



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 the new composition of the steering committee, the ECPR general conference, a call for abstracts for the ICA Political Communication PHD pre-conference, a call for papers for a special issue on negative politics, a call for papers for the virtual conference of the International Journal of Press/Politics, a job opening for a postdoc position and a job opening for a PhD position.

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 standing group on Political Communication

Laura Jacobs
Linda Bos
Katjana Gattermann
Jonas Lefevere
Loes Aaldering

The new steering committee of the ECPR's standing group on Political Communication

On March 18, an inaugural meeting was held to confirm the new composition of the Political Communication Steering Group at ECPR. At this meeting, a new task division has been updated for the next term as well:

- Chair: Laura Jacobs
- Co-Chair & Communication (Twitter): Linda Bos
- Events & budget: Katjana Gattermann
- Communication (website): Jonas Lefevere
- Communication (newsletter): Loes Aaldering

We thank Katjana, Jonas and Loes for their excellent work in the past 3 years and Iain McMenemy, who decided not to pursue another term, for his dedication and fantastic contribution as a member of the previous steering committee.

We are all excited to start a new term. And we want to start with a new feature as part of the newsletter where we will **highlight publications from junior researchers (mainly PhD researchers)**. So, if you are a junior researcher and have publications to report, please do not hesitate to send it to us, so we can take it up in the newsletter. Please also note that we also plan to draw attention to these publications and other events/workshop via the Twitter account and our website. If you do not follow us on Twitter yet, you can follow our account here: https://twitter.com/ECPR_PolCom.

ECPR General Conference 2021

The ECPR General Conference 2021 in Innsbruck (30 August - 3 September) will include the section 'Political Communication in Times of Crisis' of our standing group, organized by Laura Jacobs (Université Libre de Bruxelles) and Jakob-Moritz Eberl (University of Vienna). The preliminary program for the upcoming virtual ECPR General Conference is now out (<https://ecpr.eu/Events/Event/SectionDetails/1139>). There will be 10 panels for the political communication section with a total of 48 papers. With 75 submissions and 10 panels allocated by ECPR (increased from 8), this means the acceptance rate was 64%. Registration will open for participants at the end of May. In the next few weeks, the program will be finalized with panel chairs and discussants.

Call for Abstracts: ICA Political Communication PHD Student Pre-Conference

When: May 27, 2021

Where: ICA virtual conference

Aim: This preconference has three main goals. 1) Get feedback from senior colleagues and peers on your PhD research. 2) Provide insights on important aspects of academia such how to publish, research ethics, and building a CV. 3) Cultivating a network among early-career political communication scholars. To achieve these goals, the preconference will bring together a select group of PhD students working on political communication projects and provide them with the opportunity to present and discuss their projects in a constructive atmosphere.

Submission guidelines: We invite graduate students to submit their projects including all areas of political communication. Abstracts should be no longer than 750 words of text (excluding references) that include research questions, the theoretical or conceptual foundations of your PhD project, methods, preliminary findings (if available), and research significance. Abstracts will undergo review; please be sure to remove any identifying information. Please specify in the body text of your submission email the stage of your PhD work (e.g., writing of the research proposal, complete and defended proposal, initial data collection, advanced data collection, data analysis, final writing/defending) and include author names, institutional affiliation, name of promotor and email address.

Deadline: 26-02-2021

More information: sophie.lecheler@univie.ac.at

Special Issue Politics and Governance - Negative Politics: Leader Personality, Negative Campaigning, and the Oppositional Dynamics of Contemporary Politics

Editor(s): Alessandro Nai (University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands), Diego Garzia (University of Lausanne, Switzerland), Loes Aaldering (Free University Amsterdam, the Netherlands), Frederico Ferreira da Silva (University of Lausanne, Switzerland) and Katjana Gattermann (University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands)

Much of contemporary political dynamics have a *negative* component. Electoral campaigns increasingly promote political attacks against opponents; partisan differences in voters are morphing into affective polarization and profound dislike of the other camp; negative partisanship leads citizens to vote against disliked candidates instead of in favor of liked ones; candidates with dark and uncompromising personality traits are on the rise worldwide; news media are historically dragged towards sensational coverage of political events and the use of a conflict framing, and new online (and social) media follow suit; and waves of mass protests regularly shook the established political order. These developments all share an oppositional component and tend to rely on political narratives framed negatively. Indeed, in the background of many of these developments are the fundamental dynamics of entrenched “negativity biases”—according to which negative considerations have, when compared to equivalent positive considerations, a stronger effect and saliency.

Yet, research on these phenomena has mostly evolved on separate tracks. The thematic issue takes stock of these separate strands of research and brings together empirical work on election campaigning, leader personality, negative voting, and antagonistic political attitudes towards the establishment of an integrated framework on “negative politics.” As such, the thematic issue invites work that tackles one or more of the following issues (e.g.):

How to explain the rise of political leaders with a “darker” personality profile (e.g., low agreeableness, high narcissism, low integrity)?

