



**Hanspeter Kriesi** is the Coordinator of the newly founded Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) "Challenges to Democracy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" and has been Full Professor for Comparative Politics at the University of Zurich since 2002. Before that he was Full Professor for Comparative and Swiss politics at the

University of Geneva since 1988 as well as Head of the Department for Political Sciences (1995-1998).

Hanspeter Kriesi studied sociology at the University of Berne and Chicago and earned his Ph.D. and Habilitation at the University of Zurich. He has held academic positions at the University of Amsterdam, at the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin and at Cornell University.

His main research interests include opinion-formation and political communication in direct democracy, transformation of the political party systems in a globalising world, electoral research and the role of the public space and public opinion in politics.



A former Spanish Secretary of State for Science and Technology (2000-2002), **Ramon Marimon** was, in 2003-2004, the Chairman of the European Commission's "High Level Panel for the mid-term evaluation of the effectiveness of the New Instruments of the 6th Framework Programme".

Ramon Marimon earned his Ph.D. in Economics at Northwestern University and has been Full Professor at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona since 1990. He was also a Professor at the European University Institute (1994-2000) and at the University of Minnesota (1984-1993). He has held various visiting positions, amongst others, at Stanford University, Cambridge University, the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis and the International Monetary Fund.

His main research interests include Macroeconomics, Monetary Theory, Labour Theory, Political Economy, Contract Theory, Learning Theory and the Economics of Science and Innovation.



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TO THE  
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

**SwissCore**

Swiss Contact Office for  
Research and Higher Education

**SwissCore**

and

the **Swiss Mission to the European Communities**

kindly invite you to a

**Swiss Science Briefing**

on

**How about networks?**

**Instruments to strengthen excellence in the  
Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities**

with

**Prof. Hanspeter Kriesi**

*Professor for Political Science, University of Zurich and  
Coordinator of the NCCR "Challenges to Democracy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century"*

and

**Prof. Ramon Marimon**

*Professor at the Department of Economics and Business of  
Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona)*

Friday, 17 June 2005, 12:30 – 14:30

Swiss Mission to the EC, Place du Luxembourg 1, Brussels

Does excellent research in the Socio-economic Sciences require specific support instruments? Can their “specific research culture” accommodate and benefit in the same way from funding instruments supporting networked research?

These questions are fundamental for national research funding as well as for the preparations for the 7<sup>th</sup> Research Framework Programme of the EU (FP7).

The Swiss “National Centres of Competence in Research” (NCCR) programme and the “Networks of Excellence” introduced at European level in FP6 are attempts to introduce networks in the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities:

- **The Swiss Experience:** In 2005, a new series of six NCCRs will start as the result of a call published in 2003 exclusively targeted at Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities. Their goal is to promote excellence in areas of major strategic importance and to stimulate a concentration of forces and improved distribution of work among research institutions. Back in 1999, when Switzerland introduced the NCCR programme, none of the 10 NCCRs chosen at the end of the first call for proposals belonged to the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities. What were the reasons for this drastic change?
- **The EU Experience:** The introduction of the Networks of Excellence raised concerns amongst researchers in the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities. Following the Marimon report on the Evaluation of the effectiveness of the new instruments of FP6 as well as other evaluation procedures of FP6, FP7 will now attempt to reflect the results of these processes.

What are the lessons to be learned from these Swiss and European experiences? Are such networks equally useful in all fields? Should they be adapted to the “specific research cultures” of the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities or should research cultures adapt to these instruments?

## Programme

Friday, 17 June 2005, 12:30 – 14:30

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<b>12:30</b>	<b>Sandwich lunch</b>
<b>12:45</b>	<b>Welcome and introduction</b> Bernhard Marfurt <i>Swiss Ambassador to the European Communities</i>
<b>12:55</b>	<b>Networks for Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities: the Swiss Experience</b> Hanspeter Kriesi
<b>13:25</b>	<b>Comment from an EU-Perspective</b> Ramon Marimon
<b>13:45</b>	<b>Panel discussion</b> moderated by Martina Weiss <i>Head of Office, SwissCore</i>
	<b>Coffee and sandwiches</b>

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**Swiss Mission to the European Communities**  
**Place du Luxembourg 1**  
**Brussels**

RSVP by Friday, 10 June 2005  
infodesk@swisscore.org  
phone +32-2-549 09 80  
fax +32-2-549 09 89