

Toine Paulissen

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Nationality: Dutch

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Comparative Politics; Political Communication; Polarization; Political Parties; Political Finance; Campaign Regulations; European Politics; Referendums and Initiatives

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Part-time Lecturer Dublin City University School of Law and Government	2025-present
Postdoc KU Leuven Voting & Democracy Research Group	2025-present
Research Foundation Flanders (FWO) PhD Fellow in Fundamental Research KU Leuven	2022-2025
PhD Researcher and Teaching Assistant KU Leuven	2021-2022

VISITING POSITIONS

Affiliated Scholar School of Politics and International Relations (SPIRe), University College Dublin, Ireland	Nov 2024 – Oct 2025
Visiting Scholar Trinity Research in Social Sciences (TRiSS), Trinity College Dublin, Ireland	Feb – May 2023

EDUCATION

KU Leuven Leuven, Belgium PhD in Social Sciences	2021-2025
KU Leuven Leuven, Belgium MSc: Comparative & International Politics	2017-2020
KU Leuven Leuven, Belgium Prep. Programme for Master in Comparative and International Politics	2016-2017
KU Leuven Leuven, Belgium MA: Western Literature	2015-2017
KU Leuven Leuven, Belgium BA: Linguistics & Literature – Specialisation Dutch-English	2012-2016

PUBLICATIONS

Under Review - Revise and Resubmit (3)

Paulissen, T. Why do Parties Participate in Referendum Campaigns? An Instrumentalization-Based Framework with Evidence from Switzerland. *Party Politics*.

Paulissen, T. & Maddens, B. What Ends Justify the Means? Explaining Party Campaign Spending in Referendums in Europe. *European Political Science Review*.

Jansen, L., **Paulissen, T.** & Van Hecke, S. Riding the Wave? The Impact of the Russian Invasion on MEP behaviour regarding EU Enlargement to the Western Balkan countries. *Journal of European Integration*.

Journal Articles (6)

Paulissen, T., Jansen, L., & Van Hecke, S. (2025). Depoliticizing Transnational Cleavage-Related Issues Through Social Media Advertising: The 2022 Danish Defense Referendum Campaign. *Politics and Governance*, 13, Article 9229. <https://doi.org/10.17645/pag.9229>

Jansen, L., **Paulissen, T.**, & Van Hecke, S. (2025). Power beyond borders? Analysing formal and informal tools of the European Parliament in EU enlargement policy. *Journal of Contemporary European Studies*, OnlineFirst. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14782804.2024.2448257>

Paulissen, T. & Horncastle, W.R. (2024). Introducing the RefCFRI: A continuous indicator comparing referendum campaign finance regulation in 143 countries. *Politics*, OnlineFirst. <https://doi.org/10.1177/02633957241303708>

Paulissen, T. (2024). Direct democracy and party behaviour in the Republic of Ireland: a campaign finance perspective. *Irish Political Studies*, 39(4), 570-593. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07907184.2024.2371780>

Paulissen, T. & Maddens, B. (2023). Referendum campaign financing by political parties: the case of the United Kingdom. *Political Science*, 75(1), 25–46. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00323187.2023.2238715>

Paulissen, T., Fraussen, B. & Van Hecke, S. (2022). Individual and collective representation: the organisational form of higher education lobbying in the European Union. *European Journal of Higher Education*, 14(1), 1–19. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21568235.2022.2105372>

Book Chapters (2)

Van Hecke, S., Wolfs, W. & **Paulissen, T.** (2023). The Life and Death of the Spitzenkandidaten: What Role is Left for European Political Parties? In: Costa & Van Hecke (eds.), *The EU Political System After the 2019 European Elections* (pp. 83–89). Palgrave Macmillan; Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-12338-2_5

Van Hecke, S., **Paulissen, T.** & Vande Walle, B. (2023). How Covid-19 Hit Brussels and Beyond: The EU's Crisis Management Tested by a Pandemic. In: Costa & Van Hecke (eds.), *The EU Political System After the 2019 European Elections* (pp. 381–400). Palgrave Macmillan; Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-12338-2_18

Miscellaneous (1)

Paulissen, T. (Forth.) PhD Review: What Ends Justify the Means? Explaining Party Campaign Spending in European Referendums. *Politics of the Low Countries*.

