

December 2016

Dear SGPM members,

With currently 312 registered members, your SGPM is one of the largest standing groups of the ECPR. We are grateful for your support and interest in topics related to political methodology in 2016. It has been a really successful year for us and we would like to thank you all for your great support!

We would also like to use this opportunity to recap 2016 with you and to provide you with a brief outlook to our activities and events planned in 2017. You can also find this information and a lot more on our [webpage](#).



Topics:

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2. Your SGPM in 2016
 - a. Activities at the ECPR Methods Schools
 - b. Panels at the 2016 PG Conference in Tartu
 - c. Panels at the 2016 ECPR General Conference in Prague
 - d. Election
 - e. Social Media
3. Your SGPM in 2017

1. Membership renewal

Since the implementation of the new Standing Group Framework (SGF) by the ECPR, you will have to annually renew your membership in the SGPM. The new membership term begins on 1 January 2017. If you want to keep up to date with the SGPM, our latest activities and events, please do not forget to renew your membership. Membership in the SGPM is free of charge and can be renewed on the [ECPR webpage](#). Just log on to MyECPR, select 'My Groups', and click on 'Renew Membership' next to the SGPM button. The deadline for membership renewals is 31 December 2016. You will be automatically removed from the SGPM in the new year, if you do not renew your membership. However, in case you forget, don't worry! It may take a little longer as your membership needs to be approved again, but you can rejoin the SGPM any time. We will be delighted to have you on board in 2017!

2. Your SGPM in 2016

In 2016, your SGPM has actively promoted and endorsed several great activities and launched many new services for you to participate in Political Methodology

- a. Activities at the ECPR Winter School in Methods and Techniques 2016 (Bamberg)

Lea Sgier, old and new member of the SGPM Steering Committee (SC), has taught a course on Qualitative Interviewing, which had been greatly appreciated and a great success for all participants. In addition, your SGPM has endorsed the first "Convince us!" session at the Winter School, which offered aspiring PhD students to get feedback on their work, especially on research methods. Thanks to everyone who participated!

2. Your SGPM in 2016 (cont.)

b. Panels at the 2016 ECPR PG Conference in Tartu

We also look after our postgraduates and have endorsed two panels at this year's ECPR Postgraduate Conference held in Tartu. We had great submissions and are delighted that our presenters seemed to enjoy the panels. Thanks for your participation.

c. Panels at the 2016 ECPR General Conference in Prague

Of course, we have also engaged at the ECPR General Conference held in Prague this year. Your SGPM hosted 5 (!) panels on experimental design in political research and we were overwhelmed by your great support. For such a niche topic, our panels were really well attended and we had the chance to learn about fantastic contributions across the field. We hope everyone who attended enjoyed our panels as much as we did.

We also hosted our annual business meeting in Prague to keep all of you up to date. A light lunch was provided. Do join us for the next business meeting in Oslo 2017 to be updated on our latest activities, exchange ideas, and plot plans for future participation, activities, and events.

d. Election

You should all be aware that the ECPR standing groups are now asked to write up constitutions and to hold election for the steering committee. Your SGPM has been one of the first standing groups to hold elections in August 2016. We had 7 candidates standing for office (in alphabetical order: Philippe Blanchard, Jos Elpink, Theofanis Exadaktylos, Lea Sgier, Bernd Schlipphak, Kathrin Thomas, and Tomas Turner-Zwinkels). We thank all candidates for their willingness to engage in the SGPM.

2. Your SGPM in 2016 (cont.)

d. Election (cont.)

The election results came in by the end of August. You can find the full election results on our [webpage](#). We are delighted to announce that your new SGPM steering committee consists of Philippe Blanchard, Jos Elkink, Theofanis Exadaktylos, Lea Sgier, and Kathrin Thomas. We would like to thank the resigning steering committee (Philippe, Theofanis, Lea, Kathrin, and Tomas) for their hard work until September 2016. Special thanks to Tomas Turner-Zwinkels who has dedicated a lot of work and effort during this last year. We very much appreciate all your hard work and contributions to the success of the SGPM.

e. Social Media

We are proud to report that we are hosting a very successful [Facebook group](#), where we post interesting discussions, jobs, and events related to all kinds of political methods. We currently have 615 friends. We hope to further increase our visibility and community on Facebook in 2017. Feel free to post, if you have interesting news, events, discussions on political methods.

Tweet tweet! We also joined twitter recently, follow us using the [@ECPRmethods](#) tag. We currently have 53 followers and follow 86 tweeters — numbers are increasing every day. We also crosslink our webpage, Facebook group, and Twitter.



3. Your SGPM in 2017

We have already planned some exciting things to move forward in 2017:

- Lea Sgier will be teaching her course on [Qualitative Interviewing \(WC101\)](#) again in 2017. In addition, Kathrin Thomas will be convening a 5-day workshop on [Survey Design and the Online Survey Lifecycle \(WC104\)](#) will be teaching at the ECPR Winter School in Methods and Techniques at Bamberg.
- Your SGPM will also be involved in the “Convince us!”- sessions again.
- Philippe Blanchard will also propose courses on correspondence and sequence analysis for the ECPR Summer School in Budapest.
- We are represented at the ECPR General Conference held in Oslo 2017. Your SGPM hosts a session on [“Methodological Challenges in Researching Elites” \(S35\)](#) chaired by Lea and Theofanis. In addition, your SGPM endorses an external session proposal chaired by Christina Eder (GESIS) and Isabelle Stadelmann-Steffen (University of Bern) on [“Measuring Political Participation” \(S34\)](#).
- We also hope to launch a methods blog on our SGPM homepage, which will provide you with insights to interesting methodological work, discussions, approaches once a month.

We hope you have an enjoyable festive season, wish you a very merry Christmas, and a very happy New Year! We hope to see you all in 2017!



Your SGPM Steering Committee

Philippe Blanchard, Jos Elkind, Theofanis Exadaktylos, Lea Sgier, Kathrin Thomas