

Toine Paulissen

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Nationality: Dutch

Date/Place of Birth: 02/12/1994 – Maastricht (NL)

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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 – Present
Visiting Scholar Trinity Research in Social Sciences (TRiSS), Trinity College Dublin, Ireland	Feb – May 2023

EDUCATION

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

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/europblog/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.
Grant 1119125N: Referendum Campaign Finance & Political Parties in Europe. 130 000 EUR.

2022-2026

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

2023

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. ([LINK](#))

2022-2023

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

INVITED TALKS

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

November 2024

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.
Monday Seminar Series, Trinity Research in Social Sciences (TRiSS), Trinity College, Dublin

February 2023

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, Lüneburg, 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