

Mid-term evaluation of the internal Centers of Excellence (CoE) Åbo Akademi University (updated 2009)

Questionnaire, time span: Jan 1, 2006 – June 2009

Name of the CoE	Democracy: A Citizen Perspective (D:CE)
Department or equivalent	Departments of Political Science, Public Administration, Political Communication and Developmental Psychology, Swedish Institute for Social Research in Finland, Institute for Comparative Nordic Politics and Administration.
Address	Åbo Akademi in Åbo and Vasa
Phone	02-21531
Internet home page (CoE)	www.dce.abo.fi
Person in charge of CoE	Prof. Lauri Karvonen
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Contact person	Director Kimmo Grönlund
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1. SENIOR RESEARCHERS OF THE COE

Name	Gender (M/F)	Academic Degree	Position
Lauri Karvonen	M	Dr.	Professor
Kimmo Grönlund	M	Dr.	Director of research
Göran Djupsund	M	Dr.	Professor
Helena Hurme	F	Dr.	Professor
Marko Joas	M	Dr.	Professor
Carsten Anckar	M	Dr.	Professor
Guy-Erik Isaksson	M	Dr.	Professor
Kaisa Herne	F	Dr.	Senior fellow
Maija Setälä	F	Dr.	Academy fellow
Thomas Denk	M	Dr.	Lecturer
Åsa Bengtsson	F	Dr.	Senior fellow
Tom Carlson	M	Dr.	Director of research
Krister Lundell	M	Dr.	Research fellow
Peter Söderlund	M	Dr.	Post-doctoral fellow
Kim Strandberg	M	Dr.	Post-doctoral fellow
Ann-Sofie Hermanson	F	Dr.	Lecturer

2. PERSONNEL EMPLOYED USING THE COE FUNDING

2.1 Senior (postdoctoral) researchers

Name	Gender (M/F)	Academic Degree	Position	Employment period	Fulltime/part time
Kimmo Grönlund	M	Dr.	Senior fellow	1.3-31.12.2008	Fulltime
Lauri Karvonen	M	Dr.	Professor	1.8.2007-31.12.2008	Fulltime
Krister Lundell	M	Dr.	Researcher	1.3-31.7.2006 1.6-31.12.2008	Fulltime Fulltime
Kim Strandberg	M	Dr.	Researcher	1.1.2007-31.12.2008	Fulltime
Peter Söderlund	M	Dr.	Researcher	1.3.2006-28.2.2007	Fulltime

2.2 Doctoral students in the CoE

Name	Gender (M/F)	Academic Degree	Commencement of Dr. studies	Employment period	Fulltime/part time
Patricia Bäckvik	F	MSc	2006	1.9-20.11.2006	Fulltime
Åsa Lindström	F	MSc	2003	1.9.2006-31.12.2009	Fulltime, leave of absence 29.12.2006-
Marta Miklikowska	F	MSc	2006	1.2.2007-31.12.2009	Fulltime
Sari Pikkala	F	PL		1.6-30.11.2007 1.6-31.8.2008	Fulltime Fulltime
Siv Sandberg	F	PL	1992	1.6-30.11.2007 1.1-30.6.2009	Fulltime Fulltime

2.3 Other personnel

Name	Gender (M/F)	Degree	Position	Employment period	Fulltime/part time (estim. in %)
Pamela Andersson	F	Stud.	Research Assistant	1.11-31.12.2007	Fulltime
Lina Granqvist	F	Stud.	Research Assistant	1.12.2007-30.4.2008	Fulltime
Staffan Himmelroos	M	MSc	Research Assistant	1.6-30.11.2006	Fulltime
Maria Hofman	F	Stud.	Research Assistant	1.9.2007-31.1.2008	27,6%
Kaj-Michael Lang	M	Stud.	IT-planner	1.7-30.9.2006	Fulltime
Terhi Lettelin	F	Stud.	Research Assistant	15.2-15.5.2007	Fulltime
Annika Stålfors	F	MSc	Research Secretary	1.1-30.6.2006 1.1.2007-31.12.2009	24,8% 44,8%

3. REALIZATION OF THE PROJECT

3.1 Organization of the CoE

The research carried out within the program is organized along four thematic dimensions: Political Participation, Public Institutions, Media, and Individual, Group and Society. Under each theme, research is structured according to three central aspects: Citizens, Channels and Political System. Professor Lauri Karvonen bears the overall responsibility for the scholarly quality of the research undertaking. While the themes and aspects are intimately intertwined, each of the themes is primarily supervised by a senior scholar who is simultaneously a member of the Steering Group.

Lauri Karvonen as Director and Kimmo Grönlund as Deputy Director are heads of day-to-day management. For operations in Åbo, Karvonen assisted by Research Secretary Annika Stålfors has chief responsibility, while Grönlund assisted by Research Secretary Thea Helsing has an equivalent role for Vasa. Policy decisions including recruitment and appointments are taken by the Steering Group consisting of the two Directors and Professors Djupsund, Hurme and Joas. In April 2009, as she submitted an application for a CoE of her own, Professor Hurme was replaced by Associate Professor Åsa Bengtsson as Steering Group member. For the role of the International Advisory Board and the organized network of external cooperation, see specific items below.

The program is based on a permanent network of scholars in Åbo and Vasa. The overarching principle of this cooperation is that all researchers – not just those directly employed by the program – contribute to its operations. This provides the program with a critical mass necessary for extensive research, active publishing, research training and international collaboration.

3.2 Use of the CoE funding (in 1000 €)

Even though the total amount of funding has been smaller than originally applied for (in 2005), D:CE has been able to a) maintain continuous and broad research activities, b) employ a variety of persons at all levels of faculty and in the same proportion and originally planned c) attract researchers to work for the project with funding from other sources, including a large amount of work been done through normal budgetary funding. Below, the direct use of the CoE funding is presented in detail.

Salaries	Costs (1000 €)				Total
	2006	2007	2008	2009 (1.1.-31.5)	
Professors		36.2	83.5		119.7
Other senior researchers			71.1		71.1
Postdoctoral researchers	50.5	46.5	74.4		171.4
Doctoral students	17	100	45.9	31.0	193.3
Other personnel	21	15	15.7	0.7	52.4
Travel					
	36	51	36.2	10.4	133.6
Experiments					
Deliberation - face-to-face, virtual	28	12	32.1		72.1
Equipment, materials etc.					
	11	8.5	25.2	1.6	46.3
Administration costs					
	17	28	33.8	12.2	91
Grand total 1.1.2006-31.5.2009					950.9

3.3 Visibility of the CoE within and outside the university

3.3.1 Events (meetings, seminars, etc.)

The Steering Group has convened 3-4 times per year for planning and policy decisions. The main events organized by D:CE are listed below starting with the most recent activities.

* D:CE organized an intensive statistical course in multi-level modelling on 8-11 June 2009. Professor Marco Steenbergen (Universität Bern) taught a four-day course in Åbo.

