**Illiberal Democracy? Different “Islands of Meanings” on the Hungarian Radical Right -** Anna Herczeg Brayer

*Sous la direction de Florence Passy*

We live in an era where radical right-wing political forces are flying high in Europe and beyond. In such times when liberal democracies are being challenged on several fronts, it is more important than ever to pay particular attention to the democratic and citizenship understandings of individuals who join radical-right political groups as activists. Yet, the literature is rather scarce on radical right-wing activists’ subjective understandings about their social and political environment. This knowledge is however crucial if we want to grasp the mechanisms that are behind the processes of commitment and the sustainment of the latter in the ranks of radical-right political groups.

Therefore, relying on the case of Hungary - where the radical right is in government since more than twelve years - I suggest investigating the various ways radical right-wing activists - who form the base of the country’s leading political parties - conceive of political citizenship and democracy. That is because these grassroots activists themselves are actors of the continuous processes of (de) democratization. I lead this investigation with qualitative tools, namely in-depth interviews conducted with the leaders and members of different activist groups.

Based on a network analysis and the findings of in-depth interviews, I demonstrate that this field is far less homogenous than what the literature implies. Indeed, I plead against a homogenous view on the radical right - widespread in the literature - and suggest exploring the plurality of minds on the Hungarian Radical Right. I argue that there is not one radical right, but numerous radical-right communities that co-exist within the radical right field of Hungarian civil society, each displaying a specific cognitive world, and each possessing specific repertoires of action. I exhibit how this field is split into different “islands of meanings” (White 1992), between which democratic meanings may circulate through social interactions - in case they exist between different communities.