

New Challenges to Democracy

How can R&I contribute to a
future robust society?

PROGRAMME AND SPEAKERS



UNIVERSITY
OF BERGEN

NORCE

PROGRAMME

12:30	NETWORKING LUNCH	
13:30	WELCOMING KEYNOTE	Margareth HAGEN , Rector, University of Bergen
		Camilla STOLTENBERG , CEO, NORCE Norwegian Research Centre
13:50	KEYNOTE SPEECH	Signe RATSO , Deputy Director General, DG RTD , European Commission

PLENARY SESSION I: Setting the Scene - Democracy in Europe in 2024

14:00	PANEL DEBATE Democracy in Europe in 2024 <i>Moderator</i> Maryline FIASCHI , CEO, Science Business	<i>Panellists:</i> Francisco DE LA TORRE FRANCIA , Deputy Head of Unit, DG RTD D.4, Democracy & European Values, European Commission Assya KAVRAKOVA , Executive Director, European Citizen Action Service (ECAS) Silvia KOTANIDIS , Policy Analyst, Citizens' Policies, DG for Parliamentary Research Services , European Parliament Karl Harald SØVIG , Dean, Professor, The Faculty of Law, University of Bergen Sveinung ARNESEN , Research Professor, Division of Health & Social Sciences, NORCE Norwegian Research Centre
14:55	TRANSITIONAL COFFEE BREAK	

15:10	PARALLEL SESSIONS:	
PARALLEL 1	<p>DEMOCRATIC TENSIONS IN CLIMATE POLITICS</p> <p><i>Moderator</i> Håvard HAARSTAD, Professor, Director, Centre for Climate and Energy Transformation (CET), University of Bergen</p>	<p><i>Panellists:</i> Thea GREGERSEN, Senior Researcher, Division of Health & Social Sciences, NORCE Norwegian Research Centre</p> <p>Fay FARSTAD, Associate Professor, Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen</p> <p>Richard YOUNGS, Senior Fellow, Democracy, Conflict, and Governance Program, Carnegie Europe</p> <p>Lina STRANDVÅG NAGELL, Topic Lead, Sustainable Finance & Economy, Bellona</p>
PARALLEL 2	<p>AI + SOCIETY + ? = SMART SOCIETY</p> <p><i>Moderator</i> Marija SLAVKOVIC, Head of Department, Professor, Department of Information Science and Media Studies, University of Bergen</p>	<p><i>Panellists:</i> Sveinung ARNESEN, Research Professor, Division of Health & Social Sciences, NORCE Norwegian Research Centre</p> <p>Malgorzata CYNDECKA, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Bergen</p> <p>Nicolas MOËS, Executive Director, The Future Society</p> <p>Thomas MYHR, Director of European Affairs, Nordvision</p>
PARALLEL 3	<p>ENGAGING SOCIETY AND GOOD DEMOCRATIC DELIBERATION</p> <p><i>Moderator</i> Anne Lise FIMREITE, Professor, Department of Government, University of Bergen</p>	<p><i>Panellists:</i> Andreas N. UHRE, Senior Researcher, Division of Health & Social Sciences, NORCE Norwegian Research Centre</p> <p>Adriana BUNEA, Professor, Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen</p> <p>Francisca COSTA REIS, Scientific Officer, European Research Council Executive Agency</p> <p>Adam NYMAN, Director, Citizen Outreach and Engagement, Debating Europe</p>
16:00	TRANSITIONAL COFFEE BREAK	

