

ETHOS Newsletter

ETHOS Project
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Funded by the European Union

1. What is ETHOS?

ETHOS is a multi-disciplinary research project funded by the European Commission under the Horizon2020 programme. The ETHOS project seeks to provide building blocks for the development of an empirically informed European theory of justice and fairness. In the project, we strive to refine and deepen our understanding of justice, in order to answer questions about: What is 'justice'? How is justice understood and experienced? Who is entitled to justice? Who is responsible for securing justice?

The project will inform a wide range of stakeholders about different understandings and experiences of justice with a view to supporting attempts to reverse inequalities and to promote justice.

Six institutes work together on "themes" (or thematic focal points). ETHOS is coordinated by the Utrecht University (the Netherlands) and has partners in Austria (European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy, Graz), Hungary (Central European University, Budapest), Portugal (Centre for Social Studies, Coimbra), Turkey (Bogazici University, Istanbul) and the UK (University of Bristol).

ETHOS is a 3-year research project which started in January 2017 combining the disciplines of philosophy, social policy, sociology, law, economy, and political science.

2. ETHOS Kick-Off Meeting in Utrecht, the Netherlands

The ETHOS kick-off meeting took place on March 30 and 31st 2017 at the Hotel Mitland in Utrecht and brought together all Consortium members to discuss the aims and procedures of the research programme, as well as the working plans for the first research projects. At the two-day kick-off consortium meeting a series of plenaries, work-sessions, and coordination activities took place, all enthusiastically engaged by the consortium participants.

The first keynote was delivered by Trudie Knjin, ETHOS lead investigator, who focused on the core project objective, to create an empirically founded European theory of justice and fairness. Trudie discussed that whilst there is a general agreement that ‘justice is good’ for normative, pragmatic and subjective reasons, to be able to define justice and fairness, all kind of voices should resonate. As scholars of justice, we therefore constantly move from deductively to inductively collected knowledge which will challenge participants from various academic disciplines in different ways.

The second keynote lecture was delivered by Halleh Ghorashi, a member of the ETHOS Advisory Board, on “Rethinking democracy & solidarity in late modern times”. In her speech, Halleh highlighted the growing normalization of ‘othering’ in many European societies since the turn of the twenty-first century and pledged for the revitalization of the concept of democracy in order to rethink the possibilities of resistance against normalized foundation of othering practices through engaged solidarity.



3. ETHOS Annual Conference in Coimbra, Portugal

The 1st ETHOS Annual Conference meeting was held in Coimbra, Portugal from 22nd to 24th February 2018. It was hosted by the Portuguese research partner at the Centre for Social Studies (CES) and enthusiastically engaged participants in a two-day conference filled with plenaries, keynote lectures and thematic workshops. In addition to researchers from all six countries, four members of the Advisory Board joined us: Ayse Caglar (University of Vienna), Matteo Jessoula (University of Milan), Marva Corley-Coulibaly (International Labour Office (ILO)), and Frank Vandenbroucke (University of Amsterdam). Several public lectures were held and were well-attended by CES students and invited philosophers in addition to the ETHOS project team.

The conference prominently featured renowned guest speaker and scholar Boaventura de Sousa Santos (University of Coimbra) with a lecture on how to overcome the so-called “European deficit”. After having set the scene, Jonathan Wolff (University of Oxford) spoke about the link between justice in philosophy and practice raising vital questions for the overall orientation of the project.

ETHOS researchers each presented and discussed various disciplinary approaches on justice as well as their country-specific findings, to look for commonalities and differences, and to lay the groundwork for the upcoming comparative reports. Finally, the upcoming launch of the web app “The European Landscapes of Justice” was presented.



