

CONFERENCE **POLITICAL TRUST** **A CHALLENGE FOR** **DEMOCRACIES**



5

DECEMBER
2025

6

SCIENCES PO PARIS



FRIDAY, December 5

- **THE CAUSES OF DISTRUST**
- **CONSEQUENCES AND PATHOLOGIES**
- **CONFIANCE POLITIQUE : UN DÉFI POUR NOS DÉMOCRATIES ?**



SATURDAY, December 6

- **SOLUTIONS TO THE CRISIS OF TRUST**

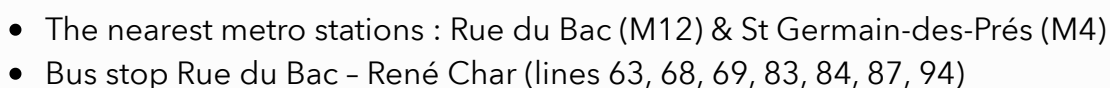
CEVIPOF / SCIENCES PO – DECEMBER 5 & 6, 2025



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From 9.00 to 16.30, Amphi Goguel : 27, rue St Guillaume 75007 Paris (Building A on the map)
From 17.30 to 20.00 (Colloque en français), Salons scientifiques : 1, place Saint-Thomas d'Aquin,
75007 Paris (Building M on the map)

From 09.30 to 13.00, Salons scientifiques : 1, place Saint-Thomas d'Aquin, 75007 Paris



POLITICAL TRUST : A CHALLENGE FOR DEMOCRACIES

CEVIPOF / SCIENCES PO – DECEMBER 5 & 6, 2025



Friday, December 5, 2025

TIME	SPEAKER	TITLE
9:00 – 9:20		Welcome and coffee
9:20 – 9:30	Kevin Arceneaux Director of CEVIPOF	Opening remarks
9:30 – 10:30	KEYNOTE Political Trust and Legitimacy in the Age of Populism Vivien Schmidt , Boston University	
10:30 – 11:00		Coffee Break
PANEL I	THE CAUSES OF DISTRUST Chair : Kevin Arceneaux , CEVIPOF Discussant : Piero Ignazi , CEVIPOF	
11:00 – 13:00	Luc Rouban Bruno Cautrès CEVIPOF	Explaining Political Distrust
	Ben Seyd University of Kent	Political trust and trustworthiness
	Will Jennings University of Southampton	How Citizens Make Trust Judgments
13:00 – 14:00		Break

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TIME	SPEAKER	TITLE
PANEL II	CONSEQUENCES AND PATHOLOGIES Chair : Alexandre Escudier , CEVIPOF Discussant : Gilles Ivaldi , CEVIPOF	
14:00 – 16:30	Annabelle Lever CEVIPOF	Who to trust? What to trust? The challenge of being a voter
	Marc Hooghe University of Louvain	Losing Elections, Political Trust, and Future Voter Turnout
	Eri Bertsou Department of Comparative Politics, University of St. Gallen	A changing nature for political distrust?
	Daniel Devine University of Southampton	Beyond Trust: Developing and Validating Measures of Political Trust, Mistrust, and Distrust
COLLOQUE En français	CONFIANCE POLITIQUE : UN DÉFI POUR NOS DÉMOCRATIES ? Présidence : Anne Muxel , CEVIPOF Discutant : Yann Algan , HEC Paris	
17:30 – 20:00	Myriam Revault d'Allonnes CEVIPOF	Le lien démocratique : la confiance et l'expression du "dissensus"
	Luc Rouban Bruno Cautrès Damien Bol CEVIPOF	Principaux enseignements du Baromètre de la Confiance Politique du CEVIPOF
	Stéphanie Andrieux Fondation de France	Intervention de la Responsable Grande Cause Lien Social
20:30	DINNER FOR INVITED SPEAKERS Restaurant La Démocratie – 34, Boulevard Raspail, 75007 Paris	

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CEVIPOF / SCIENCES PO – DECEMBER 5 & 6, 2025



