

Call for Papers for the “Yearbook of Federalism 2025”

“Populism and Federalism – best friends?” (working title)

Populist movements and parties are currently on the rise in many parts of the world, including in established democracies. Populism is characterized by criticism of “the elite(s)” on the one hand and positive references to “the people” on the other. These movements and parties claim to represent the “true will of the true people”.

What is the relationship between populism and federalism? Or in other words: How do populist actors relate to federal structures? On the one hand, federal systems as power-sharing structures can limit and contain the political options of populist actors. On the other hand, they can represent opportunity structures for populist actors, in which strategies (e. g. participation in elections, presence in the media) are initially focused on the regional level, with successes achieved there serving as a gateway for broader impact. This contrast raises a number of questions: What is the conceptual and empirical relationship between populism and federalism? How can populist forces take advantage of federalism? Or are federal structures better suited to protect democracies from populist challenges? Which federal elements are particularly advantageous? And are reforms to the institutional setting necessary for a “federal state capable to defend itself” (“*wehrhafter Bundesstaat*”; Grotz/Kropp) against populist actors? If so, which reforms could be useful?

For the Yearbook of Federalism 2025, we invite proposals for papers that address different aspects of this issue. These can be case studies or comparative studies, as well as studies that look at individual countries, regions or even municipalities while considering multi-level dynamics.

We would like to point out that the editorial deadline for contributions that are accepted will be 31 May 2025 in order to guarantee publication of the Yearbook in autumn 2025.

The “Yearbook of Federalism” has been published by *NOMOS* (Baden-Baden) for 25 years. It is published by the *European Centre for Research on Federalism* (ECRF) at the University of Tübingen. The Yearbook is conceived as a compendium that offers readers from research, politics and administration an up-to-date overview of various aspects of federal and regional structure and policy. Both German and English-language contributions are possible.

In addition to an annually alternating main topic, the Yearbook includes the following sections, for which proposals for contributions are also welcome:

- Research topics
- German federalism
- European country reports
- Global country reports
- Regional and municipal cooperation in Europe
- European Union / European integration

We invite you to send 1–2-page abstracts (incl. a short biographical note) by **15 December 2024** to the following email address: ezff@uni-tuebingen.de. We are looking forward to your contributions.