* A Nordic conference on electoral research with participants from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden was held in Åbo on May 25-26, 2009. The meeting was convened and chaired by D:CE Steering Group member Åsa Bengtsson.

* An open seminar with the title: “Two Years of Bourgeois Government in Sweden” was organized in Åbo on 2 October, 2008. Journalist Barbro Hedvall from the largest Swedish Daily Dagens Nyheter analyzed the politics and prospects of the Swedish coalition government. Editor-in-chief Hannu Olkinuora (Hufvudstadsbladet) commented on Ms. Hedvall’s analysis and compared contemporary Swedish politics with the political constellation in Finland.

* D:CE organized an introductory course in STATA. This tailor-made introduction to the statistical software was held in Åbo 17-19 September. Instructor was Stefan Dahlberg from the University of Göteborg.

* D:CE and its partner projects were presented at a Research Seminar organized jointly by the Swedish Research School in Political Science and the Political Research Seminar of Åbo Akademi. The conference took place in Åbo on September 11-12, 2008.

* A Postgraduate research training course entitled “The Political Participation of Young Citizens and the Contribution of Civic Education” was held in Åbo in April, 2008. Professor Henry Milner, Université de Montréal was course instructor. Apart from D:CE doctoral students, participants were doctoral students from various Finnish and Nordic universities.

* In April, 2008, a citizen deliberation experiment was carried out at the newly developed virtual discussion forum. The participants, scattered around the whole country, met in small groups over the Internet for deliberation on nuclear power.

* The D:CE International Advisory Board held its second meeting in Åbo, April 3-4, 2008. The program included presentations by D:CE researchers Åsa Bengtsson, Tom Carlson, Peter Söderlund, Kimmo Grönlund, Kim Strandberg and Göran Djupsund, as well as six posters depicting dissertations and book projects.

* In collaboration with its partner projects, D:CE arranged a conference entitled “Democracy and Participation” in Barcelona on November 28 through December 1, 2007. Nine papers representing the entire range of the D:CE research agenda were presented. Professors Carsten Anckar (ÅA, Åbo), Tom Carlson (ÅA, Vasa) Peter Esaiasson (Göteborg University) and Guy-Erik Isaksson (ÅA, Åbo) served as discussants.

* A Research Seminar was held at the Department of Political Science, Åbo Akademi, on Wednesday 26 September 2007. Professor Henry Milner (Université de Montreal) presented a paper titled “The Political Knowledge and Political Participation of Young Canadians and Americans”.

* A Postgraduate research training course entitled “The Thematic Interview Method: from interviewing to analyzing the data” was held in Vasa in May 2007. Professor and D:CE Steering Group member Helena Hurme was course instructor. Apart from D:CE doctoral students, participants were doctoral students from various Finnish and Nordic universities.

* In cooperation with the Department of Political Science, University of Turku, a seminar “Information, Deliberation and Democracy” was held on May 3 2007. The main speaker was Professor Robert Goodin (Australian National University).

* An open research seminar was held in Åbo, Biskopsgatan 15, on Friday, April 27, 2007. Sari Pikkala presented a draft of a chapter in her thesis (“On the determinants of the volatility of representatives in municipal councils”) and Marta Miklikowska presented an updated research proposal for her thesis.

* The D:CE Steering Board visited Berlin on December 3-5, 2006 to meet with representatives of Hertie School of Governance and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

* A deliberative forum with 135 participants was arranged in Åbo on Saturday, November 18, 2006.

* The D:CE International Advisory Board had its first meeting in Vasa on June 18-20, 2006. The program included presentations by Lauri Karvonen, Kaisa Herne, Maija Setälä, Kimmo Grönlund, Göran Djupsund, Krister Lundell and Peter Söderlund. Tommy Strandvall gave a presentation of and a guided tour at iDTV Lab (Interactive Digital Television Library).

* The D:CE Kickoff Conference was held in Vasa on January 26, 2006. The academic program included a presentation of the details of the D:CE research plan as well as the recruitment opportunities offered by D:CE. The staffs and postgraduate students of the involved disciplines were invited to the meeting, as were representatives of the Åbo Akademi leadership. A press conference followed by several media appearances by D:CE researchers was also organized.

In addition, D:CE directors and Steering Group members have made numerous presentations of D:CE activities at various meetings.

3.3.2 Printed & electronic material (newsletters, web pages, etc.)

Web page: www.dce.abo.fi

Newsletter has been published three times in print as well as electronically (see web page).

Internal information includes a password protected area of the home page as well as an electronic mailing list.

3.3.3 Advisory boards, reference groups

The D:CE International Advisory Board consists of Professor Rachel Gibson, University of Manchester, Professor Sören Holmberg, University of Göteborg, Professor Detlef Jahn, Universität Greifswald, Professor Henry Milner, Université de Montréal and Professor Poul Erik Mouritzen, University of Southern Denmark, Odense.

The Advisory Board has convened twice in Finland; during the interim, the D:CE leadership has maintained close contact with the Board members. Before the 2008 mid-term evaluation, the Board delivered a written evaluation of D:CE activities up until May 2008; the statement is enclosed to this report.

During the years of operation, two successful institutional affiliations have been formalized between D:CE and institutions abroad:

- Bern Center for Interdisciplinary Deliberation Studies, Universität Bern
- Democracy, Citizens and Elections Research Network (DCERN) , University of Manchester

4. RESEARCH RESULTS OF THE COE

4.1 Scientific publications and other outputs during the period

Articles in refereed international journals (N=35)				
Authors	Title	Publication year	Journal/Publisher etc.	Additional comments
Kimmo Grönlund, Maija Setälä and Kaisa Herne	Citizen Deliberation on Nuclear Power: A Comparison of Two Decision-Making Methods	2009	<i>Political Studies</i>	Accepted for publication
Thomas Denk and Lesley Hustinx	The Black Box Problem in the Study of Civic Participation	2009	<i>Journal of Civil Society</i>	Accepted for publication
Åsa Bengtsson and Mikko Mattila	Direct Democracy and its Critics: Support for Direct Democracy and "Stealth" Democracy in Finland	2009	<i>West European Politics</i>	Accepted for publication
Thomas Denk	Comparative Multilevel Analysis: Proposal for a Methodology	2009	<i>International Journal of Social Methodology</i>	Accepted for publication
Thomas Denk, Anna Johansson and Inge Svedung	Institutionalization of Risk and Safety Management at the Local Governmental Level in Sweden	2009	<i>Journal of Risk Research</i>	Accepted for publication
Kim Strandberg	On-line Campaigning – An Opening for the Outsiders?	2009	<i>New Media & Society</i> 11(5)	Accepted for publication
Thomas Denk, Anna Johansson and Inge Svedung	The Typology for Allocations of Societal Risk and Safety Management	2009	<i>Safety Science</i>	Accepted for publication
Peter Söderlund and Elina Kestilä-Kekkonen	The Dark Side of Party Identification? An Empirical Study of Political Trust among Radical Right-Wing Voters	2009	<i>Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties</i> 19:2, 159-181.	

