

ECPR Standing Group on Political Communication

Dear members of the Standing Group on Political Communication,

We hope you and your loved ones are doing well! Below please find information about our section at the virtual ECPR Conference, the minutes of the business meeting, two job openings, two call for papers and an invitation to the digital political communication workshop of the Politicologenetmaal.

If you have news you want included in the next newsletter, please email: l.aaldering@vu.nl.

Kind regards,

The Steering Committee of the ECPR's research network on Political Communication

Katjana Gattermann (Convenor)

Jonas Lefevere (Vice-Convenor)

Iain McMenemy (Secretary)

Loes Aaldering (Treasurer)

14th General Conference, held virtually, August 2020, #ecprgc20

The political communication section of the virtual ECPR General Conference in August, , organized by **Patrick Van Erkel** (University of Antwerp) and **Luzia Helfer** (Geneva University) was a big success. Our section included 10 panels and 42 presentations.

The minutes of the business meeting (held at the virtual ECPR general conference) and some additional information about the conference, can be found in the attached document.

Thanks to all the participants for the great presentations and the constructive feedback. And a special thanks to Patrick and Luzia for organizing the section this year!

Job Opening

Where: Political Science Department, University of Lausanne

Position: PhD-position

Supervisors: Prof Diego Garzia and Dr. Frederico Ferreira da Silva

Duration: max. 4 years

Deadline: 15-09-2020

Description: The project addresses the issue of increasing negativity in democratic politics worldwide, through the lens of electoral behavior research. In particular it aims at providing a comprehensive assessment of the drivers of negative voting, as well as its impact on individual-level patterns of electoral participations and party choice. The project links electoral studies with political communication and political psychology research by exploring the connection between changing patterns of media exposure in old and new media, negativity and electoral change in liberal democracies worldwide.

More information: contact Prof Diego Garzia (Diego.Garzia@unil.ch)

Job Opening

Where: Department of Media, Society and Communication, University of Innsbruck

Position: University Professor

Topic: Media and communication studies, with a focus on democracy research

Deadline: 30-09-2020

More information: <https://www.uibk.ac.at/fakultaeten/social-and-political-sciences/organisation/ausschreibungen.html.en>

Call for Papers

Ecreea's Political Communication Section Interim Conference

Title: *Communicating crisis: Political communication in the age of uncertainty*

Date: March 26-27 2021

Place: Bucharest, Romania

Deadline for paper and panel submissions: 30-09-2020

More information can be found here: <https://ecreapoliticalcommunication.wordpress.com/>

Call for Abstracts

Special issue for Javnost – The Public

Topic: **Reclaiming the public sphere in a global health crisis**

Deadline: 15-09-2020

The editors of the special issue are Prof Barbara Pfetsch (Freie Universität Berlin) and Prof Hans-Jörg Trenz (University of Copenhagen)

More information can be found here: https://www.polsoz.fu-berlin.de/kommwiss/arbeitsstellen/kommunikationstheorie/news/CfA-Special-Issue-Javnost-2021_fin.pdf

Topic: Invitation to the Political Communication workshop at the Politicologenetmaal as a digital event (3/10/2020)

On October 3, 2020, the Politicologenetmaal was planned to take place in Nijmegen, yet due to the sustained uncertainties of the next few months the decision was taken to cancel the conference as a *physical event*.

However, we are happy to announce that the Political Communication workshop will be organized on October 3, 2020 as a ***digital event***.

With this announcement, we would like to inform you that anyone interested to join is warmly welcome and can attend the digital event (there are no registration costs connected to it since everything will be digital). The program includes 7 papers on several political communication topics such as negative campaigning, politicians' communication strategies on social media, trust in the media, media portrayal of MPs, political discourse analysis on TV and in parliament, etc.

Please drop us an email (emma.turkenburg@kuleuven.be and ine.goovaerts@kuleuven.be) if you want to stay updated about the details of the conference (precise schedule, zoom link, etc.) / would like to attend.

