

ECPR Standing Group on **Political communication**



Dear members of the Standing Group on Political Communication,

Below please find information on the sections on Political Communication and Political Crisis Communication at the upcoming ECPR General Conference, the workshop 'Moralizing in public debates' at the upcoming ECPR Joint Sessions, a call for nominations for the best book award by the International Journal of Press/Politics, a call for papers for the EPSAnet2022 conference, a call for the South America/South Europe International Conference, a call for papers for the PhD Workshop visual content analysis, a job opening for a PhD position and for a Postdoc position, and a request for published and unpublished studies on social media use and political knowledge.

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

ECPR General Conference 2022 – Call for papers for the Political Communication Section

The general conference will take (again) place in **Innsbruck, 22-26 Aug 2022**, but this time we are hopeful it will be a full live event. As previous years there will be a section on Political Communication.

We welcome studies that deal with various aspects of this growing research field, including research on party communication, the influence of media coverage on public opinion, election coverage, datadriven campaigns, political journalism, disinformation, ...

You can either submit an individual paper, or a full panel consisting of 3-5 papers.

Check out the guidelines and full call of our section here: <https://ecpr.eu/Events/Event/SectionDetails/1244>

The deadline is **February 16**.

We are looking forward to your proposals and hope to meet you in Innsbruck,

Section Chairs: Peter Van Aelst (University of Antwerp) & Rens Vliegthart (University of Amsterdam)

ECPR General Conference 2022 – Call for papers for the Section on Political Crisis Communication

Another section that might be relevant for members of the standing group on political communication is the section on political crisis communication.

More information can be found here: <https://ecpr.eu/Events/Event/SectionDetails/1252>

The deadline is **February 16**.

Section Chairs: Olga Eisele (University of Vienna) & Martin Senn (University of Innsbruck)

Call for Abstracts: ‘Moralizing in public debates’, workshop at the ECPR Joint Sessions, April 19-22 2022, University of Edinburgh

Although public moral discourse has always been present in the European tradition, in recent years fight between good and evil become the centre point of the political dispute (Lovin, 2021). Political messages nowadays are less explicit about conflicting interests, rather they focus on the moral implications of political actions (Grubbs et al., 2019). Much of contemporary political rhetoric is about purification and claims for moral leadership (Rhode, 2006). Moralizing is one of the key components of the political interactions both at the local, national, and international levels, but can take different forms depending on the contexts in which it occurs. Even though the literature on morality in politics is rich with publications describing the philosophical (Brink, 1997) and psychological foundations (Davidson et al., 2003), its communicative features need refreshed academic attention. This workshop contributes to the academic discussion on moralization in political communication, in particular, on its relevance for the increasingly conflictual politics in Europe.

Dworkin (2003) distinguishes between ethics and morality by arguing that ethics includes common convictions about which kinds of lives are good or bad for people, while morality includes principles about how the ruling elite should treat citizens. Further, moralization means “the acquisition of moral qualities by objects and activities that were previously morally neutral” (Rozin, 2010: 380). The objects and activities do not have intrinsic moral qualities but are determined by

the character of the arguments used in the debate (Rebecca et al., 2019). Moralization always has collective and communicative aspects: the shared ethical foundations are the robust predictor of political behaviour. The morality-based value judgments are not compatible with public deliberation as being often intolerant to disagreements. A high level of moralization leads to a conflict of absolutes, increasing hostility, stigmatization, and decreasing chances of political compromises (e.g. Yosida, 2020). This is also one of the key features of populism (Ruzza, 2020). However, morality is inevitable in democracies and useful for mobilization. Moralizing messages simplify the complexities of the political domain and encourage the citizens to view the legislative election as a moral decision. If politicians can convince that, they are the moral choice and the other candidate is the immoral choice, then they can increase the participation that stems from moral conviction. Moralization is promoted by exchanges of ideas about social values and norms, still, we need a more nuanced understanding of why and how political actors and ordinary citizens communicate about politics in a moral light. The workshop is also inspired by the study of the affective side of moralizing rhetoric. Researches support the claim that a diverse packet of emotions such as anger, contempt, disgust, guilt, shame, and pride play an essential role in moral cognition (Haidt, 2003). The expressions of moral emotions undoubtedly matter, yet it is rather an undiscovered field in political communication studies. The workshop's goal is to fill this gap, building on the premise that morally justified manner of speaking and the rise of antagonistic interactions in politics are very much interconnected.

Deadline: February 2, 2022

More information about the Joint Sessions: <https://ecpr.eu/Events/Event/Content?ID=1033&EventID=163>

More information about the workshop: <https://ecpr.eu/Events/Event/PanelDetails/11360>

Call for Nominations: *The International Journal of Press/Politics* Best Book Award 2022

Rationale

The *International Journal of Press/Politics* Best Book Award honors internationally oriented books that advance our theoretical and empirical understanding of the linkages between news media and politics in a globalized world in a significant way. It is given annually by the *International Journal of Press/Politics* and sponsored by Sage Publications.

The award committee will judge each nominated book on several criteria, including the extent to which the book goes beyond analyzing a single case country to present a broader and internationally oriented argument, the significance of the problems addressed, the strength of the evidence the book relies on, conceptual innovation, the clarity of writing, and the book's ability to link journalism studies, political communication research, and other relevant intellectual fields.