Maria Bäck and Elina Kestilä	Social Capital and Political Trust in Finland – an Individual-Level Assessment	2009	<i>Scandinavian Political Studies</i> Vol 32 No. 2 June 2009, 171-194.	
Sam Grönholm	Governing national parks in Finland – the illusion of public involvement	2009	<i>Local Environment</i> , Volume 14 Issue 3 2009, 233-243.	
Elina Kestilä-Kekkonen and Peter Söderlund	Rejoinder: Response to Arzheimer and Carter	2009	<i>European Journal of Political Research</i> 48:3, 359-366.	
Kaisa Herne and Tarja Mård	Three Versions of Impartiality: An Experimental Investigation	2008	<i>Homo Oeconomicus</i> 25: 1-27.	
Carsten Anckar	On the Applicability of the Most Similar Systems Design and the Most Different Systems Design in Comparative Research	2008	<i>International Journal of Social Research Methodology</i> Vol. 11, No. 5, 389-401.	
Carsten Anckar	Size, Islandness and Democracy: A Global Comparison	2008	<i>International Political Science Review</i> Vol. 29, No. 4, 433-459.	
Tom Carlson and Kim Strandberg	Riding the Web 2.0 wave: candidates on YouTube in the 2007 Finnish national elections	2008	<i>Journal of Information Technology & Politics</i> 5 (2) 5(2), 159-174.	
Krister Lundell	Electoral Reform and Party System Change: An Analysis of Nordic Elections with Two Different Electoral Systems	2008	<i>Scandinavian Political Studies</i> volume 31, no. 4, 363-383.	
Kim Strandberg	Public Deliberation goes On-Line? – An Analysis of Citizens' Political Discussions on the Internet prior to the Finnish Parliamentary Elections in 2007	2008	<i>Javnost- The Public</i> 15 (1), 71-90.	
Kim Strandberg	On-line Campaigning in Different Settings: A Comparative Meta-Analysis of the Research on Party Websites and Electoral Competition	2008	<i>Party Politics</i> 14(2), 223-244.	
Peter Söderlund	Retrospective Voting and Electoral Volatility: A Nordic Perspective	2008	<i>Scandinavian Political Studies</i> 31 (2), 217-240.	
Carsten Anckar	Nya möjligheter och utmaningar inom det jämförande studiet av politik	2007	<i>Statsvetenskaplig tidskrift</i> 109, 177-186.	
Tom Carlson	It's a Man's World? Male and Female Election Campaigning on the Internet	2007	<i>Journal of Political Marketing</i> 6(1), 41-67.	
Kimmo Grönlund	Knowing and Not Knowing. The Internet and Political Information	2007	<i>Scandinavian Political Studies</i> 30:3, 397-418.	
Kimmo Grönlund and Maija Setälä	Political Trust, Satisfaction and Voter Turnout	2007	<i>Comparative European Politics</i> , Volume 5 Number 4 December 2007, 400-422	
Marko Joas, Kristine	Actors and Arenas in Hybrid Networks –	2007	<i>Ambio</i> , Special Issue Nos 2-3, April 2007, pp. 237-242.	

Kern and Siv Sandberg	Implications for Environmental Policymaking in the Baltic Sea Region			
Marko Joas, Bob Evans and Kate Theobald	La Agenda 21 Local en Europa. La segunda fase de la modernización ecológica en los gobiernos	2007	<i>Ekonomiaz (Special Issue: Local Agenda 21 As An Instrument Of Sustainable Development)</i> , N.o 64, 1.er Cuatrimestre, 2007, pp. 92-111.	
Lauri Karvonen	Legislation on Political Parties: A Global Comparison	2007	<i>Party Politics</i> , Volume 13, Number 4, 437-455.	
Lauri Karvonen	Europe's Spaces and Boundaries	2007	<i>Comparative European Politics</i> , Volume 5 Number 4 December 2007, 441-460.	
Elina Kestilä and Peter Söderlund	Local Determinants of Radical Right-Wing Voting: The Case of the Norwegian Progress Party	2007	<i>West European Politics</i> 30 (3), 549-572.	
Elina Kestilä and Peter Söderlund	Subnational Political Opportunity Structures and the Success of the Radical Right: Evidence from the March 2004 Regional Elections in France	2007	<i>European Journal of Political Research</i> 46 (6), 773-796.	
Kim Strandberg	It's the Inside that Counts? An Explorative Analysis of Finnish Parties' Opinions Concerning the Importance and Use of Their Websites, and Website Contents, in Relation to Party Characteristics	2007	<i>Scandinavian Political Studies</i> 30:4, 419-443.	
Bob Evans, Marko Joas, Susan Sundback & Kate Theobald	Governing Local Sustainability	2006	<i>Journal of Environmental Planning and Management</i> , Vol. 49, No. 6, 849 – 867, November 2006.	
Kimmo Grönlund and Henry Milner	The Determinants of Political Knowledge in Comparative Perspective	2006	<i>Scandinavian Political Studies</i> 29 (4), 386-406.	
Maija Setälä	National Referendums in European Democracies: Recent Developments	2006	<i>Representation</i> , 42:1, 13-23.	
Maija Setälä	On the Problems of Responsibility and Accountability in Referendums	2006	<i>European Journal of Political Research</i> , 45, 5, 701-723 .	
Maija Setälä and Kimmo Grönlund	Parliamentary Websites: Theoretical and Comparative Perspectives	2006	<i>Information Polity</i> 11, 2, 149-162.	

Articles in refereed international edited volumes and conference proceedings (N=14)

Dag Anckar and Carsten Anckar	Finland	2009	Nohlen, Dieter et al. (eds.), <i>Elections in Europe. A Data Handbook</i> . Oxford University Press.	Accepted for publication
Siv Sandberg	The Art of The Possible: Territorial Choice in Finland	2009	Baldersheim Harald & Lawrence E Rose: <i>Territorial Choice – The Politics of Boundaries and Borders</i> . Palgrave McMillan	Accepted for publication
Maija Setälä	Introduction	2009	Setälä, Maija and Schiller, Theo: <i>Referendums and Representative</i>	