PLENARY SESSION II: Looking ahead – Research for Innovative Democracy

<p>16:20</p>	<p>SUMMING UP THE PARALLEL SESSIONS</p> <p><i>Moderator</i> Maryline FIASCHI, CEO, Science Business</p>	<p><i>Moderator parallel 1:</i> Håvard HAARSTAD, Professor, Director, Centre for Climate and Energy Transformation (CET), University of Bergen</p> <p><i>Moderator parallel 2:</i> Marija SLAVKOVIK, Head of Department, Professor, Department of Information Science and Media Studies, University of Bergen</p> <p><i>Moderator parallel 3:</i> Anne Lise FIMREITE, Professor, Department of Government, University of Bergen</p>
<p>16:35</p>	<p>PANEL DEBATE: Looking ahead: Research for Innovative Democracy</p> <p><i>Moderator</i> Maryline FIASCHI, CEO, Science Business</p>	<p><i>Panellists:</i> David MAIR, Head of Unit, Science for Democracy and Evidence-Informed Policymaking, Joint Research Centre (JRC), European Commission</p> <p>Gabi LOMBARDO, Director, European Alliance of Social Sciences and Humanities (EASSH)</p> <p>Elisabeth IVARSFLATEN, Professor, Department of Government, University of Bergen</p> <p>Ida Vikøren ANDERSEN, Senior Researcher, Division of Health & Social Sciences, NORCE Norwegian Research Centre</p> <p>Martin PAULSEN, Head of Department, Department of Foreign Languages, University of Bergen</p>
<p>17:20</p>	<p>SUMMING UP THE DAY</p>	<p>Margareth HAGEN, Rector, University of Bergen</p> <p>Camilla STOLTENBERG, CEO, NORCE Norwegian Research Centre</p>
<p>17:30 - 20:00</p>	<p>NETWORKING RECEPTION</p>	

SPEAKERS



Ida Vikøren ANDERSEN

Senior Researcher, Division of Health & Social Sciences, NORCE Norwegian Research Centre

Ida Vikøren Andersen is a researcher of environmental rhetoric. Her main research interests are rhetorical citizenship and agency, political argumentation, public debates, and social movements. Much of her research has dealt with young people's participation in and reception of environmental debates. As part of the project team for the speech contest for high school pupils in Norway, "Ta ordet!" [literarily: Seize the word!], she also has extensive practical experience giving young people rhetorical training.



Sveinung ARNESEN

Research Professor, leader Democratic Behavior and Governance, Division of Health & Social Sciences, NORCE Norwegian Research Centre

Sveinung Arnesen is the Principal Investigator of the research project "Public Fairness Perceptions of Algorithmic Governance" as well as Norway's national coordinator of the European Social Survey (ESS ERIC), where he also serves as member of the Core Scientific Team. Arnesen is a member of the Norwegian Artificial Research Consortium (NORA). His research broadly revolves around experimental studies on political behaviour and democracy and is published in journals such as the *Comparative Political Studies*, *Electoral Studies*, *European Union Politics*, *Political Studies*, and *Social Science Computer Review*.



Adriana BUNEA

Professor, Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen

Adriana Bunea is an expert in the field of European Union governance, politics, and policymaking, lobbying and interest groups, and stakeholder participation in bureaucratic policymaking. Since 2019, she is PI on the ERC Starting Grant CONSULTATIONEFFECTS. Her research is published in several international journals of political science. Bunea has held several prestigious research fellowships awarded on a competitive basis such as the Marie Curie, Max Weber, Fulbright-Schuman, and Fernand Braudel fellowship. She holds a PhD in political science awarded by Trinity College Dublin.



Malgorzata CYNDECKA

Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Bergen

Malgorzata Cyndecka is Associate professor at the Faculty of Law at the University of Bergen and Associate professor II at the University of Oslo. She is also affiliated with the Centre for the Science of Learning and Technology (SLATE) at the University of Bergen. Cyndecka works with EU/EEA law, in particular rules on State aid and data protection, including the latter's relevance to AI. She is member of the Council of Europe's Expert Group "AI and Education" that has recently started working towards proposing a legal instrument that will regulate the use of AI in education.



Francisco DE LA TORRE FRANCIA

Deputy Head of Unit, DG RTD D.4, Democracy & European Values, European Commission

Francisco de la Torre, currently Deputy Head of Unit “Democracy, Equality and Culture” in the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, joined the European Commission in 2007. After having worked on legal and financial management of EU-funded research projects, he spent several years on horizontal aspects of the implementation of the R&I framework programmes (simplification, business processes, the Funding and Tenders Portal...), before reconnecting with his previous centres of interest (a philosopher by training, he has taught Social and Political Philosophy at the University of Barcelona and at the University Ramon Llull) at his current post.



Fay FARSTAD

Associate Professor, Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen

Fay Farstad is the Principal Investigator of a Researcher Project for Young Talents funded by the Norwegian Research Council called “Political Parties and Climate Change: Positions, Polarisation and Policy Relevance. Her research focuses on climate politics and political parties.



Maryline FIASCHI

CEO, Science|Business

Maryline Fiaschi joined Science|Business in 2011 where she has risen to the position of CEO and leads the company’s operations and growth strategy. Previously, she managed EU education programmes with the European Commission for six years, before entering the media business in 2007. She held business development positions at Shanghai Daily and EU affairs media company EurActiv. She is also an external evaluator for several EU higher education and research and innovation programmes. Maryline holds degrees from Université La Sorbonne, Università di Bologna and Université de Louvain.