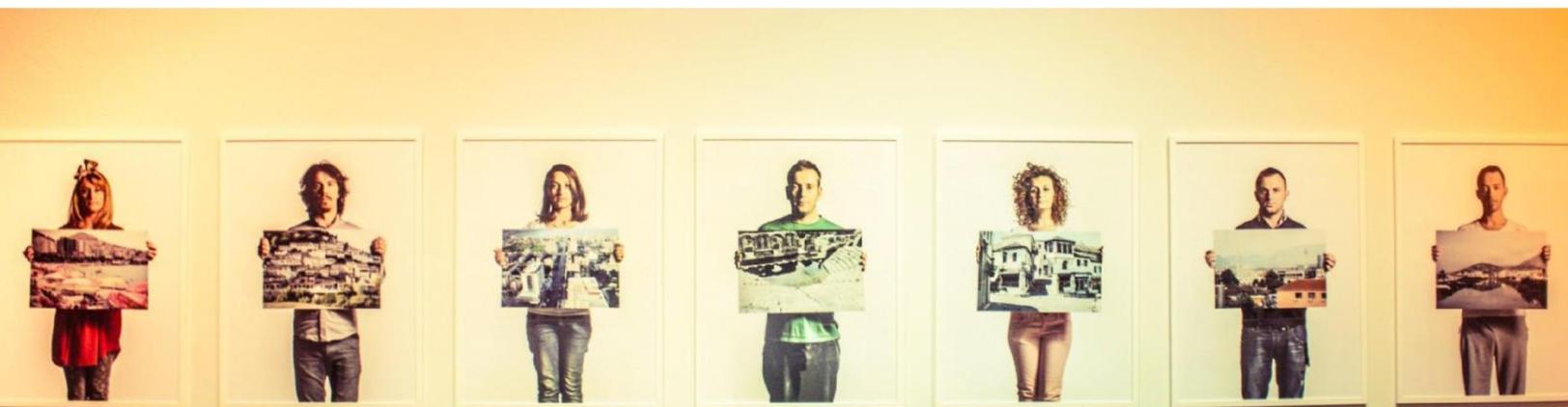
4. Current project outputs

In the first year of the project, ETHOS researchers focused on sub-studies that sought to outline the theoretical foundations for our discussions about justice. Within each of the thematic groups a report was produced outlining the most relevant theoretical foundations about justice in the respective fields of philosophy, law, political science, social sciences, and economics.

The following reports are currently available on the ETHOS website:

- **“Conceptualisation and articulation of justice: Justice in social theory”** by Bridget Anderson, Claudia Hartmann and Trudie Knijn
- **“Economizing on Justice”** by José Castro Caldas
- **“A theoretical review of the conceptualization and articulation of justice”** in legal theory by Orsolya Salát
- **“Report on the European heritage of philosophical theorizing about justice”** by Simon Rippon, Sem de Maagt, Miklós Zala and Bert van den Brink.
- **“A Theoretical Review of the Conceptualization and Articulation of Justice in Political Theory”** by Ayşe Buğra

Follow the link to read the summaries and to download the full papers: <https://ethos-europe.eu/publications>



5. Recent blogposts

The ETHOS project actively seeks to make “science” accessible and understandable for people outside of the academic field. One mechanism used to achieve this goal is the blog which was created to show where justice is represented in daily life, and to also host easy-to-read information about the topics covered by the publications.

The most recent blogposts are:

- [Not forgetting Mother Earth and environmental justice](#) – by Alejandro Perdomo
- [Targeting Racism](#) – by Pier-Luc Dupont
- [Why we still need International Women’s Day](#) - by Trudie Knijn
- [The importance of a Social Justice ethos](#) - by Miklós Zala
- [How fair is our solidarity?](#) – by Dorota Lepianka

You can access the entire blog with currently 10 posts here: <https://ethosjustice.wordpress.com>

Stay tuned for more information!

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6. Coming up

The “European Landscapes of Justice web app” is now online and allows users to visualize their own experiences of justice on www.myjustice.eu. It also features a comparative component allowing users to learn more about justice related topics in their daily life.

New downloadable content will be available shortly on the website, including comparative country reports and theoretical papers:

- On national and EU political discourses of representative justice with regard to ethnic, religious and regional minorities and migrants;
- On the tensions between institutionalised political justice and the experienced (mis)recognition on the example of Roma;
- On the types of distributive claims, interests and capabilities of various groups of the population evoked in the political and economic debates at the EU and at the nation state level.

The next annual conference will be held in Budapest in January 2019.