			Democracy. London: Routledge	
Tom Carlson and Kim Strandberg	Plus ça change, plus ça reste le même? The evolution of Finnish Web campaigning 1996–2004	2008	Strömbäck, J., Aalberg, T. & Østern, M., (eds.), <i>Political Communication in the Nordic Countries</i> . Gothenburg: Nordicom, pp. 161-179.	
Bob Evans, Marko Joas, Susan Sundback and Kate Theobald	Institutional and Social Capacity Enhancement for Local Sustainable Development: Lessons Learnt from European Urban Settings	2008	Susan Baker and Katarina Eckerberg (eds.), <i>In Pursuit of Sustainable Development</i> . Oxon: Routledge, pp. 74-96.	
Kimmo Grönlund	Compulsory Voting	2008	Darity, William A., Jr (Ed.) <i>International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences</i> , 2nd edition. 9 vols. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA.	
Ann-Sofie Hermanson	Environmental Concerns within the Baltic Sea Region: A Nordic-Baltic Comparison	2008	Joas, M., D. Jahn and K. Kern (eds.), <i>Governing a Common Sea: Environmental Policies in the Baltic Sea Region</i> , Earthscan, 61-82.	
Marko Joas, Detlef Jahn and Kristine Kern	Governance in the Baltic Sea Region – Balancing between States, Cities and Peoples	2008	Joas, M., D. Jahn and K. Kern (eds.), <i>Governing a Common Sea: Environmental Policies in the Baltic Sea Region</i> , Earthscan, 3-18.	
Marko Joas	Local Governance for Sustainable Development – Local Agenda 21 in the Baltic Sea Region	2008	Joas, M., D. Jahn and K. Kern (eds.), <i>Governing a Common Sea: Environmental Policies in the Baltic Sea Region</i> , Earthscan, 115-142.	
Kristine Kern, Marko Joas and Detlef Jahn	Governing a Common Sea – Comparative Patterns for Sustainable Development	2008	Joas, M., D. Jahn and K. Kern (eds.), <i>Governing a Common Sea: Environmental Policies in the Baltic Sea Region</i> , Earthscan, 215-230.	
Edward Cameron and Marko Joas	EU Support for Cities towards Sustainable Development – An Empirical Study about Failure or Success at the Local Government Level	2007	Balberg, I. and H. Hofstad (eds.), <i>Internationalisation of the Environment: The Local Perspective Papers from the 8. Nordic Environmental Social Science Research Conference: June 18-20 2007 Workshop 4</i> . NIBR-Working Paper 2007:114, Oslo 2007, pp. 37-66.	
Tom Carlson & Kim Strandberg	The European Parliament Election in a Candidate-Centered Electoral System: The Case of Finland	2007	Randolph Kluver, Nicholas W. Jankowski, Kirsten A. Foot & Steven M. Schneider (eds): <i>The Internet and National Elections: A Comparative Study of Web Campaigning</i> . London: Routledge.	
Ann-Sofie Hermanson	Time perspectives in a new political context.	2007	Balberg, I. & H. Hofstad (eds.), <i>Environmental Governance and Policy Implementation</i> . NIBR Working Paper 2007:115, 225-235.	
Guy-Erik Isaksson	Bicameralism	2007	Darity William A., (ed.), <i>International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences, 2nd Edition</i> . Farmington Hills: Macmillan Reference USA.	
Siv Sandberg	En fråga om politisk logik. Om försöken att förstärka och omorganisera den regionala nivån i Finland och Sverige på 1990-talet	2007	Karlsson Nils & Nergelius Joakim: <i>Federalism på svenska</i> . Ratio. Stockholm.	

Articles in refereed Finnish journals (N=8)				
Åsa Bengtsson and Henrik Serup Christensen	Politiskt deltagande i Finland. En titt bakom skärmen	2009	<i>Politiikka</i>	Accepted for publication
Peter Söderlund	Partisystemets utveckling på Åland	2008	<i>Politiikka</i> 50 (2), 128-138.	
Tom Carlson	Kandidatbloggar i det finländska presidentvalet 2006: Strategier och effekter	2007	<i>Politiikka</i> 49(2), 61-75.	
Ann-Sofie Hermanson	Natur- eller teknikcentrerad miljösyn? - Miljöattityder bland kommunala miljövärdstjänstemän 1994 och 2004	2007	<i>Politiikka</i> 4/2007, 206-218.	
Kaisa Herne	Pelkistettyä todellisuuta: Poliitiikan kokeellinen tutkimus	2007	<i>Politiikka</i> 1, 28-38.	
Maija Setälä, Kimmo Grönlund, Kaisa Herne	Kohti valistunutta kansalaismielipidettä? Kansalaiskeskustelukokeilu Turussa syksyllä 2006	2007	<i>Oikeus</i> 2007 (36); 2: 231-240.	
Marko Joas and Erik Bonsdorff	Itämeren ympäristön muuttuva hallinta ja tieteellinen tieto	2006	<i>Vesitalous</i> , vk. 47, no 2, pp 6-9.	
Krister Lundell	Diffusion av valsysteem	2006	<i>Politiikka</i> 2, 127-130.	
Articles in refereed Finnish edited volumes and conference proceedings (N=14)				
Åsa Bengtsson and Mikko Mattila	Suora demokratia ja sen kriitikot	2009	Heikki Paloheimo and Sami Borg, eds., <i>Poliittinen osallistuminen ja demokratian muodot</i> . Tampere: Tampere University Press, 279-302.	
Åsa Bengtsson and Hanna Wass	Äänestäjien edustautumiskäsitykset ja demokratiaodotukset	2009	Heikki Paloheimo and Sami Borg, eds., <i>Poliittinen osallistuminen ja demokratian muodot</i> . Tampere: Tampere University Press, 303-324.	
Kim Strandberg	Internetin käyttö vaaleissa	2009	Heikki Paloheimo and Sami Borg, eds., <i>Poliittinen osallistuminen ja demokratian muodot</i> . Tampere: Tampere University Press, 60-93.	
Kimmo Grönlund	Poliittinen tietämys	2009	Heikki Paloheimo and Sami Borg, eds., <i>Poliittinen osallistuminen ja demokratian muodot</i> . Tampere: Tampere University Press, 175-205.	
Lauri Karvonen	Poliitiikan henkilöityminen	2009	Heikki Paloheimo and Sami Borg, eds., <i>Poliittinen osallistuminen ja demokratian muodot</i> . Tampere: Tampere University Press, 94-125.	
Maija Setälä	John Rawls: Oikeudenmukaisuusteoria ja poliittinen liberalismi	2008	Kia Lindroos & Suvi Soininen (toim), <i>Poliitiikan nykyteoreetikot</i> . Helsinki: Gaudeamus, pp. 299-331.	
Marko Joas	Om deltagardemokrains förutsättningar	2008	Lise Kanckos and Ralf Kauranen (eds.), <i>Social samhörighet och religion</i> . Åbo: Åbo Akademi University Press, pp. 263-280.	
Carsten Anckar	Socioekonomisk utveckling och demokrati – moderniseringsteorin i sju geografiska kontexter	2006	Patrik Anckar (ed.), <i>Economics, Education and Evolution: Essays in Honor of Olle Anckar</i> . Åbo: Åbo Akademis förlag, 230-246.	
Åsa	Rösträttens utveckling i	2006	Jyrki Käkönen and Jukka Paastela	

