

# ***Constitution for the ECPR Research Network “Political Communication”***

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## *General*

1. The research network on Political Communication encompasses research investigating the interactions amongst politics, media and the public. Areas of interest include, for example, research pertaining to the interaction between journalists and politicians, and the influence of media on politics, and vice versa, more broadly (media-politics); the impact of media on public opinion and electoral behaviour, as well as shifts in media in response to public preferences (media-public); the impact of public opinion on the behaviour and attitudes of political elites, and the direct communication of politicians with the public (politics-public).

The ECPR Research Network on Political Communication aims to establish a solid structure for scholars in the field of political communication to work together. It does so through a variety of initiatives, including the organization of sections and an annual meeting at the ECPR General Conference, promoting workshops related to Political Communication at the ECPR Joint Sessions, organizing own workshops, and establishing an ongoing network of communication amongst scholars engaged in political communication research.

## *Membership*

2. In addition to scholars affiliated to an ECPR member-institution who automatically become members of the Research Network if they register as such through *MyECPR* (subject to receipt of membership dues if required), others who may apply for membership can be admitted by the Research Network Committee if they show an active interest in scholarly study in the Research Network's field. Such membership becomes effective as soon as the Steering Committee informs ECPR Central Services of its decision (subject to receipt of membership dues if required).

## *Governance*

3. The Research Network is governed by a Steering Committee consisting of four members elected by and from the Research Network members for a period of three years. Members of the Steering Committee may serve up to two consecutive terms. After that a minimum break of one term is required before they may nominate themselves again for the Steering Committee.

The research network should strive for balanced representation of the interests of the network as a whole in the composition of its Steering Committee.

4. At least half a year before the Steering Committee's term of office expires, the Steering Committee invites candidates from among the Research Network members to nominate themselves within one month. If after that deadline fewer than four candidates and/or fewer than three candidates affiliated to ECPR member institutions have nominated themselves, the nomination period is extended for another month until at least four candidates of which three are affiliated to ECPR member institutions have nominated themselves.
5. If only four candidates have nominated themselves, including at least three candidates affiliated to ECPR member institutions, they are declared elected.
6. If more than four candidates have nominated themselves, but only three candidates affiliated to ECPR member institutions, the latter three candidates are declared elected; elections will be held only to assign the remaining seat on the Steering Committee to the candidate not yet declared elected.
7. If sufficient candidates have nominated themselves to have elections for all or part of the seats, the Steering Committee notifies ECPR Central Services within a month after nominations have closed of the names of the candidates, and of the number of seats to be filled.
8. ECPR Central Services will notify all Research Network members of the period within and manner by which they can cast their vote.
9. The electoral system is STV as used for ECPR Executive Committee elections.
10. If all four seats on the Steering Committee are to be filled, and the candidates who meet the electoral quota do not include at least three candidates affiliated to ECPR member institutions, the non-affiliated candidate meeting the electoral quota with the lowest number of votes is removed. This procedure is repeated until at least three candidates affiliated to ECPR member institutions are elected.
11. At its first meeting, which can take place at an ECPR event or virtually, the newly elected Steering Committee elects its own Convenor, Vice-Convenor, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Convenor and Treasurer are affiliated to ECPR member institutions. The newly elected Convenor immediately notifies ECPR Central Services of the names and functions of the new Steering Committee.
12. Annually a business meeting is held to which the Steering Committee invites all Research Network members. The business meeting is held during the ECPR General Conference or, if applicable, during the Research Network's main conference in a given year.
13. This Constitution can be amended by a two-thirds majority of Research Network members voting in an electronic ballot, provided at least thirty percent of Research Network members cast a vote.