Anne Lise FIMREITE

Professor, Department of Government, University of Bergen

Anne Lise Fimreite’s research is focused on public administration and public policy, in particular public sector reforms and multilevel governance. She has led several research projects, among them the research-based evaluation of the reform in the Norwegian Welfare Services (NAV), and two projects focusing on local democracy and democratic innovation at local level. She has also done research within social security and crisis management. She has published articles and books in all these topics. Recently she has focused on the center-periphery cleavage and what can be called “left-behinds” in Norway. Fimreite has been vice-dean at the Faculty of Social Sciences and prorector at the University of Bergen. She has also served in several government commissions and at the board of the Norwegian Research Council.



Thea GREGERSEN

Senior Researcher, Division of Health & Social Sciences, NORCE Norwegian Research Centre

Thea Gregersen's research focuses on people's attitudes, feelings, and behavior related to climate change and climate measures. Her peer-reviewed research publications have focused particularly on the causes and consequences of climate worry and climate anger. Her work is primarily based on large surveys, and she is co-coordinator of the climate group of the Norwegian Citizen Panel, a large web-based survey of Norwegians' opinions toward important societal matters. Gregersen holds a PhD in psychology from the University of Bergen.



Håvard HAARSTAD

Professor, Director, Centre for Climate and Energy Transformation (CET), University of Bergen

Håvard Haarstad is professor of Human Geography and since 2017 Director for the Centre for Climate and Energy Transformation (CET) at the University of Bergen. CET is an interdisciplinary research centre that conducts actionable knowledge to achieve rapid, just, and deep transformation of society to mitigate climate change. Haarstad's research focuses on the politics and governance of urban transformations, particularly related to mobility, citizen engagement, and populist backlash.



Margareth HAGEN

Rector, University of Bergen

Margareth Hagen is the Rector of the University of Bergen for the period of August 2021 to August 2025. Hagen is a professor of Italian literature and possesses extensive organizational and leadership experience from UiB. She also heads the research committee at UiB, serving as the university's advisory body on research policy and strategic research matters. She has led numerous research strategic processes at UiB and serves as a board member in the European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities. Her research has focused on the relationship between literature and history in 16th-century Italy. However, in recent years, she has been working on issues at the intersection of humanities and natural sciences disciplines.



Elisabeth IVARSFLATEN

Professor, Department of Government, University of Bergen

Elisabeth Ivarsflaten's main work asks if contemporary European democracies could improve how they handle the inclusion of cultural and religious minorities with immigrant-background, especially Muslims. This research agenda is developed in her 2022 Chicago University Press book co-authored with Paul M. Sniderman, *The Struggle for Inclusion: Muslim Minorities and the Democratic Ethos*, and in her ongoing ERC CoG Project, INCLUDE. Ivarsflaten and her team take advantage of new digital research infrastructure (DRI), which she pioneered at the University of Bergen. As scientific director of the Digital Social Science Core Facility, Ivarsflaten heads a larger national DRI-initiative for the study of democratic government: Coordinated online panels of citizens, elected representatives, public officials, and journalists (KODEM). At the European level, she gives advice to the ERIC the European Social Survey (ESS) as member the Scientific Advisory Board. Ivarsflaten holds a D.Phil. from the University of Oxford.



Assya KAVRAKOVA

Executive Director, European Citizen Action Service (ECAS)

Assya Kavrakova has 20 years of experience in senior management positions in the non-governmental sector. Kavrakova has a master's degree in law and another master's degree in European Studies. She has served as the Director of European Policies and the Civic Participation Program at the Open Society Institute (OSI-S) in Sofia, Bulgaria, from 2000 to 2012 and as a Public Policies and Outreach Director at the Democracy Network Program (DemNet) of the USAID before that. She was also the Executive Director of the Bulgarian branch of Transparency International.



Silvia KOTANIDIS

Policy Analyst, Citizens' Policies, DG for Parliamentary Research Services, European Parliament

Silvia Kotanidis specialises in EU institutional affairs, with an emphasis on legal constitutional aspects of EU integration, EU reforms, electoral matters, the future of the European Union, participatory democracy, and ethics. She is a graduate in law from the University of Bologna (Italy) and has a Master's in European law from King's College, London, an LLM in international taxation from the University of Leiden, and a PhD in European taxation awarded jointly by the Universities of Bologna and Strasbourg.