Bengtsson	Europa – en historisk tillbakablick		(eds.), <i>Demokratia ja poliittinen osallistuminen</i> . Tampere: Studia Politica Tamperensis, 203-220.	
Göran Djupsund and Kim Strandberg	Den finlandssvenska nomenklaturen? - En studie av finlandssvensk organisationselit	2006	Liebkind, K, & Sandlund, T (eds.), <i>Räcker det med svenskan?</i> . Helsingfors, SLS förlag.	
Kimmo Grönlund	Political knowledge and the Internet	2006	Jyrki Käkönen and Jukka Paastela, (eds.), <i>Demokratia ja poliittinen osallistuminen</i> . Tampere: Studia Politica Tamperensis, 19-36.	
Kaisa Herne and Maija Setälä	Yksimielisyys, pluralismi ja kohtuullinen sopimus deliberatiivisen demokratian tavoitteena	2006	Jyrki Käkönen and Jukka Paastela, (eds.), <i>Demokratia ja poliittinen osallistuminen</i> . Tampere: Studia Politica Tamperensis, 115-129.	
Lauri Karvonen	Which should come first, political rights or civil liberties? Some theoretical starting points	2006	Jyrki Käkönen and Jukka Paastela, (eds.), <i>Demokratia ja poliittinen osallistuminen</i> . Tampere: Studia Politica Tamperensis, 130-142.	
Siv Sandberg	Sammanhållning eller sönnerfall? Relationen mellan lokal och central nivå i nio finlandssvenska organisationer	2006	Liebkind Karmela & Tom Sandlund (red.) <i>Räcker det med svenskan? Om finlandssvenskarnas anknytning till sina organisationer</i> . Helsingfors: Svenska litteratursällskapet, 223-256.	

Scientific monographs (N=17)

Lauri Karvonen	<i>The Personalization of Politics. A Study of Parliamentary Democracies</i>	2009	Colchester: ECPR Press, 150 pp.	Accepted for publication
Krister Lundell	<i>The origin of Electoral Systems in the Postwar Era: A World-Wide Study</i>	2009	London: Routledge, 160 pp.	Accepted for publication
Thomas Denk	<i>Politisk kultur</i>	2009	Malmö: Liber, 184 pp.	
Sari Pikkala	<i>Avhoppare och utslagna. Personomsättning i finländska kommunfullmäktige</i>	2009	Åbo: Åbo Akademi University Press, 241 pp.	
Thomas Denk	<i>Kultur eller struktur?. Studie om den representativa demokratins regionala förutsättningar</i>	2008	Åbo: Åbo Akademi, 142 pp.	
Lauri Karvonen	<i>Diktatur. Om ofrihetens politiska system</i>	2008	Stockholm: SNS förlag, 202 pp.	
Lauri Karvonen	<i>Statsskick. Att bygga demokrati</i>	2008	Stockholm: SNS förlag, 191 pp.	
Åsa Bengtsson	<i>Politiskt deltagande</i>	2007	Lund: Studentlitteratur, 234 pp.	
Henrik Serup Christensen	<i>Who Governs Under Co-Decision? Determining the Influence of the European Parliament and the Council</i>	2007	Åbo: Åbo Akademi, 210 pp.	
Thomas Denk and Daniel Silander	<i>Att studera demokratisering - fenomen, förlopp, förutsättningar och framtid</i>	2007	Stockholm: Santérus förlag, 162 pp.	
Johanna Jääsaari	<i>Consistency and Change in Finnish Broadcasting Policy</i>	2007	Åbo: Åbo Akademi University Press, 223 pp.	
Sari Pikkala	<i>Ei enää ehdokkaaksi. Tutkimus valtuustoluopujista ja luopumisen taustoista</i>	2007	Helsinki: Suomen kuntaliitto, 97 pp.	

	<i>1996-2004</i>			
Maria Bäck	<i>Socialt förtroende och politisk orientering</i>	2006	Åbo: Åbo Akademi, 133 pp.	
Ann-Sofie Hermanson	<i>Miljövärdens institutionalisering i Finland - idé, rörelse, administration</i>	2006	Åbo, Åbo Akademi, 319 pp.	
Krister Lundell	<i>Contextual Determinants of Electoral System Choice. A Macro-Comparative Study 1945-2003</i>	2006	Åbo: Åbo Akademi University Press, 282 pp.	
Kim Strandberg	<i>Parties, Candidates and Citizens On-Line: Studies of Politics on the Internet</i>	2006	Åbo: Åbo Akademi University Press 185 pp.	
Peter Söderlund	<i>The Dynamics of Federalism in Russia. A Study of Formal and Informal Power Resources of the Regional Chief Executives in Russian Centre-Region Relations</i>	2006	Åbo: Åbo Akademi University Press, 175 pp.	
Other scientific publications (N=24)				
Theo Schiller and Maija Setälä (eds)	<i>Referendums and Representative Democracy. Responsiveness, accountability and deliberation</i>	2009	London: Routledge, 240 pp.	
Sissel Hovik Kjell Harvolds & Marko Joas (eds)	Nordic Environments.	2009	<i>Local Environment Special Issue Volume 14 Issue 3 2009.</i>	
Sam Grönholm and Pauliina Jalonen	Environmental Permit Processes and Local Public Participation	2009	<i>Reports of the Finnish Environment Institute 5/2009</i>	
Maria Bäck	Socialt förtroende och deltagande i frivilliga föreningar: det sociala kapitalet i Svenskfinland	2008	<i>Herberts, Kjell (red.) Trender och opinioner i Svenskfinland. Vasa: Samforsk, 37-58.</i>	
Kimmo Grönlund and Guy-Erik Isaksson	Litar finlandssvenskarna på samhällsinstitutionerna?	2008	<i>Herberts, Kjell (red.) Trender och opinioner i Svenskfinland. Vasa: Samforsk, 59-82.</i>	
Thomas Denk and Martin Åberg (eds.)	<i>Regioner i rörelse. Perspektiv på svenska regionaliseringsprocesser</i>	2008	Åbo: Åbo Akademi	
Åsa Bengtsson, Göran Djupsund and Lauri Karvonen	Finlandssvenskar och politik på 2000-talet	2008	<i>Herberts, Kjell (red.) Trender och opinioner i Svenskfinland. Vasa: Samforsk, 103-134.</i>	
Marko Joas, Detlef Jahn and Kristine Kern (eds.)	<i>Governing a Common Sea: Environmental Policies in the Baltic Sea Region</i>	2008	London: Earthscan	
Krister Lundell & Lauri Karvonen	A Comparative Data Set on Political Institutions - An Update	2008	<i>Department of Political Science, Åbo Akademi University, Occasional Papers Series Nr 28/2008, 26pp.</i>	

