

ECPR Standing Group on **Political communication**



Dear members of the Standing Group on Political Communication,

Below please find a call for workshops for the ECPR Joint Sessions, a job opening for a PhD position; and information about a special issue on negative politics.

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
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ECPR Joint Sessions – Call for Workshops

We're thrilled to announce that the call for workshops for the Joint Sessions is now open. All info can be found here: <https://ecpr.eu/JointSessions>. The Joint Sessions will take place in a hybrid form from 11 – 14 April 2022 at the University of Edinburgh, and virtual workshops will be organized in parallel. The submission deadline for workshops is Monday 15 November, midnight GMT.

If you wish to propose a workshop and be endorsed by our standing group, please get in touch with Katjana Gattermann (k.gattermann@uva.nl) before November 1.

Job Opening

Where: Radboud University Nijmegen in collaboration with the Amsterdam School of Communication Research

Position: PhD position

Project: Biased media or biased citizens? Perceived and actual bias in public service media.

For: 4 years

With: Prof Carolien van Ham & Dr Erika van Elsas (RU) and Prof Claes de Vreese & Dr Katjana Gattermann (ASCoR)

Deadline: 07-11-2021

Questions: Dr Erika van Elsas (erika.vanelzas@ru.nl)

More information: <https://academicpositions.com/ad/radboud-university/2021/phd-candidate-empirical-political-science/164790>

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](#)).

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>