Best wishes,

Ine Goovaerts & Emma Turkenburg

Would you like to introduce yourself to the Political Communication community? Please send us a photo and a short text describing who you are, where you are based, what your research interests are and what you are working on at the moment (you can send it to l.aaldering@vu.nl).

ECPR Standing Group “Political Communication”

Business Meeting

Wednesday, 26 August 2020

15.30 – 16.30 hours (BST)

Held virtually

Minutes

Present from Steering Committee: Loes Aaldering, Katjana Gattermann, Jonas Lefevere, Iain McMenamin

Number of members present: 5-8 at different points in time

Abbreviations: SC = Steering Committee (of the Standing Group Political Communication); SG = Standing Group

Date of Minutes: 28 August 2020

1. Welcome

- a. Apologies of absence: none.
- b. Other matters arising: none.

2. Adoption of last year’s minutes (see additional email from 25 August 2020)

- a. The minutes were adopted.

3. Decisions / initiatives taken in the past year

- a. The Best Paper Prize 2019 at the 2019 General Conference in Wroclaw was awarded to Daniel Thiele for his paper “Emotional Framing in Right-Wing Populist Communication on Twitter. A German Dictionary-Based Measurement”.
 - The best paper award committee, consisting of Linda Bos, Michał Jacuński, Beatrice Eugster, Olga Eisele, Ana Langer and Dmitry Chernobrov, noted: ‘Ambitious and well-designed paper, with a significant and innovative contribution’, ‘It could be a seminal study in the field’, and ‘The paper is extremely well-written, well-structured, easy to read, ticks all the boxes’. Congratulations again and thanks to all panel organisers and members of the committee for their work!

- Due to Covid-19, we decided not to have a paper prize and award committee this year. We will resume that tradition in 2021.
- b. Richard Katz and Teresa Bejan organised the 2020 Joint Sessions Workshop “Freedom of Speech: How Much is Too Much?”. Overall, the workshop seems to have done very well and led to interesting discussions.
 - c. Jonas Lefevere took part in the (virtual) Standing Group Retreat 2020.
 - The format of the meeting differed from the normal retreat due to Covid-19, and was held online, with breakout groups to discuss subtopics.
 - The major topic of discussion was the virtual conference of 2020, where various suggestions were provided (i.e. lowering of the registration fees, ...). Furthermore, during the retreat the rebranding of ECPR was discussed: expect to see an update on the website soon to bring this in line with the new ECPR black/white branding.
 - d. Loes Aaldering, Katjana Gattermann and Bernd Schlipphak (SG Methodology) organised a workshop on “Linking Survey and Context Data to Analyze Elite and Mass Interactions” in Vienna in September 2019.
 - e. Political Communication Section by Luzia Helfer and Patrick Van Erkel this year: 10 panels. (see slides in appendix). Thanks to both Luzia and Patrick for their excellent work in managing the section, especially in these challenging circumstances!

4. Your virtual conference experience

- a. Overall, the experience is positive: Members report they enjoyed the high quality of presentations and discussions. Turnout has been high in most panels and some interaction was possible. However, some also thought there was less feedback than in face-to-face meetings; and it would be difficult to present to an audience, when most of them switch off their videos.
- b. Points for improvement:
 - The browser option did not work or caused issues with screen sharing.
 - Shorter panels of 1 hour would be desirable with a maximum of 3 papers. The long panels with 5 papers are less ideal to keep people’s attention throughout in an online setting.
 - Encourage all participants to turn on their video; possibly chair can hold a short round of introduction in small panels.

- Make conference more compact in terms of days. If possible, do not hold parallel panels within sections.
- Provide opportunities to connect, e.g., for PhD students.
- Publish timetable much earlier: as participants do not travel to the conference, it is hard(er) to ‘block out’ the conference days, so participants indicated that they had already accepted several meetings at the time the final timetable was published.