Peter Söderlund	Medieexponering och medieförtroende	2008	Kjell Herberts (ed.), <i>Opinioner och trender i Svenskfinland</i> . Vasa: Samforsk, 83-102.	
Sam Grönholm and Jonna Berghäll	Cooperation between Coastal Protected Areas and Surrounding Societies: from Experiences to Recommendations	2007	<i>Nature Protection Publications of Metsähallitus</i> , Series A 169/ Edita	
Marko Joas	Beslutsstödsystem för kommuner genom kontinuerlig självutvärdering på Internet: Datainsamlingens metod, reliabilitet, validitet och komparabilitet	2007	<i>Department of Political Science, Åbo Akademi University, Occasional Papers Series Nr 25.</i>	
Marko Joas	Administrative Reforms and Trust in Public Institutions – ‘Making or Breaking’ Social and Institutional Capital by Extensive Reforms? A Research Proposal	2007	<i>Department of Political Science, Åbo Akademi University, Occasional Papers Series Nr 27.</i>	
Maria Ackrén	Comparing Comparisons: Territorial Autonomies in the Light of Alternative Methods	2006	Åbo: <i>Meddelanden från Ekonomisk-statistikvetenskapliga fakulteten vid Åbo Akademi</i> , Statskunskap Ser. A:549 41 pp.	
Åsa Bengtsson	Att ge mandat eller utkräva ansvar. Reflektioner kring väljarnas strategier och det politiska systemets responsivitet	2006	<i>Finsk Tidskrift</i> 9, 539-548.	
Kimmo Grönlund	Osallistuva demokratia	2006	Sami Borg, (ed.), <i>Suomen demokratiaindikaattorit</i> , Helsinki: Publications of the Ministry of Justice 1/2006, 71-91.	
Kimmo Grönlund and Maija Setälä	Sosiaalinen pääoma	2006	Sami Borg, (ed.), <i>Suomen demokratiaindikaattorit</i> , Helsinki: Publications of the Ministry of Justice 1/2006, 154-172.	
Guy-Erik Isaksson	Kortare avstånd mellan väljare och valda?	2006	Stockholm: <i>Grundlagsutredningen</i> , Statens offentliga utredningar .	
Lauri Karvonen	Demokratian kehityksen seuranta Suomessa: lähtökohtia ja edellytyksiä	2006	Sami Borg, (ed.), <i>Suomen demokratiaindikaattorit</i> , Helsinki: Publications of the Ministry of Justice 1/2006, 314-323.	
Lauri Karvonen	Den sedliga statens filosof	2006	<i>Finsk Tidskrift</i> 7-8, 438-444.	
Lauri Karvonen	I stormens öga. Svenska folkpartiet, språkstriden och Laporörelsen	2006	Siv Sandberg (red.), <i>Svenska folkpartiet genom 100 år</i> , Helsingfors, Schildts, 129-152.	
Sari Pikkala	Kuntademokratia indikaattoreiden valossa	2006	Sami Borg, (ed.), <i>Suomen demokratiaindikaattorit</i> , Helsinki: Publications of the Ministry of Justice 1/2006, 231-261.	
Sari Pikkala	<i>Kunta kuntalaisosallistumisen edistäjänä.</i>	2006	Helsinki: Kuntaliitto/Kommunförbundet. 70 pp.	
Siv Sandberg (red.)	<i>Svenska Folkpartiet genom 100 år</i>	2006	Schildts förlag, Helsingfors	

4.2 Academic theses completed and under preparation during the period

Doctoral theses (N= 8 completed theses)

(If not completed, describe the present state and estimated year of completion)

Name	Title of thesis	Publication year	Description of the present state	Estimated year of completion
Maria Ackrén	<i>Conditions for Autonomy Regimes in the World</i> , 240 pp.	2009	Completed and submitted	
Sari Pikkala	<i>Avhoppare och utslagna. Personomsättning i finländska kommunfullmäktige</i> , 241 pp.	2009		
Johanna Jääsaari	<i>Consistency and Change in Finnish Broadcasting Policy</i> , 223 pp.	2007		
Pär M. Olausson	<i>Autonomy and Islands. A Global Study of the Factors that Determine Island Autonomy</i> , 275 pp.	2007		
Ann-Sofie Hermanson	<i>Miljövärdens institutionalisering i Finland - idé, rörelse, administration</i> , 319 pp.	2006		
Krister Lundell	<i>Contextual Determinants of Electoral System Choice. A Macro-Comparative Study 1945-2003</i> , 282 pp.	2006		
Kim Strandberg	<i>Parties, Candidates and Citizens On-Line: Studies of Politics on the Internet</i> , 185 pp.	2006		
Peter Söderlund	<i>The Dynamics of Federalism in Russia. A Study of Formal and Informal Power Resources of the Regional Chief Executives in Russian Centre-Region Relations</i> , 175 pp.	2006		
Siv Sandberg	<i>The Second Best Solution. Municipal Amalgamations and Inter-municipal Co-operation as National and Local Practice in Finland</i>		In the final stage	2009
Maria Bäck	<i>Social Capital and Political Behavior</i>		In the final stage	2010
Catharina Groop	<i>Political Institutions and Corruption</i>		Two thirds completed	2010
Henrik Serup Christensen	<i>Why Bother? Political Activism in the Context of Political Institutions</i>		Two thirds completed	2010
Marta Miklikowska	<i>Family Influence on the Democratic Orientations of Adolescents</i>		Nearly two thirds completed	2010
Staffan Himmelroos	<i>Deliberation in Practice. A Content Analysis of Deliberative Citizen Talks</i>		Half way	2011
Ari Nykvist	<i>The Reception of News Depending on Format</i>		Well under way	2011
Linnea Henriksson	<i>Local Officials as</i>		Well under way	2011

	<i>Democratic Agents</i>			
Sam Grönholm	<i>Citizen Participation in Local Environmental Policy</i>		Well under way	2011
Marina Lindell	<i>Deliberative Democracy: Local and Virtual Applications</i>		Recently launched	2013

4.2.1 Licentiate theses (N=7 completed theses)

Name	Title of thesis	Publication year	Description of the present state	Estimated year of completion
Andreas Fagerholm	<i>Yttervänstern, socialismen och den nya politiken, 244 pp.</i>	2009		
Gustav Liden	<i>Variationer i demokrati. En kvantitativ studie som utvärderar tänkbara förklaringar, 194 pp.</i>	2008		
Catharina Groop	<i>Carrots and Sticks – Political Institutions as Incentive Structures in a Corrupt World, 148 pp.</i>	2008		
Henrik Serup Christensen	<i>Who Governs Under Co-Decision? Determining the Influence of the European, Parliament and the Council, 210 pp.</i>	2007		
Mia Berg	<i>Muslimskt folk, islamisk stat? Orsaker till variation av religiösa inslag i konstitutioner 211 pp.</i>	2006		
Maria Bäck	<i>Socialt förtroende och politisk orientering, 133 pp.</i>	2006		
Anna Sundback	<i>Politisk fostran i skolan. En teoretisk och metodisk introduktion till en studie om skolans förmåga till politisk socialisation, 132 pp</i>	2006		

4.2.2 Master's theses

Some seventy master's theses have been presented and approved within the program during 2006-2009. A list of titles and authors is available at request.

