral Intervention. She is currently working on projects about emotions and social representations of psychological knowledge, cognition need and students' frames of reference. Her latest publications include social representations of entrepreneurship and perception of business ethics.

Luciana Sotero (PROTEMO-Team)

Luciana Sotero is a researcher at CES and professor of psychology at the University of Coimbra. Her main research interests lie in family studies and family intervention in therapeutic processes as well as resilience processes. In her current research projects, she works on emotion narratives (UNPOP) and the quality of justice in Portugal. Her latest publications are about parental responsibilities and health issues as well as Caregivers' concerns.

Mário Simões (PROTEMO-Team)

Mário Simões is a psychologist working as a professor at the University of Coimbra focussing on psychological assessment. He was a PI in projects with external funding (FCT, FCG) and researched the development, adaption and validation of (neuro)psychological assessment instruments for the Portuguese population. His latest publications deal with propensity to morally disengage scale and symptom validity testing in Portuguese prisons.

Mikko Salmela (PLEDGE-PI)

Mikko Salmela is an associate professor at the University of Copenhagen and holds a docentship at the University of Helsinki. Past projects include NTUS and WhiKnow. He is mainly interested in the empirically informed philosophy of emotions and the relevance of emotions for identity formation with applications in political psychology. His latest publications are about narratives of ressentiment and the construction of collective affects.

Miriam Jawadi (PROTEMO-Team)

Miriam Jawadi is a researcher at CES, University of Coimbra. Her research interests include organized crime, political corruption, gender equality in employment, immigration and the principles of democracy as well as social deviance and the rights of the European Union. She has been part of many Italian associations involved in raising awareness among citizens about political issues, including immigration and organized crime.

Moshe Maor (PROTEMO-PI)

Moshe Maor is a Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the Reichmann University in Herzliya. His main research interests lie in policy process, comparative politics as well as Israeli and Western European politics. In his research projects, he concentrates on disproportionate responses in policy and politics as well as emotions in public policy. His latest publications are about affect in policy dynamics and measuring policy instrument interactions in policy mixes.

Paulo Menezes (PROTEMO-Team)

Paulo Menezes is a senior researcher at the Institute of Systems and Robotics at the University of Coimbra. Human-Robot interaction, virtual and augmented reality as well as human and emotion behaviour analysis are some of his main areas of interest. In his current research projects, he studies social robots, human behaviour analysis and assistive systems. His latest publications focus on social robot, artificial intelligence and machine learning.

Peter Starke (PROTEMO-PI)

Peter Starke is working as a professor of political science and public management at the University of Southern Denmark in Odense. His research areas mainly include comparative welfare state research, political economy and public policy. In his current research project POINS, he focuses on politics of insecurity and his latest publications are about the punitive turn in criminal justice, Danish politics and the politics of anger.

Raquel Ribeiro (PROTEMO-Team)

Raquel Ribeiro is a researcher at the Centre for Social Studies of the University of Coimbra. Her research interest include: Psychosocial impacts, socio-territorial inequalities and social justice of financialisation; Processes for building policies that promote inclusion, social justice and non-discrimination; Social representations, material conditions, perception of justice and individual and collective action. She coordinates the project HOU$ING.

Sandra Türk (PROTEMO-Project Manager)

Sandra Türk is working as a project manager in the EURICE team where she manages the strategic network of the German biotechnology association IWBio and the Horizon projects KATY about clinical knowledge, PAVE about preventing and addressing violent extremism as well as SHAPEDEM-EU about rethinking and reshaping the EU's Democracy Support. She is also leading the key thematic area 'Society' on projects in the social sciences and humanities.

Tereza Capelos (PROTEMO & PLEDGE-PI)

Tereza Capelos is Associate Professor in Political Psychology, University of Southampton. Her recent work focuses grievance politics, resentful emotionality, and reactionary orientations as determinants of anti-democratic and authoritarian political preferences. Tereza co-edits the Palgrave Studies in Political Psychology, convenes the ECPR Political Psychology Standing Group and is ISPP Former President (Internat. Society Pol. Psy), and is Co-PI in the PLEDGE and PROTEMO Horizon Europe projects.

Till Hilmar (CIDAPE-PI)

Till Hilmar received his PhD in sociology from Yale University in 2019 and is a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Sociology, Vienna University. His research interests include qualitative approaches to inequality, cultural and political sociology, social memory, post-1989 transformations, and text-as-data. Starting March 2024, he is a PI in the Horizon Project CIDAPE on inequality, climate change and the force of political emotions.

Vanda Amaro Dias (CO3-PI)

Vanda Amaro Dias is Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Coimbra, and a researcher at the Centre for Social Studies (CES). Her research interests include peace studies, security studies, foreign policy, European Union, Russia and Eastern Europe (Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus). She coordinated projects on "The geopolitics of National Detached Forces" and "Portugal's participation in international missions".

