



# The Pirate Parties' Global Perspective

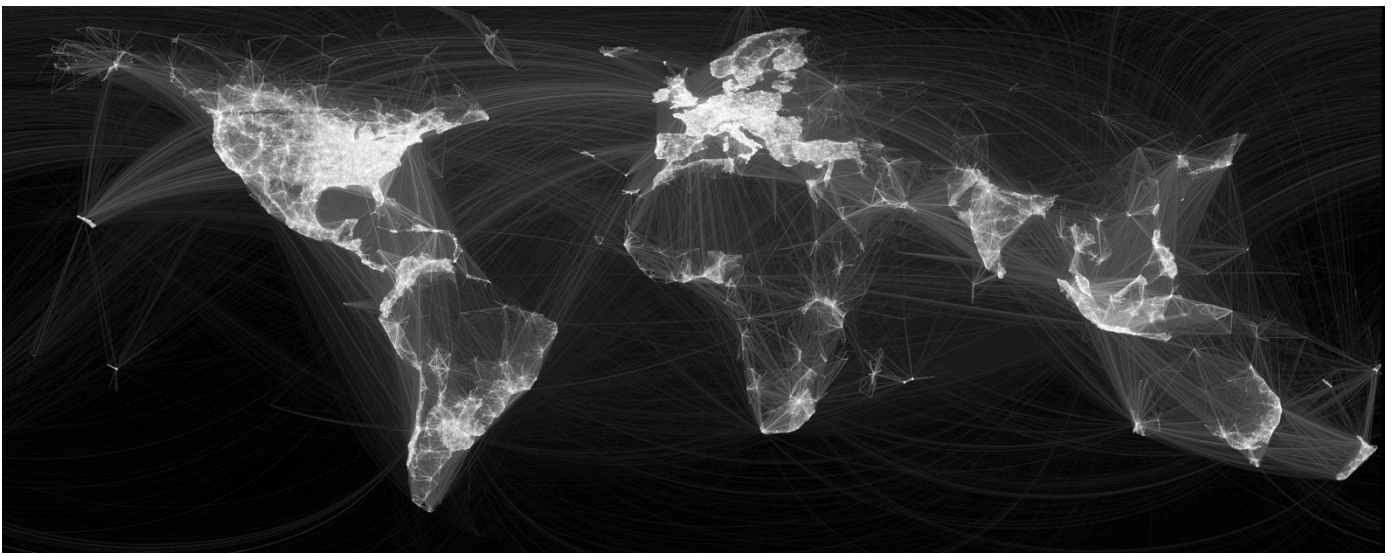
## Master Thesis Research Project

The global perspective and the notions on democracy of the Pirate Parties are a significant subject areas, but they seem under-researched and therefore un-contested. However, a global outlook – in combination with an examination of the PPs understanding of democracy - cannot only improve the understanding of the PP potential supra-nationality, but also could add sapid insights to the affair of Global Governance. Thus, my plan is to investigate these subjects thoroughly. I chose a qualitative methodology, which is mainly made up of interviews. This is the motivation behind writing: *I am searching participants that are interested to be interviewed (individually or in focus groups) about the globality of & the empowerment within the PP.*

In the following, you will find a short introduction to my research project, my research aim and question, the potential bilateral involvement, and finally some information about me, in order to give you an orientation about my research and intentions.

I am gladly available for further inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would be very happy to receive a positive answer.

Monique Morisse (MA Global Studies)  
fraeuleinmorisse@hotmail.de



## Introduction

Since the beginning of the Pirate movement, different aspects have been frequently raised in the political discourse in various countries to a varying degree. Questions that arise are manifold and diverge: Who are they? What do they want? Where are they coming from? There have been discussions about their gender-relations, about their 'hipness' and their long-lasting potentials. Even though all those question appear relevant, I am, however, interested in two interconnected subject areas and without them – I believe - the PP movement cannot be fully understood: firstly, *the Pirate Parties' Global Perspective* and secondly, *the PPs Notions on Democracy*.

Personally, I think the *global perspectives and possibilities of the Pirate Party*, also in relation to *Global Governance*, deserve a deeper focus: It is astonishing to see that the Pirate Party currently can be found - or is in the process of starting up - in 62 countries, as diverse as China, Sweden and Morocco. Simultaneously, the Pirate Party is also existent in Taiwan, in Spain and in Catalonia, in Israel and Tunisia (etc.). Additionally, the Pirate Party Germany self-understanding as a 'part of a worldwide movement' draws attention to their global engagement.