Saturday, December 6, 2025

TIME	SPEAKER	TITLE
PANEL III	SOLUTIONS TO THE CRISIS OF TRUST Chair : Karolina Koc-Michalska , Audencia Business School Discussant : Romain Lachat , CEVIPOF	
9:30 – 11:30	Bernard Reber CEVIPOF	From armchair citizens to full-fledged citizens (citizens' assemblies) : Redeploying political trust.
	Michael Bang Petersen Aarhus University	The ideals of democracy and the realities of the 21 st century
	James Weinberg & Kate Dommett University of Sheffield	Rebuilding the Ties That Bind: Digital Contact and the Dynamics of Political Trust
11:30 – 12:00		Coffee Break
12:00 – 13:00	KEYNOTE How to Restore Trust ? Yascha Mounk , Johns Hopkins University	



Baromètre de la confiance politique Political Trust Barometer

The CEVIPOF's Political Trust Barometer is an academic survey that has become the benchmark French survey on the issue of French people's trust in politics.

The database, which has been compiled since 2011, provides exceptional longitudinal monitoring of factors such as self-confidence, trust in others, trust in institutions and politicians, as well as attitudes towards democracy, its principles and its functioning in France.

PODtrust

PODtrust project is an international research collaboration in political science, communication, and psychology. Led by the University of Sheffield (UK) with partners at the University of Ottawa (Canada), Audencia Business School (France), and the University of Silesia (Poland), it is funded by UK Research and Innovation, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (Canada), the Agence Nationale de la Recherche (France), and the National Science Centre (Poland). The project examines how digital communication shapes political trust in democratic societies through audits of trust surveys, elite interviews, experimental surveys, field experiments, and user experience diaries. It investigates how each point of digital contact can be optimized to avoid reinforcing inequalities. The analysis also considers whether universal modes of trustworthy communication exist or if multiple, potentially competing, conceptions need to be theorized.

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CEVIPOF / SCIENCES PO – DECEMBER 5 & 6, 2025



Yann Algan

Yann Algan is Professor of Economics at HEC Paris.



Stéphanie Andrieux

Stéphanie Andrieux is Director of Programs on Social Fabric and Democracy at Fondation de France. She is also chair of the Engagement and Volunteering Committee at the French High Council of Non-Profits, and board member at La Fonda, a French think tank on the non-profit sector. Her career has focused thematically on civic engagement. She notably founded and led Benenova, an organization facilitating and opening volunteer participation, inspired by her work as a community organizer in San Francisco.



Kevin Arceneaux

Kevin Arceneaux is Director of the CEVIPOF and Professor of Political Science. He studies how people form beliefs and attitudes about politics and, ultimately, make political decisions. Before joining the CEVIPOF, he was the Thomas J. Freaney Professor of Political Science at Temple University where he also directed the Behavioral Foundations Lab. He is currently an associated editor for the journal Political Communication and serves on the editorial boards of the American Political Science Review and Political Psychology.



Michael Bang Petersen

Michael Bang Petersen is a professor of political science at Aarhus University in Denmark. In recent years, he has done extensive research on political distrust, misinformation and online hostility. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he served as one of the main social scientific advisors of the Danish government. He is currently appointed by the Danish parliament to direct "The Danish Democracy & Power Study 2.0", a 5-year government-funded audit of challenges to Danish democracy.

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CEVIPOF / SCIENCES PO – DECEMBER 5 & 6, 2025



Eri Bertsou

Eri Bertsou researches the intersection of citizen behavior, political institutions, and policy-making, with a special focus on trust, technocratic politics, and democracy. She is an Assistant Professor at the University of St. Gallen, where she leads the SNSF-funded project “Varieties of Expertise”. She is a member of the Electoral Psychology Observatory at the London School of Economics and the EGPP at the European University Institute. She holds a PhD from LSE and her work has been published at leading scientific outlets, including in the American Journal of Political Science and Comparative Political Studies.



Damien Bol

Damien Bol is a Professor at CEVIPOF in Sciences Po Paris, and Director of the French Electoral Studies Network (REEF). Before joining Sciences Po, he was a Professor in the Department of Political Economy at King’s College London. His research examines how citizens experience representative democracy, with a focus on attitudes toward democratic institutions such as electoral systems and deliberative assemblies. Methodologically, he specializes in experiments and surveys, often conducted in Belgium, Canada, France, and the United Kingdom. His work has been published in journals such as Comparative Political Studies, Journal of Public Economics.



