**Interest Group Politics**

**June 2nd and 3rd 2014**

**Aarhus University**

The INTERARENA research project invites you for a conference on: “Interest Group Politics”. The conference will take place at the Department of Political Science, Aarhus University, Denmark on June 2nd and 3rd.

A number of interesting and ambitious research projects are presently tackling crucial issues in regard to interest group politics. This conference will provide a unique opportunity to get acknowledged with ongoing projects and new research results. The conference will cover a number of themes related to the organization and political influence of interest groups.

Key note speakers will address issues related to the organization of groups, their participation in politics and the responsiveness of governments to group demands. There will also be a “meet the author” session, where participants can discuss important publications with their author.

The conference is open for all interested participants, but a limited number of places are available. There is no conference fee, but participants are expected to cover their own travel and accommodation expenses. If you are interested in participating, please send an e-mail to Anne Binderkrantz ([asb@ps.au.dk](mailto:asb@ps.au.dk)) before April 1st.

Junior scholars have the opportunity to participate in a poster session during the conference. There are a limited number of grants covering accommodation and travel expenses (up to 500 Euro) available for junior scholars presenting a poster. Applicants for a grant should send a short project presentation to Anne Binderkrantz ([asb@ps.au.dk](mailto:asb@ps.au.dk)) before April 1st.

**Interest Group Politics (draft program)**

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**Monday June 2nd**

***9.00-9.30: Welcome and presentation of participants***

***9.30-12.30: Session 1. Interest groups and government responsiveness***

* Stefaan Walgrave (University of Antwerp): *“Societal Information and Political Responsiveness. Protest and Media Coverage as Source of Information for Political Elites”*
* Laura Morales (University of Leicester): *“Do governments respond to group activism?”*
* Anne Rasmussen (University of Copenhagen): *“Representatives of the Public? Public Opinion and Interests Group Activity”*

***12.30-13.30: Lunch***

***13.30-15.30: Session 2. Meet the author***

In this session, participants will get the chance to discuss important publications about interest group politics with their author. Participants will be divided into 3-4 groups with each group focusing on a selected publication.

***16.00-17.30: Session 3. Poster session and drinks***

***18.30: Dinner***

**Tuesday June 3rd**

***9.00-12.00: Session 4. Interest group organization***

* Darren Halpin (Australian National University): *”The organization of political interest groups”*
* William Maloney (Newcastle University): *“Participatory dimensions in interest groups”*
* Paul Holmbeck (Danish Organic Association): *“Building an effective organization”*

***12.00-12.45: Lunch***

***12.45-15.30: Session 5. Interest groups in politics***

* Michael Heaney (University of Michigan): *“Network perspectives on interest groups”*
* Frédéric Varone (University of Geneva): “Lobbying, litigation and direct democracy: Advocacy strategies of interest groups in California”
* Helene Helboe Pedersen (University of Aarhus): “Access to political arenas over time”

**15.30-16.30: Session 6. Interest group influence in the EU**

* Connie Hedegaard (European Commissioner for Climate Action): “Interest group influence in the EU”

**18.30: Dinner**