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 and have enjoyed a wonderful and relaxing summer!
Below please find information about the upcoming ECPR general conference, the Best Paper Award of the PolCom section of the ECPR General Conference and the invitation for the Business meeting of our standing group; a call for abstracts for a workshop on negative politics; a call for proposals for a series of webinars on political theory, public ethics, citizenship; and a job openings 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

Renew ECPR membership of Political Communication Standing Group

Membership for the Standing Group "Political Communication" (and other ECPR SGs) will expire on September 30. Hence, we kindly ask you to renew your membership via logging in on "My ECPR" and (if necessary) to update all information and renew your membership (under 'My Groups').

Update on ECPR General Conference 2021 (Aug 30-Sept 3)

Program
The final program for the ECPR General Conference and the section "Political Communication in Times of Crisis" endorsed by the Standing Group on Political communication is now out. All information on this conference can be found on the ECPR website. We are pleased to present 9 panels on various key topics (social media & digital communication, misinformation, populism, election campaigns & candidates, COVID-19, journalism, immigration coverage, media effects) underling the vibrant field of political communication. An overview of all panels for the session "Political Communication

in Times of Crisis" at the ECPR General Conference can be found below and [here](#). Instructions for discussants, chairs and participants have been sent to paper presenters. We thank all discussants, chairs and paper presenters for their contributions and look forward to a great conference!

Date	Time	Panel code	Panel name	Link
Monday, 30 Aug	13:15 – 15:00	P046	**Challenges of Digital Political Communication and Journalism**	**https://ecpr.eu/Events/Event/PanelDetails/11066**
	15:15 – 17:00	P262	**Misinformation, Fake news and Political Communication**	**https://ecpr.eu/Events/Event/PanelDetails/11065**
Tuesday, 31 Aug	09:00 – 10:45	P042	**Candidates, Leaders & Personalization**	**https://ecpr.eu/Events/Event/PanelDetails/11061**
Wednesday, 1 Sep	10:30 – 12:15	P250	**Media effects of Framing, Branding and Agenda-setting on Public Opinion**	**https://ecpr.eu/Events/Event/PanelDetails/11063**
	12:45 – 14:30	P252	**Mediatization, politicization, and (de-)legitimization of immigration in Europe**	**https://ecpr.eu/Events/Event/PanelDetails/10755**
Thursday, 2 Sep	10:15 – 12:00	P333	**Populist Communication & Polarization**	**https://ecpr.eu/Events/Event/PanelDetails/11059**
	12:30 – 14:15	P309	**Political Communication in the COVID-19 Pandemic**	**https://ecpr.eu/Events/Event/PanelDetails/11062**
	14:30 – 16:15	P308	**Political communication in Election Campaigns and its Effects**	**https://ecpr.eu/Events/Event/PanelDetails/10960**
Friday, 3 Sep	11:00 – 12:45	P384	**Social Media & Political Communication: Trends & Implications**	**https://ecpr.eu/Events/Event/PanelDetails/11064**

Best paper award
- Please note that there will be a "Best Paper Award" for the best paper that is being presented in the "Political Communication in Times of Crisis" session.
- All papers that are circulated in advance and that are on the program are eligible for this award. The nomination will be done (in consensus) by the panel chairs and discussants, resulting in a longlist of 10 papers (1 for each panel) which will be evaluated in the fall 2021 by an external jury. Eligibility is regardless of career stage and of ECPR membership status.
- Evaluation criteria are: relevance & contribution to field, novelty / originality, soundness of method & academic rigour, clarity & structure, originality, language
- To be eligible for the Best Paper Award, the paper should be circulated before August 20 (before 18:00 CEST)
- We are looking for jury members: please feel free to reach out to us if you would like to be part of this jury (which mean you would need to read/evaluate 2 papers). Please also encourage your colleagues to nominate themselves, many thanks!

