

July 2017

Dear SGPM members,

With currently 265 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 2017. It has been a really successful year for us and we would like to thank you all for your great support!

We would 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:

1. Membership
2. Your SGPM in 2017
 - a. Activities at the ECPR Methods Schools
 - b. Panels at the 2017 ECPR General Conference in Oslo
 - c. Social Media
3. SGPM

1. Membership

As you have received our newsletter, you have successfully renewed your membership with the SGPM. We are delighted to have you on board in 2017! With 265 members we are still one of the largest Standing Groups. Hurray! We would like to remind you that you have to renew your membership by the end of every calendar year. Currently, membership in the SGPM is free of charge. We will update you about the procedures later in the year.

2. So far, so good

It is still early in the year, but your SGPM has already actively promoted and endorsed several great activities and launched many new services for you to participate in Political Methodology.

a. ECPR Winter School in Methods and Techniques 2017, Bamberg

Two of your SGPM SC members have successfully convened courses at the ECPR Winter School in Methods and Techniques at Bamberg this year. Lea Sgier is a true Winter School serial instructor. Lea has once again convened her very successful course on Qualitative Interviewing at Bamberg. For the first time the ECPR Winter School has also offered a course on Survey Design and the Online Life Cycle, which has been convened by Kathrin Thomas. The course discussed all stages of the survey lifecycle with special focus on web surveys along the Total Survey Error Framework. Both courses have been a great success and were much appreciated by all participants.

Your SGPM has also hosted the "Convince us!" sessions, which gave six junior researchers the opportunity to present their work and get feedback from the ECPR instructors and participants. Both sessions have been very successful. We thank all presenters and the two discussants for their active participation. We hope to establish the "Convince us!" sessions as a fixed part of the Winter School in future.

2. So far, so good (cont.)

b. Panels at the 2017 ECPR General Conference in Oslo

Post Prague is pre Oslo. Lea Sgier and Theofanis Exadaktylos have successfully submitted a session on [Methodological Challenges in Researching Elites \(S35\)](#) to this year's ECPR General Conference in Oslo. They will be hosting two panels:

- (1) The Study of Elites and Power Structures
5:40pm, 8 September 2017, BL07 P.A. Munchs hus, Room: PAM SEM7
- (2) Elite Emergence and Behaviour
9:00 am, 9 September 2017, BL07 P.A. Munchs hus, Room: PAM SEM7

In addition, your SGPM has endorsed a session on [Measuring Political Participation \(S34\)](#) organised by Christina Eder (GESIS) and Isabelle Stadelmann-Steffen (University of Bern) which will host four panels:

- (1) Innovative Tools in Measuring Political Participation
9:00 am, 7 September 2017, BL27 Georg Sverdrups hus, Room: GS 2531
- (2) Measuring Rising Forms of Political Participation
11:00 am, 7 September 2017, BL27 Georg Sverdrups hus Room: GS 2531
- (3) Measuring Voting Intentions Based on Pre-election Polls
3:50pm, 7 September 2017, BL27 Georg Sverdrups hus Room: GS 2531
- (4) Representativity and Measurement Errors in Surveys
9:00am, 8 September 2017, BL27 Georg Sverdrups hus Room: GS 2531

Do come along to hear our panelists discuss different aspects of elite behaviour using diverse analytical methods.

2. So far, so good (cont.)

c. SGPM Business Meeting at the 2017 ECPR General Conference in Oslo

We will host our annual business meeting in Oslo, which gives you the chance to meet your Steering Committee, to keep all of you up to date with the SGPM activities, to exchange ideas, and engage in plotting plans for future participation, activities, and events. The meeting will be held from 12:45-14:00 on Friday, 8 September 2017, in GS 253.

e. Social Media

Our [Facebook group](#) is growing and growing. We currently have 640 friends reading and posting about political methodology. Hurray! We hope to further increase our visibility and community on Facebook in the second half of 2017. Feel free to post, if you have interesting news, events, discussions on political methods.

Tweet tweet! We also joined twitter, follow us using the [@ECPRmethods](#) tag. We currently have 81 followers and follow 120 tweeters — numbers are increasing every day. We also crosslink our webpage, Facebook group, and Twitter.



f. Blogging time!

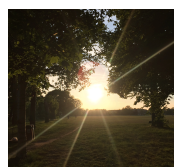
We are proud to report that we have initiated a [political methodology blog](#) on our webpage. Currently, we invite bloggers to write short pieces discussing interesting methodologies, improvements, or new tools. The statistics tell us that the blog posts are widely read. We hope to open our blog up in the future. If you have an interesting piece of methodological research that you would like to blog about, feel free to get in touch with us: contact@ecpr-methods.org

3. Your SGPM in 2017

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

- We are currently liaising with the Winter School about new ways of getting discussions on political methodology started and expand training opportunities for those interested in methodology.
- Moreover, we have started discussions about future collaborations with other Standing Groups to integrate and promote methods and substantive research at ECPR events.
- We will also be involved in other ECPR activities. Watch our [webpage](#) for updates.

We hope you have nice summer break and we look forward to hearing from you in the future. Until then, relax and talk methods.



Your SGPM Steering Committee

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