Gabi LOMBARDO

Director, European Alliance of Social Sciences and Humanities (EASSH)

Gabi Lombardo (LSE, PhD) is the Director of the largest advocacy and science policy organisation for social sciences and humanities in Europe. She is an expert in both higher education and global research policy and has extensive high-level experience operating at the interface of strategy, science policy, research support and funding. Lombardo has previously worked with the London School of Economics (LSE), the European Research Council (ERC), and Science Europe (SE). As Director of EASSH, she also advocates for the need for a strong evidence-based approach to policymaking, and the inclusion of researchers in science policy development for strategic and broad-based research funding. She is an expert evaluator for SSH disciplines and research ethics for the EU Commission, World Bank, WISE, and COST.



David MAIR

Head of Unit, Science for Democracy and Evidence-Informed Policymaking, Joint Research Centre (JRC), European Commission

David Mair has worked for the European Commission since 1995 and in the Joint Research Centre (the Commission's in-house science service) since 2011 as Head of Unit responsible for science advice to policy and the JRC Work Programme, in particular in the area of Growth, the Economy, Safety and Security. From 2011-2013 he was also responsible for foresight in the JRC. From April to October 2015, he was Acting Director for Policy Support Coordination. From 1998 to 2011 he worked in DG Health and Consumers, involved in policy strategy, enforcement issues and consumer research, data, and statistics. From 2007 to 2011 he was Head of Unit for consumer market monitoring and analysis, responsible for the Consumer Markets Scoreboard and work on consumer behaviour. Before the Commission he worked for the UK Treasury in Brussels and London and has also worked in the City of London as a corporate financier and in the British Army. He studied History at Cambridge University.

Nicolas MOËS

Executive Director, The Future Society

Nicolas Moës is an economist by training focused on the impact of General-Purpose Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) on geopolitics, the economy and industry. As Executive Director of The Future Society, he leads the organization's efforts to align artificial intelligence through better governance. Previously, he was the Director of European AI Governance where he monitored European developments in the legislative framework surrounding AI with a focus on drafting and enforcing the EU AI Act. Moës is also involved in AI standardisation efforts, as a member of the International Standardisation Organization's SC42 and CEN-CENELEC JTC 21 committees on Artificial Intelligence, as a Belgian representative. He is an expert at the OECD.AI Policy Observatory in the Working Groups on AI Incidents and on Risk & Accountability. Prior to The Future Society, he worked at the Brussels-based economic policy think-tank Bruegel on EU technology, AI and innovation strategies. His publications have focused on the impact of AI & automation, though he has carried out research on global trade & investments, EU-China relations and transatlantic partnerships.



Thomas MYHR

Director of European Affairs, Nordvision

Thomas Myhr is the Director of European Affairs for Nordvision in Brussels. Nordvision is a collaboration between seven public broadcasters in the Nordic countries. He has an LL.M. from Stockholm University and is an expert in copyright and media law. He has worked as a lawyer at a law firm in Sweden, as a legal adviser at the Norwegian Ministry of Trade and Industry, and as a lawyer at the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation. He chaired the EBU Copyright Group for six years and has since 2001 been affiliated to the Faculty of Law at the University of Oslo (Norway) as supervisor for students working on their master's thesis.



Lina STRANDVÅG NAGELL

Senior Manager for Projects & EU Policy, Bellona Europe

Lina Strandvåg Nagell is the Topic Lead on Sustainable Finance and Economy. She focuses on the deployment of low-carbon technologies and solutions, as well as on creating and ensuring well-functioning markets. Nagell is representing Bellona Europa in the ZEP WGs and Committees on Policy and Economics and is on the board of CCS Europe.



Adam NYMAN

Director, Citizen Outreach and Engagement, Debating Europe

Adam is the Director of Citizen Outreach and Engagement at the Brussels-based think tank, Friends of Europe, where he founded and runs Debating Europe, an initiative tasked with engaging the collective intelligence of citizens across the EU to generate policy ideas for a Renewed Social Contract for Europe by 2030.





Martin PAULSEN

Head of Department, Department of Foreign Languages, University of Bergen

Martin Paulsen researches developments of culture and society in Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine. Paulsen has a background from the Norwegian Agency for Higher Education and Skills and has served as Chairperson of the Board of the Rafto Foundation for Human Rights. Paulsen holds a PhD in Russian studies and serves as Head of the Department of Foreign Languages at UiB.



