ECPR Standing Group on
Political communication

Dear members of the Standing Group on Political Communication,

Below please find a job opening for a PhD position and one for a full professorship; a call for abstracts for a special issue on negative politics, a call for abstracts for a section on gender and political communication in the upcoming ECPG conference, and a call for applicants for a spring school on visual analysis on social media.

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

Job Opening

Where: University of Vienna
Position: University Professor of Communication with a focus on Media Change and Media Innovation
For: permanent position
Deadline: 12-01-2022
More information: https://personalwesen.univie.ac.at/en/jobs-recruiting/professorships/detail-page/news/communication-with-a-focus-on-media-change-and-media-innovation-1/?no_cache=1&tx_news_pi1%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx_news_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&cHash=a4a2eea6027a71da1c43e5be125e13ac

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Job Opening

Where: Amsterdam School of Communication Research
Position: PhD position
Project: Disinformation and Journalism
For: 3 years
With: Dr Katjana Gattermann, Dr Michael Hameleers and Dr Andreas Schuck
Deadline: 01-12-2021
Questions: Dr Katjana Gattermann (k.gattermann@uva.nl), Dr Michael Hameleers (m.hameleers@uva.nl) or Dr Andreas Schuck (a.r.t.schuck@uva.nl)
More information: https://vacatures.uva.nl/UvA/job/PhD-Position-in-Disinformation-and-Journalism/735946202/

Call for Abstracts: 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 eb found here:
https://www.cogitatiopress.com/politicsandgovernance/pages/view/nextissues#NegativePolitics

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Call for Abstracts: Section at the European Conference of Gender and Politics, Ljubljana 6-8 July 2022

'Gender and Political Communication: Theoretical Insights and Empirical Evidence'

Chairs: Loes Aaldering (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Tobias Rohrbach (University of Fribourg), Daphne van der Pas (University of Amsterdam)

Women are almost universally underrepresented in politics. Although the norm of gender equality has been widely supported (in Western societies) for decades, this has not per se translated into gender-equal politics: While there has been a wide range of female governors, legislators, (prime) ministers and party leaders, a large majority of the higher offices and governing positions are still held by men. Issues of political communication represent a major showplace for the gendering of politics, both as a producer of persisting gender inequality and as a catalyst for potential change. This section brings together various perspectives from the realm of political communication to explore the underrepresentation of women in political life, for instance:

1) Politicians as campaigners: As politicians have to actively navigate different gender and professional stereotypes that may exist in the electorate, male and female politicians are likely to highlight different issues, character traits, aspects of their personal background and ambitions in their communication to the public. This perspective invites papers that study differences in political campaign strategies and the controlled communication of the candidate, and/or the differences in the impact of these political messages for male and female politicians on voters. Work on (self-)presentation strategies may include rhetorical or visual approaches and focus on both traditional (e.g., public speeches, ads, campaign material, debates) or digital (e.g., candidate websites, social media platforms, blogs) forms of communication.

2) Politicians in the journalistic eye: Politicians themselves are the objects of political communication processes in a strongly mediatized environment where the media are citizens' primary source of political information. Thus, a systematic gender bias in the media coverage of politicians is likely to contribute to the underrepresentation of women in politics. This perspective invites papers that study the differences in journalistic portrayal of women and men in their political life, whether it be in the amount of the media attention or in the content of the media coverage. This includes research investigating a wide range of journalistic practices and gendered representations, as well as their effects on the audiences.

3) Politicians and digital communication: New media formats, such as social and digital media, pose new and particular sets of challenges to women in politics, such as gendered incivility and digital harassment. At the same time, new media formats also provide unique opportunities to mobilize and interact with wider audiences. This perspective invites papers on gender and new media, for example (but not limited to), threads on social media and blogs, meme culture, gendered algorithms, bots, and forms of multi-/crossmedia representation and communication.

The goal of this section is to discuss relevant and topical research on the intersection of gender, politics and communication that helps us understand the role of media and communication in the ongoing underrepresentation of women in the political world. We welcome both theoretical and empirical papers and we would like to bring together qualitative and quantitative researchers, employing experimental designs, interviews, content analysis, survey studies, computational, or other relevant methods. Papers that explicitly aim to strengthen our understanding of the causality and contexts of gender differences or communication effects are encouraged. In addition, we are also particularly interested in papers dedicated to an intersectional analysis of gendered phenomena in political communication.