Are negative personality profiles in political leaders more successfully (e.g., electorally) than positive profiles?

What are the effects of elite polarization and the use of negativity, incivility, and populist communication on affective polarization and negative voting?

Who likes negative politics? What are the “dark” individual underpinnings (e.g., in terms of attitudes or personality traits) that moderate the effectiveness of negative communication or drive participation to protest events?

What is the relation between negative campaigning and negative voting and negative partisanship?

How are negative voting and negative partisanship related to mass protests and political representation?

How do patterns of social media consumption, content exposure, and types of interactions relate to the development of negative attitudes towards parties/candidates?

The scope of the thematic issue is empirical in nature, and as such priority will be given to empirical investigations presenting new and compelling observational or experimental evidence—even more so if comparative and cross-sectional in nature. This being said, we also welcome meta-analyses, systematic literature reviews, and critical theoretical contributions.

Instructions for Authors:

Authors interested in submitting a paper for this issue are asked to consult the journal's instructions for authors and submit their abstracts (maximum of 250 words, with a tentative title) through the abstracts system ([here](#)). When submitting their abstracts, authors are also asked to confirm that they are aware that Politics and Governance is an open access journal with a publishing fee if the article is accepted for publication after peer-review (corresponding authors affiliated with our institutional members do not incur this fee).

Submission of Abstracts: 1-15 December 2021

Submission of Full Papers: 15-30 April 2022

Publication of the Issue: October/December 2022

More information can be found here:

<https://www.cogitatiopress.com/politicsandgovernance/pages/view/nextissues#NegativePolitics>

Call for papers: Virtual Conference of the International Journal of Press/Politics

Where: Zoom

When: 13-16 September 2021

Deadline for abstracts: 5 July 2021

On **13-16 September 2021**, the seventh conference of the International Journal of Press/Politics, focused on academic research on the relationship between media and political processes around the world, will be held virtually. **Professor Young Mie Kim** from the University of Wisconsin will deliver a keynote lecture. The deadline for submission of abstracts is **5 July 2021**. Attendees will be notified of acceptance by **12 July 2021**. Full papers based on accepted abstracts will be due **1 September 2021**. A selection of the best full papers presented at the conference will be published in the journal after peer review.

The conference will be free to attend. There will be a voluntary conference registration fee for presenters of GBP 30. Attendees will need to register to receive the secure link to participate in the conference, and those who want to contribute to the conference budget will be able to make a symbolic donation of GBP 5. The software will be able to host up to 500 participants at any time. Recordings of the conference video feed will be made available to the public shortly after the event.

The virtual conference brings together scholars conducting internationally oriented or comparative research on the intersection between news media and politics around the world. It aims to provide a forum for academics from a wide range of disciplines, countries, and methodological approaches to advance research in this area. The conference will be held on four days, in half-day sessions alternating mornings and afternoons that will include presentations and networking sessions. The program of the 2020 conference, which adopted a similar format, is available at <https://cristianvaccari.com/2020/07/21/program-of-the-2020-international-journal-of-press-politics-virtual-conference-21-24-september-2020/>.

Examples of relevant topics include, but are not limited to, the political implications of changes in media systems; the importance of digital media for engaging with news and politics; analysis of the factors affecting the quality of political information and public discourse; studies of the role of entertainment and popular culture in how people engage with current affairs; studies of relations between political actors and journalists; analyses of the role of visuals and emotion in the production and processing of public information; and research on political communication during and beyond elections by government, political parties, interest groups, and social movements. The journal and the conference have a particular interest in studies that adopt comparative approaches, represent substantial theoretical or methodological advances, or focus on parts of the world that are under-researched in the international English language academic literature.

Titles and abstracts for papers (**maximum 300 words**) are invited by **5 July 2021**. The abstract should clearly describe the key question, the theoretical and methodological approach, the evidence the argument is based on, as well as its wider implications and the extent to which they are of international relevance.

Please send submissions via the online form available at <http://bit.ly/IJPP2021>.

The conference is organized by Cristian Vaccari (Loughborough University, Editor-in-Chief of IJPP). Please contact Professor Vaccari with questions at c.vaccari@lboro.ac.uk.

Job Opening

Where: Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Position: Postdoc

Topic: The economic and cultural explanations of populism

With: André Krouwel

Deadline: 22-04-2021

More information: <https://www.academictransfer.com/nl/299430/postdoc-position-economic-and-cultural-explanations-of-populism/apply/>

Job Opening

Where: University of Fribourg

Position: PhD

Topic: Political Communication and Media

For: 5 years

With: Alexandra Feddersen

Deadline: 01-09-2021

More information: <https://www.unifr.ch/dcm/fr/assets/public/files/jobs/2104AssFeddersen.pdf?&p=1>

Job Opening

Where: Université Libre de Bruxelles

Position: Associate professor

Topic: Political Communication

Deadline: 30-04-2021

More information: <https://academicpositions.be/ad/universite-libre-de-bruxelles/2021/full-time-academic-position-in-political-science/156703>
