

December 2018

Dear SGPM members,

Many seasonal greetings to all of you and happy holidays. We are delighted that we had another successful year with the SGPM. It's fantastic to have such a great group of people interested in political methodology and related topics. Thank you very much all for your support!

Topics:

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4. Your SGPM in 2018

1. Membership

We currently have 303 registered members and we are proud of every single one of you. The ECPR has decided to change the duration of SG membership and has extended the term to two years. This is great news, as you will only have to renew your free SGPM membership every other year from now onwards! Yay! However, as this year marks the first time this change is implemented, we advise all members to double check, if the system has been updated yet. If you log on to your '[My ECPR](#)' go to 'My Account' and then 'My Groups' you may see a button saying renew membership. If this is the case, do not hesitate and click on it to keep up to date with your SGPM. If it already says that your term has been extended to 31/12/2018, you are all set. We are happy to have you on board!

2. Your SGPM Steering Committee

After our SGPM election in the autumn of 2016, we had a great Steering Committee including Philippe Blanchard, Jos Elkink, Theofanis Exadaktylos, Lea Sgier, and Kathrin Thomas (in alphabetical order). [Philippe](#) has announced that he wanted to retire from his SGPM post by the end of this year. We thank Philippe very much for his hard work and dedication to political methodology in the SGPM, it's been fabulous to work with you! Thankfully, we could convince Philippe to stay in touch with us and serve on the Advisory Board for the SGPM in the future. The SC has unanimously decided to offer the 5th seat to the [Bernd Schlipphak](#) who has been the first reserve on the list in our 2016 election. We are delighted that Bernd has accepted this post and will replace Philippe until the next election takes place at the end of 2019. We would like to warmly welcome you on board, Bernd!

3. Your SGPM in 2017

In 2017, we have established our presence at all flagship ECPR events, but also managed to start new projects.

a. General Conference

Your SGPM has successfully hosted a section on [Methodological Challenges in Researching Elites \(S35\)](#) and endorsed a section on [Measuring Political Participation \(S34\)](#) organised by Christina Eder (GESIS) and Isabelle Stadelmann-Steffen (University of Bern) at the general ECPR conference in Oslo (6-9 September 2017).

b. Convince Us

In addition, your SGPM has organised this year's 'Convince Us' Session at the ECPR Winter School in Methods and Techniques. We held two parallel sessions for qualitative and quantitative methods. Special thanks to Franziska, Magdalena, Markéta, Sanja, Tanja, and Benjamin for their excellent contributions to the panels and to Viriginie Van Ingelgom, Markus Wagner, and Ingo Rohlfing for their concise feedback and food for thought for the presenters and also all participants.

3. Your SGPM in 2017 (cont.)

c. WSMT

SC members Lea and Kathrin also held successful courses on 'Qualitative Interviewing' and 'Survey Design and the Online Life Cycle' respectively at this year's Winter School.

d. Social Media

We have also worked on our communication channels and can report back that we have improved our communication with you. We have worked a more on our [webpage](#) to keep you up to date and cross link our news items to our [Facebook page](#) and new [Twitter account @ECPRMethods](#).

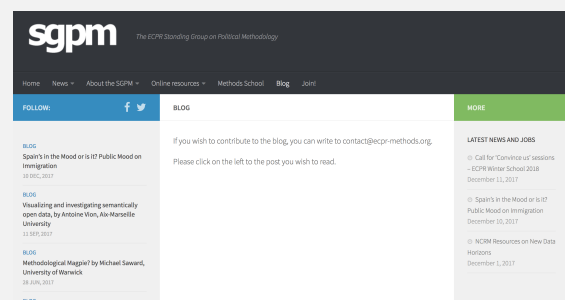


e. Blog

We have also started the [SGPM methods blog](#) this year. We can happily report that the blog pieces have been well perceived so far. We hope to increase its visibility and scope in the future and also hope to get you more involved. If you are interested to write blog piece for the SGPM methods blog, please drop us a short [email](#).



Our Facebook page currently has 685 friends and we have more and more contributors who submit interesting posts on methods, methods jobs, events and discussions. We have 124 followers on Twitter and follow 127 Twitter users posting interesting discussions about methods.



4. Your SGPM in 2018

We have already planned some exciting things to move the SGPM forward in 2018:

- Kathrin and Jos have successfully submitted a section on [The Future of Surveys for the Study of Politics](#) (S70), at the ECPR General Conference in Hamburg (22-25 August 2018), please consider submitting your panel or paper to our section! Deadline: 15 February 2018 (Midnight GMT).
- Your SGPM will host the ['Convince Us' Sessions](#) again at the WSMT 2018 in Bamberg.
- We are also working on various different things such as a methods conference, a mentorship programme for junior scholars to help them get support with their research methodologies, and sponsored methods workshops.
- We also aim to get you more involved. It's easy: get involved with a blog, tweet using the SGPM tag, or post directly on our Facebook site.
- Watch our [webpage](#) for further updates.

Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year!

Your SGPM Steering Committee

Philippe Blanchard, Jos Elkind, Theofanis Exadaktylos,
Bernd Schlipphak, Lea Sgier, and Kathrin Thomas

