

The Jean Blondel PhD Prize in 2007 will be awarded at the ECPR General Conference in Pisa, Italy, to Tanja E. Aalberts for her dissertation *Politics of Sovereignty*.

Since August 2006, Tanja E. Aalberts is Assistant Professor at Leiden University, Department of Political Science. She got in 1999 a MA in Public Administration and Management (Bestuurskunde) at Twente University, Enschede, and in 2000 a Msc Econ. In International Politics at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. In June 2006, she defended her dissertation *Politics of Sovereignty* with a committee composed of :

Supervisors:

Prof.dr. J.H. de Wilde (Vrije Universiteit & Twente University)

Prof.dr. W.G. Werner (Faculty of Law, Vrije Universiteit)

Prof.dr. J.E. Keman (Vrije Universiteit)

Reading committee :

Prof.dr. M. Albert (Universität Bielefeld), Prof.dr. L. Hooghe (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill & Vrije Universiteit), Prof.dr. K.E. Jørgensen (University of Aarhus), Prof.dr. H.W. Overbeek (Vrije Universiteit), Prof.dr. R.A. Wessel (Faculty of Law, Twente University)

The jury of the prize considered this is an outstanding dissertation. It is very well written and the argument is clearly presented. The author demonstrates academic maturity and mastery of the relevant literature. The thesis makes a well-sustained case for its key finding, i.e. that '[Sovereignty is not merely an organizing principle [...] as the English School maintains, but by connoting in addition international personality and legal status it ultimately identifies agency in terms of eligibility to play the sovereignty game.]' (p. 170) The author succeeds in demonstrating how interaction and intersubjectivity contribute to establish sovereignty as a norm in international relations that is neither exclusively agentic nor exclusively structural. The thesis addresses a much debated subject and succeeds in offering a genuine contribution to the literature based on thorough and careful reviews of the relevant literature in the field and a reconstruction and reassessment of the handling of 'sovereignty' in IR theory.