5. Discussion on Future SG activities and initiatives

- ECPR General Conference, 2021: call not yet open; members are encouraged to come forward if they would like to organise the next Political Communication Section.
- Joint Sessions, 2021 call not yet open; members are encouraged to come forward if they would like to organise the next Political Communication Workshop.
- Open science & young scholars initiatives
 - Iain McMenamain: We had been discussing an initiative on online collaboration to combine some of the features of a conference and an online repository. We also thought this might embrace features of online reading and writing groups. However, the pandemic has exhausted any energy and enthusiasm for further experimentation in this field for the moment.
- Research Project Grant
 - None of the SG members came forward with a proposal. Loes Aaldering and Katjana Gattermann proposed to liaise with Bernd Schlipphak from SG Political Methodology to apply for workshop funding on “Linkage Analysis” with the aim to establish a European research network in the long run. Members presented supported that initiative.
- If there are ideas/plans for any other initiatives or workshops/conferences/ a summer school/ etc., SG members are encouraged to get in touch with the SC, who will be happy to provide advice and ultimately the liaison with ECPR.

6. AOB

- What is the current status of the Standing Group?
 - The SG currently has 302 members!

- The next elections will be held in 2021. Members will receive more information from the SC in due course.

Political Communication @ECPR General Conference 2020



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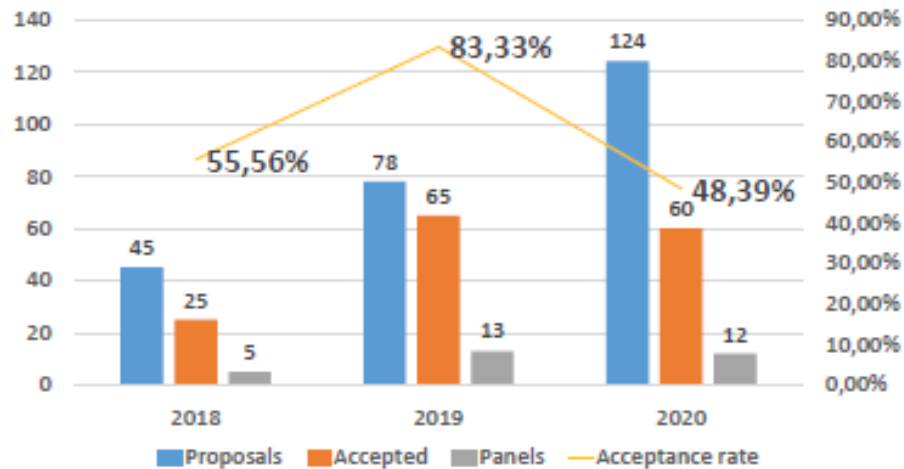
Situation GC 2020



- February 19th: submission deadline
 - 124 papers submitted, initially 8 panels awarded
 - Email to ECPR asking for more panels
- March 2nd: ECPR informs us that we have 12 panels
- **End of March: Selection round 1, 60 papers accepted (48%, plus 12 reserved papers)**

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Development since 2018



3

Changes to the virtual conference

- May 1: ECPR decides it goes virtual
 - Withdrawals → merge panels <3 papers
- Beginning of June: ECPR updates the panels
- End of July: More withdrawals
 - Cancel panels on *International Relations and Representation*
- Result: 10 panels with 42 papers

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Presenters (virtual event) by career stage

Description	Number	Share
Masters/Graduate Student	1	2%
Doctoral Student	18	42%
Post-Doctoral Researcher	13	30%
Lecturer/Senior Lecturer/Associate Professor (6) OR Guest Lecturer/Professor/Researcher (1)	7	16%
Full Professor	4	9%
TOTAL	43	100%

- *This information is based on an address list requested from the ECPR General Conference Organizers on July 27th 2020.*
- *One very late dropout in the final month before the conference is still counted here.*