Zsolt Boda (MORES-Coordinator)

Zsolt Boda works as a professor and director general at the HUN-REN Centre for Social Sciences in Budapest and as a part-time professor of political science at the ELTE University of Budapest. His academic work focuses on governance and public policy as well as institutional trust, its social roots and its consequences for policy effectiveness. Recent research projects and publications cover populism, emotions, democratic efficacy and policy-making.

PARTICIPATING PROJECTS

CIDAPE - Climate, Inequality, and Democratic Action: The Force of Political Emotions

CIDAPE is a groundbreaking project at the forefront of research on the complex interplay between citizen engagement, climate change, and social and economic inequalities. At its core lies the recognition that emotions play a fundamental role in political participation and communication. Understanding and responding to citizens' emotional (re)actions - as set up by CIDAPE's inquiry - are essential to achieving coordinated, democratic action. With a focus on the perceived and articulated emotions around climate and inequality, CIDAPE proposes a comprehensive, multi-methods approach and multidisciplinary analysis of the force of political emotions in European politics of climate change. The project's WPs delve into emotions in the political sphere, media, everyday life, global-local entanglements, social movements, and citizen engagement showing how emotions shape people's rational argumentation, engagement, and ultimately, who and what they care about. CIDAPE seeks to uncover the core mechanisms and processes at the heart of political action - at the policy, polity, and politics levels - and proposes participatory tools, policy instruments, and methodological guides to address these challenges. The project emphasizes that the climate crisis provides a unique opportunity to unite citizens across the political spectrum and that the success of coordinated democratic action will require high levels of public trust, strong institutions, and policies that resonate with citizens' political emotions. the Consortium assembles experienced researchers from political science, sociology, linguistics, communication science, and international relations, and distinguished representatives from civil society across nine European countries. It has a strong dissemination strategy, aiming at diverse citizen groups at local, national, and supranational levels of democratic engagement.

CO3 - COntinuous COnstruction of resilient social COntracts through societal transformations

A social contract is a political-theoretical concept which describes the (fictive) basic agreement between the members of a polity on the principles of this polity. There is a long legacy of various definitions of a social contract in political theory. There is also a long historical legacy of practiced social contracts, in countries inside and outside the European union. To grasp the impact of the social contract between individuals and groups as well as between the demos and the state across societies, it is crucial to understand the concept in plural and analyse how definitions and practises shape also the scope, implications, and resilience of social contracts in the face of societal transformations. This requires a high-level of context sensitivity and ability to shift between local, regional, national, and transnational settings. Based on the analyses of the limitations of, and challenges to the social contracts in political theorising and practices, CO3 aims at developing and promoting a more democratic, more inclusive and more open model of social contracts, which manifest political and social resilience in the face of major societal challenges, crises, and anti-democratic tendencies. Drawing from 8 empirical case studies in EU member states, and in 3 non-member states, CO3 researchers safeguards and mechanisms for resilient social contracts overtime. While the theoretical ambition of the CO3 project is to analyse how the contemporary theories of the social contract contribute to our understanding of the social contracts in the current crises-driven European political environment, the empirical ambition is to investigate contradictions and tensions between practices, narratives and lived experiences in social contracts across EUrope through concrete cases. As a result, CO3 generates evidence-based knowledge on the safeguards and mechanisms for promoting resilient social contracts, which support citizen involvement and democracy across Europe.

MORES – Moral emotions in politics: how they unite, how they divide

Liberal democracy is struggling with the challenge of citizens' indifference and detachment from politics, while anti-system politicians are overemotionalising policy issues which furthers polarisation in society. The normative stance of MORES is that both under- and overemotionalisation of politics should be avoided. The former leads to the affective disconnect of citizens from politics, while the latter spurs tribal politics and hampers deliberation – both extremes threaten democracy. MORES argues that moral emotions and moralised political identities have a practical value in dealing with the challenges of affective politics. Moral emotions are linked to the interests or welfare of society or at least of persons other than the subject itself. They can unite people towards common causes or split them along moralised political identities. MORES applies a horizontally wide research logic to build a normative-analytical framework to inform democratic decision-making on how moral emotions should interact with values, policies and political practices. MORES will create state-of-the-art methods and generate new empirical data on (1) the type of moral emotions triggered by political actions and phenomena such as campaigns, illiberal politics, and specific policies; (2) the role of moral emotions in forging moralised political identities; (3) the effect of moral emotions on political behaviour such as policy support and civic activism; and (4) the contextual social phenomena, including digital universes, of the moral emotions-politics nexus. Through research engagement with key stakeholders, MORES will create several innovative tools including a method for policymakers to measure the emotional valence of policies, games to strengthen citizens' political-emotional resilience both in real-life and metaverses, and policy ideas to embed citizens' moral-emotional needs in policymaking towards bolstering trust in democratic governance.

