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STSM report (COST Action IS1308)

I stayed at the IPMZ in Zurich from August 4th to 8th 2014 and visited Sven Engesser. We are both members of the COST Action IS1308 and plan to establish the Early Stage Researcher Think Tank (ESR TT) of our action. During my visit Sven first introduced me to his colleagues from the NCCR (National Center of Competence in Research) Democracy who also do research on populism. We had several meetings where we exchanged views on the topic and presented our research projects to each other. We also talked about the relevant literature, our future projects and plans.

Second, Sven and I prepared the first ESR TT meeting in January that will take place in Zurich. We discussed the plan of procedure, the keynotes and the presentations. We decided that every participant will give a presentation of 20 minutes that will be responded by another participant (10 minutes) followed by a discussion (20 minutes). So we made a schedule of the workshop. We will also give an introduction in the COST Action and the populism project of the NCCR.

Third, we discussed the future strategy of the ESR TT together with Frank Esser. We talked about how we will organize the communication between the participants, how we can meet regularly and about publication strategies. We decided to first await the participants, their expectations and motivation to participate in the ESR TT. We will then decide in detail how we will organize the network. One idea is to meet at the international conferences (ECREA, ICA) and to establish an online portal for easier communication.

Altogether, the STSM was very important and helpful for me. We now have a much clearer idea of how we will organize the ESR TT. Furthermore, the week in Zurich gave me the opportunity to get to know colleagues who work on similar topics and to expand my network.

Kind regards,

Nayla Fawzi