Bruno Cautrès

Bruno Cautrès is a CNRS-affiliated Research Fellow at CEVIPOF and a lecturer at Sciences Po. His research focuses on the analysis of political behaviour, political attitudes and on elections. Over the last several years he has notably contributed to the development of the CEVIPOF's Political Trust Barometer. He has participated in various French and European research projects on political participation, voting and elections.



Daniel Devine

Dr Daniel Devine is Associate Professor in Public Opinion and Behaviour at the University of Southampton. He works broadly on political trust and related concepts, as well as class representation.

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CEVIPOF / SCIENCES PO – DECEMBER 5 & 6, 2025



Kate Dommett

Professor Kate Dommett is Professor of Digital Politics at the University of Sheffield. Her research interests focus on digital campaigning, political parties, data use and public perceptions. Professor Dommett has published extensively on digital campaigning, the implications of digital technology for institutions, and the use of data in elections. Her most recent book, *Data-Driven Campaigning in Political Parties: Five Advanced Democracies Compared* was published in 2024 by Oxford University Press. More details about her research and publications can be found at www.katedommett.com.



Alexandre Escudier

Alexandre Escudier has been a research fellow at CEVIPOF (FNSP) since 2004. Building on the pioneering works of Johann Gustav Droysen, Max Weber, Reinhart Koselleck, and Jean Baechler, he concentrates on comparative historical sociology, both as a theoretical discipline and as an empirical field of inquiry. He edited the complete corpus of articles by sociologist Jean Baechler (1937-2022) and founded the 'Jean Baechler Historical Sociology Fund' at CEVIPOF in 2024, alongside a seminar on 'Comparative Historical Sociologies'.



Marc Hooghe

Marc Hooghe is a Full Professor of Political Science and the University of Louvain (Belgium). He is director of the Belgian Election Studies, and has published extensively on political trust and electoral behaviour. He has been a visiting professor at the universities of Lille, Mannheim, Montréal and Utrecht. He has been president of the Belgian Political Science Association, and editor of the journal 'Acta Politica'. He previously received an ERC Advanced Grant to investigate the linkage mechanisms between citizens and the state.



Piero Ignazi

Piero Ignazi, already Professor of Comparative Politics, is currently Alma Mater Professor at the University of Bologna and Associate Researcher at Cevipof, Sciences Po Paris. He has worked on the evolution and organization of political parties in Europe and in Italy.

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CEVIPOF / SCIENCES PO – DECEMBER 5 & 6, 2025



Gilles Ivaldi

Gilles Ivaldi is a CNRS researcher in politics at CEVIPOF-Sciences Po Paris. His research interests include French politics, parties and elections, and the comparative study of populism and the radical right in Europe and the United States. He has recently co-edited 2024 EP Elections Under the Shadow of Rising Populism, European Center for Populism Studies (ECPS), 2024, with Emilia Zankina.



Will Jennings

Will Jennings is Professor of Political Science and Public Policy at the University of Southampton and between 2019 and 2023 led the ESRC-funded 'TrustGov' project exploring trust and trustworthiness of national and global governance. He is also Elections Analyst for Sky News and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. His research explores questions relating to public policy and political behaviour, specifically in relation to public opinion, political trust, elections, political geography, agenda-setting, and public administration.



Karolina Koc-Michalska

Karolina Koc-Michalska is Professor at Audencia Business School (France), Associate Professor at University of Silesia (Poland) and Affiliated Researcher at CEVIPOF Sciences Po Paris. She is part of the NEPOCS group (nepocs.eu). She studies the strategies of political actors in the online environment and citizens' political engagement. She employs a comparative approach focusing on the United States and European countries.



Romain Lachat

Romain Lachat is associate professor of political behaviour at Cevipof, the Centre for political research at Sciences Po, Paris. His research focuses on the comparative analysis of electoral behaviour and on political representation. He is particularly interested in the impact of political institutions and party characteristics on individual-level behavior.

