

FLORIN N. FESNIC

Center for the Study of Democracy
“Babeş-Bolyai” University
Department of Political Science
Minerilor 85, #208
Cluj 400132
Romania

Phone: (0040)-(728)-095715
E-mail: fesnic@fspac.ro
fesnic@democracycenter.ro
Web: www.florinfesnic.us
www.democracycenter.ro

Education

- PhD** in Political Science, [University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign](#) (2008)
- MA** in Political Science, [University of Rochester](#) (2000)
- MA** in Political Science, [Central European University](#), Budapest, Hungary (1998)
- BA** in Political Science, [Babeş-Bolyai University](#), Cluj, Romania (1997)

Doctoral dissertation: “Welfare Chauvinism East and West: Romania and France”

Research Interests

Civic education, political behavior; voting behavior; political tolerance; comparative politics; democratization; developing nations; modernization and political development; migration; modernization & dependency theories; electoral systems; institutional design; political parties and party systems.

Publications

- Florin Fesnic.** “Can Civic Education Make a Difference for Democracy? Hungary and Poland Compared”. Forthcoming, *Political Studies* (DOI: 10.1111/1467-9248.12215).
- Florin Fesnic.** 2015. “Economic Development, Religion and Institutional Design: What Is Their Impact on Democracy in Post-communist Countries?” *Analele Universitatii Bucuresti Stiinte Politice* 17, 2, 99-117.
- Florin Fesnic.** 2015. “Nimic nou pe frontul de est: eterna si fascinanta stanga romaneasca, 1990-2014”. *Studia Politica: Romanian Political Science Review* 55, 4, 695-706.
- Florin Fesnic.** 2015. “The Demand-Side of Euroskepticism in Eastern and Western Europe: Romania and France”. *Europolis* 9, 2, 77-90.
- Florin Fesnic.** 2015. “Political Consequences of Romania’s Modernizations: how the Romanian party system evolved from the 1990’s to the present”. *Europolis* 9, 2, 113-124.
- Florin Fesnic & Oana Armeanu.** 2014. “Strategic Effects of Electoral Rules: Testing the Impact of the 2008 Electoral Reform in Romania.” *Studia Politica: Romanian Political Science Review* 54, 2, 185-199.
- Florin Fesnic & Oana Armeanu.** 2014. “Does Education Make Voters More Leftist or More Rightist? A West vs. East Cross-Regional Analysis”. *Studia Politica: Romanian Political Science Review* 54, 1, 29-46.
- Florin Feşnic.** 2012. „Atribute socioeconomice și demografice și impactul lor asupra simpatiei pentru candidații la alegerile prezidențiale din 2009” (Socioeconomic and demographic determinants of sympathy for 2009 presidential candidates in Romania), in

Mircea Comșa, Andrei Gheorghiuță & Claudiu Tufiș (eds.), *Alegeri prezidențiale - Romania, 2009* (Presidential Elections - Romania 2009). Cluj: Presa Universitara Clujeana, 201-216.

Florin Feșnic. 2011. “The Democratic-Liberal Party as a Successful Catch-All Party.” In Ronald King & Paul Sum (eds.), *Romania under Bănescu: Aspirations, Achievements, and Frustrations during his First Presidential Term*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 49-64.

Raluca Viman & **Florin Feșnic**. 2011. “Migration and Political Tolerance in Romania: Evidence from an Original Survey.” In Ronald King & Paul Sum (eds.), *Romania under Bănescu: Aspirations, Achievements, and Frustrations during his First Presidential Term*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 257-271.

Raluca Viman & **Florin Feșnic**. 2010. “Determinants of Political Tolerance in Romania: Cross-National and Longitudinal Perspectives.” In Toma Burean (ed.), *Roots of Social Capital: Youth Civic Engagement and Socialization*. Cluj: Accent, 166-191.

Florin Feșnic. 2010. “*Determinanți ai euroscepticismului în România*” (“Determinants of Euroscepticism in Romania”), in Mircea Comșa, Andrei Gheorghiuță & Claudiu Tufiș (eds.), *Alegerile pentru Parlamentul European - Romania, 2009* (“Elections for the European Parliament: Romania 2009”). Bucharest: Polirom, 129-146.

Florin Feșnic & Raluca Viman. 2009. “Alternative Measures of Tolerance, or Tolerance v. Social Liberalism? A Cross-National Empirical Test.” *Studia Universitatis Babeș-Bolyai Politica*, 54, 1, 53-75.

Toma Burean, **Florin Feșnic**, Iulia Georgescu & Carmen Greab. 2009. “*Implementarea unor metode de vot alternative în România între necesitate, utilitate și fezabilitate*” (“The Implementation of Alternative Voting Methods in Romania”), in *Reprezentarea diasporei și votul românilor din străinătate*. Bucharest: The Soros Foundation, 52-89.