Signe RATSO

Deputy Director General, DG RTD, European Commission

Signe Ratso is Deputy Director-General and a member of the Management Board of the Directorate General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission. She is the Chief negotiator for Horizon Europe Association. She is also responsible for Open Innovation and for citizens' engagement in research and innovation policy and for overall coordination on international cooperation. She has two University degrees, one in English philology and one in Trade and International Economics.



Francisca COSTA REIS

Scientific Officer, European Research Council Executive Agency

Francisca Costa Reis is a Scientific Officer in the political science, international relations and law panel of the Social Sciences and Humanities Unit in the European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA). She also has a research background in political science and foreign policy studies. Before joining the ERCEA, she worked at the KU Leuven, researching on norm contestation in the European Union and Global Governance.



Marija SLAVKOVIK

Head of Department, Professor, Department of Information Science and Media Studies, University of Bergen

Marija Slavkovic's research background is in computer science and artificial intelligence. She has been doing research in machine ethics since 2012 and AI Ethics since 2017. She has held several seminars, tutorials and graduate courses on AI ethics. Slavkovic is active in European AI research associations: she is a vice-chair of the Norwegian AI Association, board member of European Association for Artificial Intelligence, a member of the informal advisory group on Ethics, Legal, Social Issues (ELS) of CLAIRE, in the editorial board of AI Magazine, and AI and Society track editor for the open access journal of AI research (JAIR).



Karl Harald SØVIG

Dean, Professor, The Faculty of Law, University of Bergen

Dr. juris Karl Harald Søvig is a professor of law at the University of Bergen, where he is currently the dean at the faculty of law. His fields of interest are administrative law, constitutional law, health law and children's rights. He has served as the chair of the European Association of Health Law from 2017 to 2023. He has also been a guest professor at Changchun University of Science and Technology (China) from 2016 to 2019. Søvig has written extensively on the use of coercion in welfare law. He has worked as a judge in the district court and the court of appeal in Norway. Søvig has chaired and participated in several commissions preparing new legislation and is a deputy member of the Norwegian Biotechnology Advisory Board.



Camilla STOLTENBERG

CEO, NORCE Norwegian Research Centre

Camilla Stoltenberg is a trained medical doctor with a PhD in epidemiology from the University of Oslo. She also studied sociology at the University of Oslo and social anthropology/medical anthropology at the University of California in Berkeley and San Francisco. Stoltenberg has led numerous research projects funded by the EU, the Research Council of Norway, and the National Institutes of Health in the USA. From 2001, she held top leadership positions at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health (FHI), initially as Division Director for Epidemiology, then as Deputy Director, and from 2012 to 2023 as Director. In her role at FHI, she oversaw national strategic projects, particularly focusing on research and analysis infrastructure. During the period 2020-2023, she was the primary spokesperson for FHI in managing the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Andreas N. UHRE

Senior researcher, Division of Health & Social Sciences, NORCE Norwegian Research Centre

Andreas Nordang Uhre's primary research interests are non-state actors in global governance and environmental politics. He currently participates in the project "The Electoral Ramifications of Radical Environmental Policy", funded by the Research Council of Norway and the Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development for the period 2020-2024.

His articles have appeared in journals such as *Interest Groups & Advocacy*, *International Political Science Review*, and *Marine Policy*.



Richard YOUNGS

**Senior Fellow, Democracy, Conflict and Governance Program
Carnegie Europe**

Richard Youngs is a senior fellow in the Democracy, Conflict, and Governance Program, based at Carnegie Europe. He works on EU foreign policy and on issues of international democracy. Youngs is also a professor of international relations at the University of Warwick. Prior to joining Carnegie in July 2013, he was the director of the European think tank FRIDE. He has held positions in the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and as an EU Marie Curie fellow. He was a senior fellow at the Transatlantic Academy in Washington, DC, from 2012 to 2013. Youngs has authored fifteen books. His most recent works are *Rebuilding European Democracy: Resistance and Renewal in an Illiberal Age* (Bloomsbury/Tauris, 2021), *The European Union and Global Politics* (Macmillan, 2021), and *Civic Activism Unleashed: New Hope or False Dawn for Democracy?* (Oxford University Press, 2019).



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