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CEVIPOF / SCIENCES PO – DECEMBER 5 & 6, 2025



Annabelle Lever

Annabelle is Professor of Political Philosophy at Sciences Po, and a permanent researcher at Cevipof. She works mainly on democratic theory (at present, on the right to stand as a candidate for elections; on the ethics of voting), but also on ethics and public policy (privacy, sexual and racial equality, intellectual property). She led the Horizon 2020 project: Reconstructing Democracy in Times of Crisis.



Yascha Mounk

Yascha Mounk is a political scientist known for his work on the rise of populism and the crisis of liberal democracy. His third and most recent book, "The People vs Democracy: Why Our Freedom is In Danger and How to Save It," has been translated into ten languages and recognized as a "Best Book of 2018" by the Financial Times and other publications. Educated at Trinity College, Cambridge and Harvard University, Mounk is Professor at Johns Hopkins University, a Senior Fellow at the German Marshall Fund, a Senior Advisor at Protect Democracy, a Columnist at Slate, and the host of The Good Fight podcast. He is also a frequent contributor to international newspapers and magazines including The New Yorker, The Atlantic and Foreign Affairs as well as a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations.



Anne Muxel

Anne Muxel is Deputy Director of the CEVIPOF and Director of research in sociology and political science at the CNRS (CEVIPOF/Sciences Po).

Her work in the field of political sociology focuses on understanding the ways in which individuals relate to politics and, more broadly, to the democratic system, by analysing their attitudes and behaviour (new forms of political expression, relationship with voting, modes of socialisation and construction of political identity). She has carried out numerous studies on the transmission of values in generational dynamics and is a recognised specialist in youth studies.



Bernard Reber

Bernard Reber is a moral and political philosopher, Director of Research at the CNRS, member of Cevipof, and specialist in ethical and political deliberation. For more than 20 years, he has contributed to theoretical and practical debates on democracy and responsible deliberative systems. He is currently involved in several projects focusing on AI, deliberation, and new forms of citizen participation assisted by platforms throughout the democratic process.



Myriam Revault d'Allonnes

Myriam Revault d'Allonnes. Philosopher. Specialist in ethical and political philosophy. Professor Emeritus at the École Pratique des Hautes Études. Associate researcher at CEVIPOF. Her thinking has focused on the conceptual shifts that permeate and renew the various registers of contemporary experience. She has published works on the notions of "authority," "crisis," and "representation," as well as on the damage done to the common world and democratic existence by the emergence and spread of the notion of "post-truth."



Luc Rouban

Luc Rouban is CNRS Research Professor at the Cevipof, Center for Political Research, Sciences Po, Paris. His main research fields deal with the evolution of democracy in France and Europe, political and administrative elites, electoral behavior and social changes. He manages with Bruno Cautrès the annual Political Trust Barometer. He has served on the board of many academic journals, including Governance, Public Management Review, Public Administration.



Vivien A. Schmidt

Vivien A. Schmidt is Jean Monnet Professor of European Integration and Professor Emerita of International Relations and Political Science at Boston University. She is currently Visiting Fellow in the Schuman Center at the European University Institute in Florence and Honorary Professor at LUISS Guido Carli University in Rome. Professor Schmidt has published over 300 journal articles and thirteen books on European political economy, institutions, and democracy as well as on the role of ideas and discourse in political analysis (discursive institutionalism).



Ben Seyd

Ben Seyd is based in the School of Politics and International Relations at the University of Kent. He conducts research in the fields of public attitudes to political systems, focusing in particular on citizen trust in government and public attitudes to democracy and democratic processes. He has also conducted research in the fields of electoral behaviour and political participation and engagement.



James Weinberg

Dr James Weinberg is Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) in Political Science at the University of Sheffield. He is also a Visiting Fellow at UNSW Canberra where he contributes to the University's public policy impact hub. Dr Weinberg's research focuses on political behaviour, particularly trust, personality, and decision-making, as well as the impact of democratic education on political ambition and participation. He is the author of "Who Enters Politics and Why?" and "Governing in an Age of Distrust", both recognised for advancing our understanding of the contemporary challenges and dynamics of political leadership.