Florin Feșnic, 2008. Contributor, *The Sage Encyclopedia of Campaigns, Elections, and Electoral Behavior*, edited by Kenneth F. Warren. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. (Entries on [Educational Level and Voting Behavior](#); [Election Types](#) (realigning, maintaining, deviating, and reinstating elections); [Libertarian Party](#); [Multiparty System](#); [Plurality Vote](#); [Proportional Representation](#); [Realignment](#); [Two-party System](#); [Voting, Methods](#); [Winner-take-all System](#); [Zogby, John](#)).

Florin Feșnic, 2008. „*Rădăcinile structurale ale diviziunilor partizane din România: modernizare reușită, modernizare nereușită, și non-modernizare,*” in Ioan Bolovan & Sorina Paula Bolovan (eds.), *Schimbare și devenire în istoria României*. Cluj: Centrul de Studii Transilvane, 727-740.

Steven Roper & **Florin Feșnic**. 2003. “Historical Legacies and Their Impact on Post-Communist Voting Behavior.” *Europe-Asia Studies* 55, 1, 119-131 (DOI: [10.1080/713663449](https://doi.org/10.1080/713663449)).

Conference Papers

Florin Feșnic. 2016. *Institutional Inequality and Democratic Backsliding in Post-Communist Countries*. Presented at the 24th World Congress of Political Science, Poznan, Poland.

Florin Feșnic. 2016. *Explaining Political Surprises (AKA Making Methodology Fun): Determinants of Voting in Ukrainian Presidential Elections*. Presented at the IASE (International Association for Statistical Education) Roundtable Conference “Promoting

understanding of statistics about society,” Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin, Germany.

Florin Fesnic. 2016. **Florin Fesnic & Oana Armeanu.** 2015. *Comparative Democratic Backsliding: Two Case Studies*. Presented at [the Society for Romanian Studies International Conference](#), University of Bucharest.

Oana Armeanu & **Florin Fesnic.** 2015. *Is Hungary more democratic than Romania or the other way round?* Presented at the Conference SCOPE 2014: The Science of Politics, University of Bucharest.

Florin Fesnic & Oana Armeanu. 2015. *The Political Significance of Plagiarism: Why Euroskepticism and Authoritarianism Moved From Fringes into Mainstream Romanian Politics*. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

Florin Fesnic & Oana Armeanu. 2014. “Political Determinants and Consequences of the Pro-Democratic/Anti-Democratic Cleavage in Post-Communist Countries: Three Case Studies”. Presented at the Conference Ideologies, Values and Political Behavior in Central and Eastern Europe), West University of Timisoara, Romania.

Florin Fesnic. 2014. “Civic Education, Democratic Backsliding and Democratic Progress: Two Case Studies”. Presented at the Conference SCOPE 2014: The Science of Politics, University of Bucharest.

Florin Fesnic. 2014. “Can Civic Education Make a Difference for Democracy?” Presented at the 10th CEEISA Conference, Babes-Bolyai University Cluj, Romania.

Florin Fesnic. 2014. “Can Civic Education Make a Difference for Democracy?” Presented at the Third European Conference on Comparative Electoral Research, Thessaloniki, Greece.

Florin Feşnic & Oana Armeanu. 2012. “Institutional, Political and Economic Determinants of Voting Behavior and Realignment in the Romanian Party System.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

Oana Armeanu & **Florin Feşnic.** 2012. “Clientelism and Voting Behavior in Romania.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

Romana Careja & **Florin Feşnic.** 2011. Left-Right Position, Authoritarianism, Euroskepticism and Support for the Radical Right, East and West. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Seattle, WA.

Oana Armeanu & **Florin Feşnic.** 2010. “Party System Change in Romania: Institutional versus Structural Explanations.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, DC.

Raluca Viman & **Florin Feşnic.** 2010. “Migration and Political Tolerance in Romania: Evidence from an Original Survey.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

Florin Feşnic & Raluca Viman. 2009. “What Drives the Vote for the Extreme Right? Absolute vs. Relative Deprivation.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Toronto, Canada.

Florin Feşnic & Oana Armeanu. 2009. “Strategic Effects of Electoral Rules: Testing the Impact of the 2008 Electoral Reform in Romania.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

- Florin Feșnic & Oana Armeanu.** 2008. “Does Education Make Voters More Leftist or More Rightist?” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- Florin Feșnic.** 2007. “Does Romania Have One Extreme Right or Two?” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- Florin Feșnic.** 2007. “The Demand-Side of Euro-skepticism in Eastern and Western Europe.” Presented at the Fifth International Congress on Romanian Studies, June 25-28, in Constanța, Romania.
- Florin Feșnic.** 2007. “Rădăcinile structurale ale diviziunilor partizane din România: modernizare reușită, modernizare nereușită, și non-modernizare” (“Structural Roots of Partisan Divisions in Romania: Successful Modernization, Defective Modernization, and Non-Modernization”). Presented at the conference “Modernization in Romania from 19th to 21st century,” Cluj, May 21-24.
- Florin Feșnic.** 2006. “Extreme Right Constituencies in Romania and France: A Two-Dimensional Policy Mapping.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- Carol Leff & **Florin Feșnic.** 2005. “Identity-based Parties in Post-communist Government: The Politics of Elite Incorporation and Coalition Maintenance.” Presented at the 2005 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- Florin Feșnic.** 2005. “Institutional Design and Democracy in Post-Communist Countries.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- Florin Feșnic.** 2004. “Welfare Chauvinism East and West: Romania & France.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- Florin Feșnic & Angelica Ghindar.** 2004. “Post-Communist Party Systems and the Quality of Democracy.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- Florin Feșnic.** 2004. “Looking at Left and Right the Right Way.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- Florin Feșnic.** 2003. “Modernization, Transition, and Voting in Romania.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- Florin Feșnic.** 2002. “The Missing Cleavage.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- Steven Roper & **Florin Feșnic.** 2001. “Historical Legacies and Their Electoral Impact.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Nationalities, New York.