Furthermore, the movement of the Pirate Party cannot be explored without a thorough investigation of the level of *participation of its members*. Hence, the Pirate Parties' notions on and understanding of democracy is off special interest in this research project. How can this 'new kind' of democracy be categorized? Is it coherent in the different PPs? What are the opportunities? What could be the problems?

In sum, the *Pirate Party* (PP) and its umbrella association the *Pirate Party International* (PPI) encompass a 'new global shape'. At the same time, its globality is quite unknown to the general public and, likewise, under-researched and thus, un-contested. The same is valid for the understanding of democracy. But not only the contingent globality of the PP(I) is justifying an extensive engagement with the subject, but also further specific characteristics of the PP(I) composition challenge a deeper insight: The issues include (et al.) the horizontal organisational form, the constituency, and the different point of view (the digital revolution with its influence on several spheres of human existence) (Zolleis, Prokopf & Strauch, 2010).

## Research Aim & Question

My aim is to investigate the common ground of the PPs worldwide, from a global point of view. Is the common ground multifaceted on dimension such as politics and visions, or is the common ground

solely coincidental allegorised though the name and the badge. In other words: Could the Pirate Party be perceived as a global (supra-national) party or as a national party (with an international network)? Moreover, holding the opinion that the world needs Global Governance in order to solve contemporary problems of the world (– however, simultaneously, its feasible structures, institutions and policies remain unclear (Hettne, 2007:1) – ) I would like to gain input for this unsolved matter.

Hence, my research question is: What is the PP(I) global perspective?

I am aiming to answer this question in an explorative and descriptive way, meaning I want to explore the perception of the PPs members from several different countries. Starting with the wide subject of the globality, my inductive research led me so far – through interviews - towards a focus on the conception of democracy. Additionally, it is crucial to mention that I am not researching from/for a German perspective, but I wish to be a supra-national (or European) as possible.

## Bidirectional Involvement

As from now, I wish to continue my interviews – during (before/after) the *PPI General Assembly in Prague* - with as many and as diverse participants as possible, in order to achieve a manifold outcome of my research. The format of my interviews is semi-structured and they can be conducted individually or in a focus group. An interview will take approximately 1 hour and will be audio-recorded. Anonymity is assured if it is wished for. *If you are interested to be interviewed and add your (or your Parties) opinion/perception to the research, please contact me via e-mail (or talk to me in Prague).*



Simultaneously, it is important to me to share my results with interested bodies of the PP, during the course of the writing, but also after finishing my research project. The degree of the intensity can be determined by the participants or the PP(I) itself. With this, I would like to draw the PPs attention to their global challenge and their notions on democracy, combined with their potentials, capabilities, difficulties and moreover I want to obtain some clarity in the international ‘jungle’ for the PPs and the general public.

In sum, through the bilateral involvement and participation, I would like to accomplish some form of ‘action research’ to a extend agreed upon; meaning a “particular qualitative research method [that] is unique in the way it associates research and practice, so research informs practice and practice informs research synergistically” (Avison et al., 1999:94).<sup>i</sup>

## The Author

*Monique Morisse*

*Master Student in Global Studies, University of Gothenburg*

My name is Monique Morisse (born on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 1986) and in the course of writing my Master-Thesis I will be based in the Wendland, Germany. In my minor, I studied a BA-program in Economic-and Social History and Arabic



Studies at the University of Göttingen. Currently, I am studying an international MA-program in Global Studies in Gothenburg, Sweden. It is a multi- and interdisciplinary program addressing a variety of issues such as globalization, ethnicities, worldviews, gender, cultural diversity, international relations, politics and development. Within this, I am especially interested in global political economy, power relations and stances on Global Governance. In my free time, I enjoy playing music, travelling, and sewing.

For further questions, feedback or contact details, please do not hesitate to contact me via

**frauleinmorisse@hotmail.de**

Thank you very much for your effort and time. I hope to hear from you soon. As I have stated above, if you wish to participate and add your point of view to the research, please write me!

Greetings from the Wendland

Monique Morisse

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<sup>i</sup> References

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