4.3 National and international contact

4.3.1 Visits to national and international research groups by the CoE members

Research group	Duration of stay
The Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University (ANU), Canberra. D:CE visitor: Maija Setälä	1 month in 2009
The Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University (ANU), Canberra. D:CE visitor: Kimmo Grönlund	2 weeks in 2009
Eurolab, Universität-Köln D:CE visitor: Åsa Bengtsson	3 weeks in 2009
Australian National University, Political Science. D:CE visitor: Maija Setälä	2 months in 2008
Bern Interdisciplinary Centre for Deliberative Studies,	1 week in 2008

Universität Bern. D:CE visitors: Kimmo Grönlund and Maija Setälä	
ECPR summer school in Methods and Techniques at the University of Ljubljana. D:CE visitors: Anders Eriksson and Marta Miklikowska.	3 weeks in 2008
ECPR summer school in Social Science Data Analysis, University of Essex D:CE visitor: Catharina Groop	2 weeks in 2007
University of Manchester, Political Science. D:CE visitor: Kaisa Herne	4 months in 2006-2007

4.3.2 Visits to CoE by scientists from other national and international research groups

Name	Academic degree	Position	Duration of stay
André Bächtiger	Dr.	Professor, Universität Bern	2 weeks in 2009
Marco Steenberger	Dr.	Professor, Universität Bern	1 week in 2009
Henry Milner	Dr.	Professor, Université de Montréal	4 weeks in 2008
Brigitte Geissel	Dr.	Professor, Technische Universität Darmstadt	6 months in 2008
Edward Cameron	MSc.	Advisor, Maldives Embassy to the USA and UN	1 week in 2008
Hans Wiklund	MSc.	Doctoral student, Mid-Sweden University	1 week in 2007
Kristine Kern	Dr.	Senior researcher, University of Minnesota	2 weeks in 2007
Henry Milner	Dr.	Professor, Université Laval, Québec	2 weeks in 2006

4.3.3 Other international activities

D:CE researchers have participated in numerous international conferences and scientific meetings. Among recurrent conferences with D:CE participation are APSA, IPSA, ECPR, NOPSA and North American regional political science conventions.

D:CE senior researchers Anckar, Isaksson and Setälä served as Editors of Scandinavian Political Studies in 2005-2008.

4.4 Prizes, awards and honors and scientific positions of trust

* Åsa Bengtsson recipient of the Per Brahe Prize (12 000 €) for the academic year 2005-2006

* Krister Lundell recipient of the Jan-Magnus Jansson Prize (5000 €) in 2006

* Kim Strandberg recipient of the Harry Elfving Prize (8000 €) in 2007.

*Lauri Karvonen recipient of the E.J. Nyström Prize (20 000€) of the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters in 2009.

D:CE senior scholars hold a number of scientific positions of trust within international scholarly organizations and journals. Lauri Karvonen was elected President of the Nordic Political Science Association (NOPSA) in August, 2008. He will serve until August 2011. Peter Söderlund will serve as member of the NOPSA Executive Board during the same period. He is also board member in the Finnish Political Science Association. Other examples are Lauri Karvonen's role as Finnish country representative in the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES) and his co-chairmanship of the Nordic Election and Democracy Research Consortium (NED). Åsa Bengtsson heads a Nordic book project launched by NED.

4.5 Role of the CoE in attracting additional research funding

D:CE efforts to secure additional funding have been successful. The following projects by D:CE members, all in all amounting to approximately 1,8 million € have been granted funds:

Researcher	Project title	Funder	Time	Amount
Sari Pikkala	Evaluation of Gender Equality Effects in Structural Reforms	Ministries of Finance and Social & Health Affairs	2009-2010	50, 000€
Peter Söderlund	Electoral Volatility in Western Europe	Academy of Finland	2008-2010	189, 000 €
Brigitte Geissel	Democratic Innovations	European Commission	2008	100, 000 €
Lauri Karvonen	Citizen Power in Representative Democracy	Academy of Finland	2007-2010	334, 000 €
Marko Joas	Forms of Governance in Archipelagic Communities	The Nessling Foundation	2007-2010	158, 000 €
Kimmo Grönlund	Swedish Politics in Finland	Swedish Society of Literature	2007-2009	510, 000 €
Heikki Paloheimo	Political Parties and Modes of Democracy	Academy of Finland	2007-2010	70, 000 €*)
Maija Setälä	The Challenges of Deliberative Democracy	Academy of Finland	2006-2011	100, 000 €
Siv Sanberg and Linnéa Henriksson	Administrative Reforms and the Position of Swedish Language in Finland	Foundation for Swedish Culture in Finland	2008-2011	300, 000 €(of which ÅÅ share 200,000 €)
Marko Joas (together with Erik Bonsdorff / Marine Biology)	Environmental Risk Governance of the Baltic Sea	(EU/Academy of Finland)	2009-2011	180, 000 €(approx ÅÅ share, approx 60,000 €to PA)
Marko Joas and Sam Grönholm	Policies and Research for an Integrated Management of Urban Sustainability	EU 7 th Framework Programme	2009-2011	180, 000 €
Sari Pikkala and Siv Sandberg	Evaluation of Structural Reforms	The Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities (various sources of funding)	2008-2012	200, 000€

*) D:CE share of a total of 280, 000 €

In addition, several externally funded projects initiated before 2006 have in part run parallel with D:CE

4.6 External PhD examination and reviews by the CoE members

D:CE senior scholars have served as examiners as PhD theses and expert reviewers of applications for a host of institutions, including Uppsala University, the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation, University of Göteborg, Södertörn University College, University of Lund, University of Turku, University of Tampere, University of Helsinki, University of Oslo, the Academy of Finland.

D:CE scholars have contributed anonymous reviews to a large number of scholarly journals including European Journal of Political Research, Electoral Studies, Political Studies, Political Research Quarterly, Comparative Political Studies, Scandinavian Political Studies, Political Geography, Statsvetenskaplig tidskrift, Journal of Politics and Party Politics.

4.7 Publicity

Presentation of research results in mass media
(Television, radio, newspapers, general journals)

D:CE scholars play an important role by serving as experts for information intended for the general public. Göran Djupsund, Kimmo Grönlund, Åsa Bengtsson, Lauri Karvonen, Siv Sandberg and Marko Joas have long-term affiliations with leading news media in Finland. They also serve the diplomatic community and the community of international news journalists through their continuous cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Other institutions that frequently consult D:CE scholars include the Finnish Parliament, political parties and the federation of municipalities as well as interest organizations and voluntary associations. Ad hoc interviews and talks with news media occur daily.

Several D:CE researchers participate in the public debate through regular newspaper columns and forums for popularized science.

5. SELF ASSESSMENT

5.1 How well have the goals of the CoE been achieved so far and what can be expected during the end of 2008?

D:CE research is guided by two overarching queries:

1. To what extent has a transition to Audience Democracy taken place?
2. What are its consequences from the point of view of the citizen, and what action do they call for?