PLEDGE – Politics of Grievance and Democratic Governance

Contemporary politics is angry and vengeful, with affective polarization and uncompromising antagonisms posing a significant challenge for European democracies and their governance. PLEDGE interprets political grievances as emotional signals of disaffection, frustration and insecurities that can develop into either anti- or prodemocratic outcomes. By engaging in collaborative research design and implementation involving academics, policy-makers, civil society actors, and citizens, the PLEDGE project intends to offer new understanding of anti- and pro-democratic trajectories of political grievances, and to co-create tools and practices of emotionally intelligent and responsive democratic governance and policy communication that promote prodemocratic forms of civic engagement. The project will provide a framework of the emotional mechanisms of anti- and prodemocratic grievance politics that explain dynamic interrelations between the emotions, values, and identities of citizens and groups, and empirically decode the psychological, sociocultural, and political drivers of these emotional mechanisms into operationalizable measures and indicators, focusing on 11 countries and 3 major crises (pandemic, war in Ukraine, climate/energy crisis). PLEDGE will achieve these objectives through a cross-national interdisciplinary research project involving 15 partners and its policy outputs, co-created and piloted in design coalitions, will inform democratic innovation of processes and practices and incorporate emotions in the designed-for outcomes, thus improving their efficiency.

PROTEMO - Emotional dynamics of protective policies in an age of insecurity

PROTEMO investigates the emotional connection between the state and individuals. The focus is on protective policies and their consequences for individuals, groups of citizens and non-citizens as well as for democracy, political participation, and mobilisation. Such policies, and the emotional dynamics related to them, increasingly dominate politics in the current age of insecurity. Fear, anger, pride and hope are only some of the emotions that are often involved in political interactions and sometimes with important consequences, as events such as the Yellow Vest protests illustrate. PROTEMO asks: (1) How do political actors perceive and influence the emotional needs of citizens (and non-citizens) and how does this play out in the policy process? (2) What emotional reactions, judgements and actions elicit protective policies among individuals and publics in society? (3) How do citizens' emotional reactions feed back on the policy process? Answering these questions allows us to study emotional responsiveness - a crucial yet neglected aspect of representative democracy. To do so, we will field a representative survey of 11 countries, design experiments, make focused comparisons of a smaller range of specific policies (e.g. pandemic responses, climate change) and conduct several "deep dives" where, we investigate how underprivileged citizens, migrant women of color, and refugees from Ukraine form emotional needs towards protection and build discursive spaces to articulate them in the public sphere. Bringing together perceptions of emotions by political actors and emotional reactions of citizens and non-citizens to protective policies with an analysis of the emotionality of the policy process toward protective policies allows us to contribute to a broader debate on the future of representative democracy and affective citizenship. PROTEMO's results will lead to improved EU policy-making and enhanced communication of evidence-based policies.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of this workshop are to facilitate the cross-project networking of all members; to identify areas of common interest; explore forms and means of cooperation and expected joint results and identify future complementariness between the different research projects.

RELATOSCOPE STUDY AND METHODOLOGY

The Relatoscope is a method which aims to support the practice of complex modes of thinking, defined as a process of coupling with the world or with a target system of interest that is congruent with the organization of complex systems, enacting similar properties. More complex modes of thinking are more likely to be ecosystemically relevant and fit, creative, emergent and adaptive and to lead to more effective approaches to a target problem. The method has different applications. In this event, it will be used as a way of facilitating relational complex collective thinking in scientific and interdisciplinary dialogues. It is presented in the form of a "game", supported by a board, cards and other materials, that organises and structures the dialogues in a way that stimulates the emergence of novel and creative ideas likely to be relevant and fit for the purpose at hand, as well as the identification of relevant patterns in a dialogue.

Workshop Moderation
Ana Teixeira de Melo, researcher and psychologist, and Leo Caves, co-founder and associate of the York Cross-disciplinary Centre for Systems Analysis (YCCSA)
Contacts: E-mail: anatmelo@ces.uc.pt and leo.caves@gmail.com.

Summary of Invitation to collaborate with a 'Relatoscope' research study

We will kindly ask for your authorization to participate in a study aiming at further developing and evaluating the method. We are interested in investigating the characteristics of the Relatoscope process leading to more positive outcomes. We will ask you to participate in a discussion session, facilitated by the Relatoscope. We will record the process of the Relatoscope in visual images but no content will be used in the analyses and we will ensure its confidentiality and that it will not be used for any purpose. We may ask you to provide feedback at the end of the session, or afterwards, either in a short audio recorded interview or in a survey. This is optional and you may choose to decline. For this event we invite you to accept condition (e) of the Informed Consent Form.

Please find more information in the Information Sheet and the Informed Consent Form.

Location
CES-Alta - Room 1

Workshop Organization
Cristiano Gianolla (Chair)
Lisete M. Mónico (Chair)
Beatriz Carbone