Other education

- Political Science and IR AFP Fellows Meeting in Istanbul, March 22-25, 2007 and March 14-16, 2008.
- Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Summer 2001 and 2002.

The Stefan Báthory Foundation and the Ford Foundation International Summer School in Political Science and International Relations, Mierki, Poland, Summer 1995, 1996 and 1997.

The “Model United Nations” International Student Conference, New York, March 1997.

The International Summer School “Dutch Culture, Politics and Society,” Utrecht, the Netherlands, July-August 1994.

Awards, Fellowships and Grants

IASE & World Bank travel grant for [participation at the International Association for Statistical Education \(IASE\) 2016 Roundtable Conference](#) (July 19-22, Berlin)

COST Action IS0806 “The True European Voter” Short Term Travel Grant, 2014

American Political Science Association travel grant, 2007 and 2010

Soros Foundation Academic Fellowship Program Professional Development Funds travel grant, 2007 and 2008

Soros Foundation Academic Fellowship (AFP), University of Bucharest, 2006-2008

University of Illinois travel grant, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006

Winner of the 2004 Yaro Skalnik Prize for the Best Graduate Essay in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

University of Illinois, Department of Political Science fellowship 2000-2001 & 2002-2003

University of Rochester, Department of Political Science fellowship, 1998-1999

Soros Foundation/Central European University fellowship, 1997-1998

Soros Foundation travel grant, Model United Nations, March 1997

Soros Foundation travel grant & Stefan Báthory Foundation summer fellowship, 1995, 1996, and 1997

Babeş-Bolyai University travel grant & Utrecht University summer fellowship, July-August 1994

Research Experience

Country representative of Romania in [The True European Voter](#) project (COST Action IS0806), 2010-2013; member of the Management Committee, the Data Group and the Think Thank group

Research Assistant, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2004-2005:

“Democracy and Societal Welfare” (the Center for the Study of Democratic Governance, Fall 2005 – Professor James Kuklinski)

“Formal Characteristics of National Constitutions: A Cross-National Historical Data Set” (Summer 2004 and 2005 – Professor Zachary Elkins & Professor Thomas Ginsburg – see www.comparativeconstitutionsproject.org)

“Economic and Political Determinants of Presidential Approval Ratings, 2001-2005” (Fall 2004 – Spring 2005 – Professor Brian Gaines)

Teaching Experience

Lecturer, “Babeş-Bolyai” University Cluj, Department of Political Science (2009-current):

[Comparative Politics of Developing Countries](#) (MA in International Development, Spring 2011, 2012, 2014 & 2015)

Political Behavior (BA in Political Science, Fall 2014)

Political Organizations (MA in the Management of Political Organizations, Fall 2009 & 2010)

Social Statistics and Stata (MA in Research Design and Data Analysis, Spring 2010 & 2011)

Social Statistics and SPSS (MA in Research Design and Data Analysis, Fall 2010 & 2013)

Visiting Assistant Professor (AFP fellow), University of Bucharest (2006-2008):

[Political Paradoxes](#) (Spring 2007 & 2008)

[Comparative Politics of Developing Countries](#) (Fall 2006 & 2007)

Instructor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign:

Comparative Politics of Developing Nations (Summer 2006)

Introduction to Comparative Politics (Summer 2005)

Teaching Assistant, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2000-2006):

Comparative Politics of Developing Nations (three times)

Introduction to Comparative Politics (three times)

Introduction to Political Science (twice)

Introduction to American Government (twice)

Employment

Researcher, [Center for the Study of Democracy, Department of Political Science, Babeş-Bolyai University Cluj, Romania](#) (2008-present)

Visiting Assistant Professor, [Department of Political Science, University of Bucharest, Romania](#) (2006-2008)

Teaching Assistant, [Department of Political Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign](#) (2000-2006)

Professional service: reviewer for *East European Politics & Societies*, the *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion & Parties*, the *Romanian Journal of Political Science*, and *Sociologický časopis/Czech Sociological Review*

Computer skills: SPSS, Stata, MS Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Windows Metafile Companion

Languages: Romanian (native), English (fluent), French (reading & comprehension: fluent; speaking & writing: good)