Most of the work pertaining to the first question has been pursued through “conventional” research methods, while experimental designs form the backbone of the latter part of the program. As evident from the list of publications, the D:CE community has made considerable headway especially as regards the first research question. Several findings support the notion that a move toward Audience Democracy has indeed occurred during recent decades. Our research on forms of participation, political attitudes and behaviour (e.g., Bengtsson 2007) clearly points to changes that are in line with the expectations presented in the theoretical literature. Electoral volatility (Söderlund 2008) has increased. Concomitant institutional changes (Sandberg 2009; Setälä 2006) reinforce these behavioural patterns. On the other hand, for instance, the personalization of politics (Karvonen 2009) has not been found to be a pervasive and linear development of the kind that has frequently been assumed in the theoretical literature. All in all, the research produced thus far goes a long way towards answering the first question and specifying the areas where this development has occurred. At the same time, the results presented point to several new tasks for empirical research in the years ahead.

As to the second research question, two large experiments, unique in the Finnish research context, have been carried out successfully. The first experiment took place in November 2006. It was a deliberative experiment on energy politics, especially nuclear power. The procedures used in previous deliberative mini-publics were largely followed but our mini-public had no direct policy implications and was primarily designed as a scientific experiment. Our main focus was the role of *consensus-building* in deliberative settings. Therefore, the experiment had two treatments. In the experiment, the 135 participants were randomly allocated into two treatments. In the first treatment, the small-n (consisting of 10 to 12 participants each) group decisions were reached through secret ballot. In the second treatment, each group was asked to formulate a common statement reflecting the group’s opinion. Otherwise the procedures were identical. The design was motivated by the fact that there are disputes within deliberative theory on the role of consensus in deliberative processes. We found, however, that there were no large

differences between the two treatments. Some effects did come about. Participants in the common statement treatment learned more and became more trusting in their fellow citizens propensity for collective action.

A replication of the face-to-face experiment was carried out online in the spring of 2008. In order to do this, a virtual platform (“Virtual Polity”) was designed and built. With the aid of webcam technology and microphones, we were able to simulate real-life discussions. The online mode was an exact replication of the face-to-face experiment. Everything, including surveys and information materials, as well as the discussions themselves, was carried out online. Even though some technical problems were witnessed, our experiences of virtual deliberation were quite encouraging.

D:CE carried out three experiments in conjunction with the 2007 parliamentary election. The focus was to examine how voters respond and react to various forms of campaign material and also to see whether they evaluate candidate’s differently after being exposed to their campaigns in various forms. The stimuli used in the experiments were candidate TV-ads, candidate websites and candidate weblogs. The methodology combined traditional pre-test post-test surveys measuring voter evaluations of the candidates, with lab-measurements, i.e. pulse, skin conductance levels and eye-movement tracking, of audience reactions to the stimuli. Through the dual approach we were both able to assess how voters changed their opinions regarding the candidates after viewing the material, and collect detailed information of which specific parts in the campaign material they reacted to.

Taken together, this experimental research goes to probe the practical feasibility of genuine participatory democracy. These D:CE experiments have produced and continue to produce a wealth of innovative data for current and future research. Thanks to the success of these experiments, several publications are under way. One article is accepted for publication in Political Studies and two further articles are currently being considered by international journals. Moreover, one monograph and a doctoral dissertation are in the process of being written.

As indicated above, D:CE researchers have succeeded in acquiring additional funding, and they are continuously engaged in an international exchange. D:CE is part of a large North European network in postgraduate training (NEPOS) and actively contributes to its curriculum. There is also a local research school connected to D:CE.

5.2 Have there been unexpected obstacles during the project?

As we feel that the scientific progress within the program has been fully satisfactory, the basic answer to this question must be “no”. However, early on in our work we realized that the administrative conditions for our cooperation must be improved. We therefore launched a process of institutional reorganization aiming at an administrative structure uniting our scholarly communities in Åbo and Vasa into one common department. It is with great satisfaction we note that this initiative has met with the approval of the Åbo Akademi leadership and that this new administrative structure will go into effect in a near future. We are convinced that our day-to day-work as well as long-term planning will be greatly enhanced by this administrative reorganization.

5.3 Benchmark the CoE with leading research groups in the same scientific area

Currently a network of institutions conducting relevant research is being established. D:CE has initiated a long-term cooperation with the Institute of Social Change, University of Manchester, Bern Interdisciplinary Centre for Deliberative Studies, and the Departments of Political Science at Technische Universität Darmstadt, University of Göteborg and Australian National University. This collaboration strengthens D:CE’s position at the forefront of international research. One expression is the fact the ECPR General Conference in Potsdam will devote an entire section of panels to the theme “Democratic Innovations” organized and Chaired by D:CE scholars.

The specific profile of D:CE, and consequently its strength as compared to these international partner institutions is the triple combination of a long track record in systematic comparative empirical research, political philosophy and experimental methodology. This has been made possible thanks to the commitment of scholars from different disciplines and methodological traditions to collaborate at the level of concrete investigations.

SUPPLEMENT

Statement by the D:CE International Advisory Board

As members of the International Advisory Board of the Interdisciplinary Centre of Excellence: DEMOCRACY: A CITIZEN PERSPECTIVE, we write to strongly recommend that the project's funding be extended. We have closely followed the progress of the D:CE research plan since its inception and are happy to report that its objectives have so far been met above and beyond expectations. The progress is evident in the quantity and quality of publications and dissertations produced.

We were especially impressed by the citizen deliberation experiment carried out in Åbo in November, 2006, and, especially, the innovative approach to carrying out a "virtual" replication of the face-to-face experiment, which entailed developing an online platform for experimental research.

Moreover, it is evident that D:CE researchers have developed a wide network of intra-university cooperation through partner projects for research co-operation and exchange of guest researchers, as well as but also for postgraduate training. In sum, D:CE is poised to continue to make an important contribution to areas of great interest in the international research community in political science, namely the extent to which a transition to Audience Democracy has taken place, and the consequences of this development.

Based on our examination of projects currently in progress we are persuaded that, as the D:CE team contends, they will be able to deliver on the promise formulated at the end of its Research Plan:

"Taken together, the Centre's research endeavors to make a contribution to scholarly research in democracy and the public debate on democracy alike. By combining insights from a number of academic disciplines and by allowing established empirical techniques to work in concert with experimental methods the project hopes to break genuinely new ground in a field that is as significant scientifically as it is from a social and political point of view."

Hence we strongly urge that their funding be renewed.

April 2008

Rachel Gibson, Professor, University of Manchester
Sören Holmberg, Professor, University of Göteborg
Detlef Jahn, Professor, Universität Greifswald
Henry Milner, Professor, Université de Montréal
Poul Erik Mouritzen, University of Southern Denmark, Odense