



Short CV: Guest Author in the KFIBS Research Group “Europe/EU” Thomas Karv, BSSc, MSSc, PhD Candidate

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E-mail

thomas.karv@abo.fi

URL

<http://www.samforsk.abo.fi/en/staff>

Background:

Thomas Karv, born 1988 in Mustasaari (Finland), studied political science, political history and public administration at Åbo Akademi University in Vaasa (Finland) and became a Bachelor of Social Sciences in 2013 and a Master of Social Sciences in 2014. In 2011 he also acquired a research diploma in *European Integration and Small States Studies* from the University of Iceland. Since the autumn of 2014 he has been a PhD student at the Social Science Research Institute (Samforsk) and during this period he has worked in two research projects connected to democratic innovations. First as a project researcher in a research project focusing on *citizen deliberation* and later as a research assistant in a research project focusing on political attitudes online, *eOpinion 2015*. During 2017 he also functioned as a secretary for the *Finnish National Election Study*-consortium. Since 2015 he is a member of the research project *Consortium of Trust Research – Pathways to Political Trust (CONTRE)*, a project that seeks to enhance the understanding of long- and short-term variations in political trust in contemporary established democracies. In the summer of 2017 he was a guest researcher at Stockholm University where he participated in the *Global and Regional Governance*-seminars under the leadership of Prof. Jonas Tallberg. He functions as a supervisor and lecturer at the political science program at Åbo Akademi University, where he teaches BA-level courses connected to democratic theory, statistical analysis and European- and Finnish politics. His dissertation, written as a monograph, focuses on explaining the cross-country variations in the national levels of public support for the European Union, in which he tries to answer his research question centering on why the levels of public support for different elements of the European Union varies between the member states and why they do so over time. He is expected to present his dissertation in 2019.

Besides his academic career, he is also an elected member of the City Council (since 2009, twice re-elected) and the City Board (since 2017) in the town of Nykarleby (Finland), a member of the Swedish Assembly of Finland (Folktinget) and a member of the party council for the Swedish People's Party of Finland (ALDE).

Research Interests:

- National level comparative studies
- Cross-country variations in political attitudes
- The European Union as a political system from a system persistence perspective
- European integration theories
- European politics

Publications and Ongoing Projects (Selection):

- *Explaining the cross-country variations in public support for the European Union* (Dissertation project, supervised by Academy Research Fellow (Docent) Kim Strandberg and Prof. Kimmo Grönlund).
- “Political trust as an indicator of specific support”, conference paper presented at the Nordic Political Science Congress 8–11.8.2017 in Odense, Denmark.

Placement:

- Faculty of Social Sciences, Business and Economics (FSE), the Social Science Research Institute (Samforsk), Åbo Akademi University, Vaasa campus, Finland

Membership:

- CONTRE research consortium
- The Finnish Political Science Association

Recent Popular Publications:

- *Trust in the EU – short-term fluctuations or a more long-term trend?* Blog post 11.2.2016, <http://blogs.uta.fi/contre/2016/02/11/trust-in-the-eu-short-term-fluctuations-or-a-more-long-term-trend/>
- *Why Cameron should have known better than to gamble?* Blog post 30.6.2016, <http://blogs.uta.fi/contre/2016/06/30/why-cameron-should-have-known-better-than-to-gamble/>
- *Macron and the re-emergence of Europhiles!* Blog post 29.6.2017, <http://blogs.uta.fi/contre/2017/06/29/macron-and-the-re-emergence-of-europhiles/>

Lectures and Presentations:

- *Political interest and political participation amongst the youth*, block of lectures as a part of the bachelor program in "Political Science" at Åbo Akademi University. Annually since 2015.
- *Introduction to statistical analysis*, block of lectures as a part of the bachelor program in "Political Science" at Åbo Akademi University. Annually since 2017.
- *Politics in theory and reality*, block of lectures as a part of the bachelor program in "Political Science" at Åbo Akademi University. 2018.
- *Democracy: Reality, threats and possibilities*, block of lectures as a part of the bachelor program in "Political Science" at Åbo Akademi University. Annually since 2016.