Business meeting of SG Political Communication

We are pleased to announce that our business meeting will take place on Thursday 2/9 from 17:00 to 18:30 where will provide an update on the activities of our Standing Group. This meeting is open to all members (also those who do not take part in the conference) and we warmly invite you all to attend. The Zoom link can be found below. We hope to see many of you there!

Agenda:
- Report on SG's activities in 2021
- Proposals for SG activities in 2022
- Recap of ECPR General Conference 2021
- Membership renewal
- Feedback from members

Topic: Business Meeting: Political Communication
Time: Sep 2, 2021 17:00 PM Amsterdam, Berlin, Rome, Stockholm, Vienna Join Zoom Meeting
https://ecpr-eu.zoom.us/j/82444380165?pwd=bXo4eGdCNzh2dHdOcU1SQlhzdUVGdz09

Call for abstracts - Workshop 'Negative Politics: Leader Personality, Negative Campaigning, and the Oppositional Dynamics of Contemporary Politics'

Workshop dates: November 11-12, 2021 (online)

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 workshop aims at bringing 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 work invites work that tackles one or more of the following issues (e.g.):

(i)   How to explain the rise of political leaders with a "darker" personality profile (e.g., low agreeableness, high narcissism, low integrity)?
(ii)   Are negative personality profiles in political leaders more successful than positive profiles?
(iii)   What are the effects of elite polarization and the use of negativity, incivility, and populist communication on affective polarization and negative voting?
(iv)   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?
(v)   What is the relation between negative campaigning and negative voting and negative partisanship?
(vi)   How are negative voting and negative partisanship related to mass protests and political representation?
(vii)   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 workshop 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.

Following the workshop, papers may be invited to participate in a Special Issue on "Negative Politics," forthcoming at *Politics & Governance* (expected publication: 2022). The participation to the workshop is of course not binding for the participation to the special issue.

Deadline to submit abstracts: 30-09-2021

Abstracts should be approximately 300-500 words long, and clearly indicate the goals and scope of the article. It is not required at this stage that the abstract discusses their main results, which are irrelevant in the selection process. Please send your abstract as a word document to a.nai@uva.nl, making sure to clearly indicate the name, affiliation, and order of all authors on the first page.

Workshop conveners: Alessandro Nai (U Amsterdam), Diego Garzia (U Lausanne), Loes Aaldering (Free U Amsterdam), Frederico Ferreira da Silva (U Lausanne) and Katjana Gattermann (U Amsterdam)

Call for proposals: Political Theory, Public Ethics, Citizenship and Leadership

Context
Paideia Mundi is a think tank that focuses its research on political theory, public ethics, citizenship and leadership.
As a part of our activities, we organize regular webinars aimed at scholars, political leaders and informed citizens related to our research topics.

Invitation
In this context, we would like to invite scholars, including graduate students, working on subjects related to public ethics, citizenship and leadership to submit proposals to participate in a series of webinars that shall take place every two weeks from October 2021 until June 2022.
Participation will require that speakers submit their paper one month prior to their intervention. The paper should be fit for the 20-25 minute talk which will be followed by a 10-15 minute question period.

Potential Topics
Proposals may focus, but are not restricted to the following topics:
- What values should citizens and leaders prioritize in the Anthropocene era?
- What does it mean to be a good citizen or a good leader?
- How does good citizenship or leadership relate to the political regime?
- What type of education is required to raise ethical and informed citizens and leaders?
- How does technological progress impact leadership or citizenship?
- How can leaders/citizens ensure that science and technology work for the common good?
- How can leaders and citizens ensure that public policies aim at the common good, including that of other living beings and of the environment?

- Should our societies review the way they relate to other living beings and the environment? Why and how?
- Etc.

Submission Process
Participation in our webinars in free of charge.
To be considered to participate in one of our webinars, please send **a 500-word abstract** with a short biography and your contact information **by Friday, September 17**, 2021 at: contact@paideiamundi.org

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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