



Royal Flemish Academy  
of Belgium for Science and the Arts



ACADEMY  
OF FINLAND

## *The State of Power and Democracy in Europe: Comparative Perspectives*

Seminar in co-operation with The Academy of  
Finland & The Royal Flemish Academy for Science and the Arts of  
Belgium

The European Union, globalisation and cultural diversification have combined to change the power structures of European societies and have had a significant impact on citizens' everyday life. Changes in the structures and networks of power in Europe create a need for a forum in which scholars, policymakers and other stakeholders can exchange ideas on the state of power and democracy in today's Europe. In this seminar, scholars from Belgium, Finland and the Netherlands offer varying perspectives on the "behaviour" of power in Europe. Who exactly occupy the seats of power in European societies?

Time: 26 November 2009

Location: Royal Flemish Academy for Science and the Arts of Belgium, Vesalius Auditorium, Hertogsstraat 1, 1000 Brussels

Registration: [ellen.serrien@kvab.be](mailto:ellen.serrien@kvab.be)

### Programme:

- 10:00 Welcome speech  
*Prof. Dr. Godelieve Laureys, University of Gent/Royal Flemish Academy for Science and the Arts of Belgium*
- 10:15 The 'who is who' of modern politics and the challenge of minorities: the North in the European context  
*Prof. Peter Kraus, University of Helsinki*

- 11:00 The State of the EU: Power to the Parliament and no Democracy without Parties  
*Dr. Steven Van Hecke, University of Antwerp*
- 11:45 Discussion
- 12:15 Buffet lunch
- 13:15 Gender and Power: Matching Concepts and Sparring Partners?  
*Prof. Petra Meier, University of Antwerp*
- 14:00 Late Modern Approaches to Power in the Study of Society and Culture and Their Implications for Gender and Class  
*Prof. Laura Stark, University of Jyväskylä*
- 14:45 Discussion
- 15:00 Coffee break
- 15:30 Constitutional Reform and Political Power in Finland  
*Dr. Niilo Kauppi, directeur de recherche CNRS*
- 16:15 Realignment in Western Europe. A New Cultural Cleavage?  
*Prof. Wouter van der Brug, University of Amsterdam*
- 17:00 Final discussion
- 17:30 Reception

More information:

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Links:

The Academy of Finland's "Power and Society in Finland" – research programme:  
[www.aka.fi/valtaeng](http://www.aka.fi/valtaeng)

The Royal Flemish Academy for Science and the Arts: <http://www.kvab.be>

Welcome! Welkom! Tervetuloa!