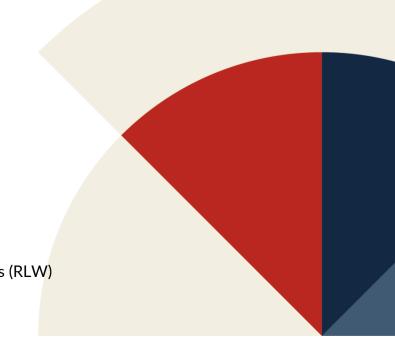# How do Parliaments perform?

Call for Contributions to the Day of Parliamentary Research

January 2024

Dept. 3.2 – Research and Support in Parliamentary Matters

parlamentsforschung@parlament.gv.at

+43 1 401 10-2668

3 – Legal, Legislative, and Research Services (RLW)

Day of Parliamentary Research 2024

For the second time, the Parliamentary Administration of the Austrian Parliament invites scholars from all disciplinary backgrounds to present and discuss their parliament-related research at the Day of Parliamentary Research – in the Austrian Parliament at June 20, 2024.

The first Day of Parliamentary Research in 2023 brought together researchers, experts and practitioners to promote exchange between them and increase the visibility of parliamentary research inside and outside parliament. This year, the next step is to be taken: The Day of Parliamentary Research strongly supports the call of this year's keynote speaker Emma Crewe for academics to enter 'more critical coalitions, networks and movements [...] to help sort out the confusion [of a world that becomes both wilder but also more regulated]' (Crewe et al. 2022).

Thematic Focus

For parliamentary research, this means to connect long-established approaches (e. g. from legal or political science) with 'newcomers' and to increase attention on multi- and interdisciplinary research. This includes, for instance, anthropology, psychology, philosophy, cognitive sciences, cultural studies, linguistics, and what are considered to be 'their' methods. And it means to raise awareness for transdisciplinary approaches as well, which facilitate the integration of different types of evidence (e. g. lay knowledge).

A correspondingly broader and at the same time more in-depth focus may open up new spaces for discussion and increase our understanding of current phenomena and questions, such as:

- What is parliamentary performance and how can we assess it? Can/shall parliaments be measured by their effectiveness? How does the institutional and legal design of a parliamentary system affect – limit as well as enable – parliamentary performance and policy-making?

- How representative are parliaments? How do/can/shall they consider, for instance, marginalized groups, the growing group of people who are not entitled to vote or future generations?

- What do current developments of political culture(s) tell us about society? What are its effects on parliament (e. g. its visibility, its performance, its legitimacy)?

- How do scandals, violence (against parliaments and parliamentarians), or other disruptive tendencies affect the way parliaments can work? What role do the public image of parliaments, symbols or 'silent traditions' (e. g. common initiatives of parliamentarians, everyday relations among parliamentarians, networks, practices, emotions) play?

- How do different time horizons determine the opportunities of parliaments (e. g. unexpected developments, such as pandemics, vs. election cycles vs. long-term issues, such as climate change)?

- How do new technologies impact the capacities of parliaments?

The organizing team looks forward to discussing those and other questions and issues with international scholars from all disciplinary backgrounds.

Submission of Abstracts

We invite you to submit an abstract in English (max. 400 words) that includes information about:

- Research question/research interest

- Methodology as well as progress of the research

- (Expected) research findings

- Innovative potential of the research

- (Potential) relevance to parliamentary practice

The contributions will be discussed as part of either a panel session or a poster session. Therefore please indicate whether you prefer to present in one of the two ways. The final decision is up to the organizing team but will of course be discussed with the submitting author(s).

Abstracts can be submitted until April 15, 2024 to the e-mail address parlamentsforschung@parlament.gv.at. Please include contact information (name, e-mail, if possible institution/organization) with the abstract and submit it as a PDF.

The authors of the accepted proposals will be notified by end of April.

Further Information

For organisational reasons, we kindly ask you to take note of the following information in preparation of the event:

- The event, including all presentations, will be held in English. Individual program items that are held in German will be translated synchronously into English.

- By being included in the program of the Day of Parliamentary Research, you agree that the submitted abstract, including the name and institutions of the authors, may be published on the Austrian Parliament's website.

- If your proposal is accepted for a panel session at the Day of Parliamentary Research, we kindly ask you to prepare a PowerPoint presentation and send it until June 10, 2024 to parlamentsforschung@parlament.gv.at.

- If your proposal is accepted for the poster session at the Day of Parliamentary Research, we kindly ask you to bring your printed poster to the event. You will be provided with everything you need to present your poster.

- For the participants there will be no conference fees. However, the Parliamentary Administration cannot reimburse any costs incurred for participation.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the organizing team by e-mail or phone. Contact details can be found on the cover page of this document.

Further and up-to-date information is available on the Austrian Parliament's website: Day of Parliamentary Research.