Deadline for submitting an abstract: 8-12-2021
More information can be found here: https://ecpr.eu/Events/Event/SectionDetails/1081

Call for Applicants: Doctoral String School on Visual Analysis on Social Media
Cortona, Italy, March 28 – April 3 2022

The Scuola Normale Superiore (Florence, Italy) and the Europa-Universität Flensburg (Germany) invite applications from doctoral students for the 2022 Ph.D. Spring School on Visual Content Analysis on Social Media. The spring school will be held in Palazzone di Cortona, one of the colleges of Scuola Normale Superiore, in the small town of Cortona in the South of Tuscany, Italy. The school will take place from the **28th of March until the 3rd of April 2022**. The spring school is funded by the Volkswagen Foundation Grant 'Corona Crisis and Beyond – Perspectives for Science, Scholarship and Society'.

The fight for online attention is increasingly won by using visuals lunch the form of images, memes or videos. Younger internet users increasingly flock to visual-based platforms such as Instagram and TikTok. This is not surprising: images are understandable to a larger audience and can surpass language barriers. Despite this importance, images are still often overlooked in studies by social scientists. This spring school focuses on the role of political value conflicts on social media (specifically during the COVID-19 pandemic), and how visuals help in creating and shaping these conflicts. The school aims to address how methods of visual analysis can be applied to study political conflicts and online mobilization.

The spring school consists of five days of lectures and two days of practical sessions, that introduce students to a range of methods to analyze visuals (images, gifs and videos), from qualitative interpretive to systematic quantitative image approaches.

Programme of the Spring School
The Spring School consists of five days with sessions on carrying out visual analysis in the morning and in the afternoon lectures by prominent scholars in the field of image analysis. The students will have a theoretical session and a methodological session every day, followed by a lab in which they apply the methods that they learn. Additionally, two separate days are spent to coding the content and writing a small country report. With their coding, students will contribute to the outcome of the ValCon project, which funds the spring school. Students will also get feedback from experts in the field of image analysis about their own research projects.

Invited lecturers
Keynote speaker: Professor Giselinde Kuipers (KU Leuven)

Dr. Katja Freistein (Duisburg University)
Professor Alice Mattoni (Università di Bologna)
Professor Christina Neumayer (University of Copenhagen)
Dr. Tommaso Trillò (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Application procedure
The Spring School is open to 12 Ph.D. researchers with an interest in visual analysis and the study of political conflicts on social media. Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae and a short cover letter (no more than 1 page) outlining how their research focus fits with the topic of the Spring School and how participation in the school would benefit their research. Candidates are expected to have country expertise and language knowledge of at least one EU country, which they will focus on during the practical sessions. Candidates should therefore explicitly mention their knowledge of country cases and language skills in their CV.

These materials should be submitted as one PDF by sending an email to valcon@uni-flensburg.de before the **1st of December 2021**.

Enrollment fees, accomodation and location
The Spring School is fully funded by the Volkswagen Foundation. There are no enrollment fees. Travel (up to a certain reimbursement level outside of Europe), accommodation, lunch and coffee breaks are covered by the

Spring School. Participants will be accommodated in single rooms in the college of Palazzone di Cortona, in the small town of Cortona in the South of Tuscany, Italy, in easy reach by train from Florence or Rome. Classes will take place in the same location.

Spring School organizers
Professor Monika Eigmüller (Europa-Universität Flensburg)
Professor Hans-Joerg Trenz (Scuola Normale Superiore)
Dr. Diego Ceccobelli (Scuola Normale Superiore)
Nadine Hesse (Europa-Universität Flensburg)
Ofra Klein (Scuola Normale Superiore)
Dr. Giuliana Sorci (Scuola Normale Superiore)
Dr. Stefan Wallaschek (Europa-Universität Flensburg

Contacts
For applications and any additional queries, please contact the Spring School organizers at: valcon@uni-flensburg.de