MILITANT DEMOCRACY AND RESPONSES TO POPULIST PARTIES: LESSONS FROM PARTY BAN PRACTICES IN EUROPE

Dr. Angela Bourne, Associate Professor, Roskilde University (Denmark)
HOW TO RESPOND TO POPULISTS: DEBATING ‘DEMOCRATIC DEFENCE’

Strategies of ‘democratic defence’ (e.g. Capoccia, 2005 or Downs, 2012):
- Engagement versus strategies of repression/exclusion

Debating ‘Democratic dilemmas’
- Are populists actually a ‘threat’?
- What exactly is to be done?
• Bourne, (forthcoming 2018) *Democratic Dilemmas: Why Democracies Ban Parties*

• Bourne (2018) *Securitization and the Proscription of Terrorist Organizations in Spain, Terrorism and Political Violence*,


• Bourne (2015) *Why Ban Batasuna?, Comparative European Politics*
LESSONS FROM PARTY BAN RESEARCH

PARTY BANS ARE NOT A GOOD INSTRUMENT FOR DEALING WITH CONTEMPORARY POPULIST PARTIES IN EUROPE...
• For party ban cases to succeed banned parties must be securitized as existential threats to a) democratic system or core political principles and/or to b) the physical integrity of citizens or the state itself

• It is difficult for veto players to agree a party should be banned

• Effects of banning party may be counterproductive

• Repressive instruments of militant democracy — such as party bans — are not designed to respond to governing parties