Outreach (5)

Paulissen, T. & Van Hecke, S. (2024). Referendum Moldavië: zelden zal een overwinning zo als een nederlaag hebben aangevoeld. *Knack*. Opinion Piece. <https://www.knack.be/nieuws/wereld/europa/referendum-moldavie-zelden-zal-overwinning-zo-als-een-nederlaag-hebben-aangevoeld/>

Paulissen, T. (2024). Referenda? Bezint eer gij begint. *De Standaard* 14.03.2024. Opinion piece. https://www.standaard.be/cnt/dmf20240314_97128710

Paulissen, T. (2023). Indyref2? Rejoin EU? Consider first reforming regulations on referendum campaign finance. *UKandEU*. Blog post. <https://ukandeu.ac.uk/indyref2-rejoin-eu-consider-first-reforming-regulations-on-referendum-campaign-finance/>

Paulissen, T., Fraussen, B. & Van Hecke, S. (2022). How higher education institutions seek to influence EU policymaking. *LSEBlog*. Blog post. <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/euoppblog/2022/09/02/how-higher-education-institutions-seek-to-influence-eu-policymaking/>

Paulissen, T. (2021). Orbans referendum is geen democratisch instrument, maar een politiek geladen wapen. Knack. Opinion piece.

<https://www.knack.be/nieuws/wereld/europa/orbans-referendum-is-geen-democratisch-instrument-maar-een-politiek-geladen-wapen/>

Editorial Contributions (1)

Segers, M. & Van Hecke, S. (2023). *The Cambridge History of the European Union*. Cambridge University Press.

Working Papers (4)

Paulissen, T. Direct Votes, Deepening Divides? Negative Campaigning and Affective Polarization in the 2023 Australian Voice Referendum.

Paulissen, T., & Jansen, L.

RESEARCH FUNDING

Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO) PhD Fellowship for Fundamental Research. **2022-2026**
Grant 1119125N: Referendum Campaign Finance & Political Parties in Europe. 130 000 EUR.

Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO) Long Stay Travel Grant. **2023**
Grant V412823N: Ireland 2023. 4 950 EUR.

AWARDS

Part of third cohort of the Europaeum Scholars Programme, a two-year leadership and policy course spread out over eight week-long modules hosted at different top European universities. **2022-2023** ([LINK](#))

Laureate of Third Prize of Wilfried Martens Thesis Prize 2021 ([LINK](#))

INVITED TALKS

Political Finance Regimes in Comparative Perspective: Belgium vs. The World. **November 2024**
Guest Lecture, KU Leuven, Leuven

Charting the European Referendum Finance Landscape: Comparing Referendum Political Finance Régimes. Guest Lecture, KU Leuven, Leuven **November 2023**

Regulated Equality or *Laissez-Faire*? The Political Finance of Referendum Campaigns. **February 2023**
Monday Seminar Series, Trinity Research in Social Sciences (TRiSS), Trinity College, Dublin

What is the use of Referendums? Guest Lecture, KU Leuven, Leuven **April 2022**

Referendums: Democracy *pur sang* or political instrument? Guest lecture, KULAK, Kortrijk **December 2021**

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2025 (3): Council for European Studies Conference for Europeanists, Philadelphia, USA; International Political Science Association (IPSA) General Conference, Seoul, South Korea; Polarization in Contemporary Politics, Lisbon, Portugal.

2024 (7): APSA Virtual Conference; ECPR Joint Sessions, Luneburg, Germany; Political Parties and Referendums, Glasgow, UK; Belgian-Dutch Political Science Conference, Maastricht, The Netherlands; Biennial Conference of the ECPR Standing Group on the EU, Lisbon, Portugal; European Political Science Association (EPSA) General Conference, Cologne, Germany; ECPR General Conference, Dublin, Ireland.

2023 (2): American Political Science Association (APSA) General Conference, Los Angeles, USA; Belgian-Dutch Political Science Conference, Leuven, Belgium.

2022 (1): Düsseldorf Graduate Conference on Party Research (GraPa)

SERVICE AT CONFERENCES

Chair & co-organizer of the panel “Direct Democracy in the Digital Age: Navigating Party and Voter Dynamics in Digital Referendum Campaigns” at ECPR General Conference, Dublin **2024**

Chair of the panel “Digital Authoritarianism: Trends and Practices” at ECPR General Conference, Dublin **2024**