Eligibility

Books written in English and published within the last ten years will be considered. Monographs as well as edited volumes of exceptional quality and coherence will be considered for the award. Books by current members of the award committee are ineligible and committee members will recuse themselves from discussion of books by members of their own department, works published in series that they edit, and similar circumstances.

Award committee

The award committee consists of Cristian Vaccari (the editor of the *International Journal of Press/Politics*), Sophie Lecheler (chair of the Political Communication Division of ICA), and Seth Lewis (chair of the Journalism Studies Division of ICA).

Nominations

Nominations including a rationale of no more than 350 words should be emailed by **March 15** to Cristian Vaccari at c.vaccari@lboro.ac.uk. Self-nominations are accepted.

The nomination must specify why the book should receive the award by outlining the importance of the book to the study of media and politics and by identifying its international contribution and relevance. Please include links to or copies of relevant reviews in scholarly journals.

More information can be found here: <https://journals.sagepub.com/pb-assets/cmscontent/HIJ/2022%20IJPP%20book%20award%20announcement-1642571476.pdf>

Call for Papers: ESPAnet 2022 conference - Stream: Citizen Social Science and Social Innovation: New Practices for the Local Evidence-Based Social Policies

Deadline for abstracts submission: **4 April**

Conference: 14-16 September

Available Presentation Forms: in-person or online; posters and papers.

Abstract Submission (max 500 words):

<https://www.espanet-vienna2022.org/call-for-abstracts>

Stream Convenors:

- Andrzej Klimczuk, Ph.D. (SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Warsaw, Poland)
- Egle Butkeviciene, Ph.D. (Kaunas University of Technology, Kaunas, Lithuania)
- Minela Kerla, Ph.D. (Association of Online Educators, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Stream Description:

Social innovations are new ideas, initiatives, or solutions that meet the challenges in social security, education, employment, culture, health, environment, housing, and economic development. Citizen science activities serve to achieve scientific as well as social and educational goals, opening an arena for introducing social innovations. Such innovations are further developed, adapted, or altered after the involvement of scientist-supervised citizens (laypeople or volunteers) in research and with the use of the citizen science tools and methods.

The combination of these approaches leads to the development of citizen social science, which involves citizens in the design and conducting of social research, including engagement in research processes similarly to co-production and participatory action research (Albert et al. 2021). Citizen social science is recognized as crucial for gathering data, responding and resolving local development challenges, and cooperation between citizens and professional scientists. However, there are also various barriers to recognition of citizens' contributions and inclusion of innovations in public policies.

In this stream, we want to gather papers on both theoretical and empirical findings. Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- Citizen social science and social innovations in addressing public and social issues, problems and challenges.
 - Innovations and engagement of citizens in the mixed economy of welfare, including co-production of social services delivered by public, private, non-governmental organizations, and non-formal entities.
 - The potential of citizen social science in the improvement of local welfare programs.
 - Research methods related to citizen social science and social innovation (e.g., collective intelligence, participatory and grassroots activities, hardware and software development).
 - Digital social innovation and citizen social science, usage of big data analytics, ICT, and smart solutions.
 - Design, evaluation, communication, and dissemination of results of the citizen social science and social innovation initiatives.
 - Strategies for transferability and scaling of social innovations and citizen social science projects.
 - Good practices of collaboration between scholars and citizens in cities and communities.
 - Case studies and good practices summarizing lessons learned from a collaboration between scholars and citizens, including co-creation and co-production processes.
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Call for Abstracts: South America, South Europe International Conference

Title: ***'Aspects of Defense and Security in South America and Southern Europe: borders, conflicts and international cooperation'***

Venue: Onsite: (Budapest, Hungary – Ludovika – University of Public Service); Online: MS Teams

March 3-5, 2022

The central topic of the conference offers an opportunity to reflect on aspects of defense and security in South America and Southern Europe from different perspectives. The aim of this event is to provide a forum for scientific research carried out by *Researchers and PhD students*, related to security studies, regional security, defense studies, military engineering, and international studies. The conference is trilingual, presentations are expected in English, Spanish or Hungarian.

Subtopics:

- Security studies (military, political, economic, societal, and environmental security)
- Regional security
- Defense studies
- Military engineering
- International studies

Countries associated with the geographical scope of the conference:

- All South American countries
- European Union member states on the Northern shore of the Mediterranean: Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Greece.

Deadline: February 5, 2022

Information for Participants:

- The working languages of the conference are English, Hungarian and Spanish.
- Application: Please submit your application using this [abstract form](#): it must include title, names of authors, affiliations, country of origin.
- **Submission of the abstract:** ([Link](#))
- The length of the abstract is between 150-200 words, should be written both in English and the presentation language, and include 5 keywords. Please note that, if your presentation language is Spanish or Hungarian, you must include two abstracts: one in English, and the other in your presentation language, each abstract between 150-200 words.
- Registration fee: **free registration**, includes participation at the conference, the program, the book of abstracts and a certificate of participation.

Publication Opportunity - (Peer-reviewed Journal - Special Issue)

More information: https://ludevent.uni-nke.hu/e/southamericassoutheurope_2022

Email: southamericassoutheurope@gmail.com

Call for Papers: PhD Workshop visual content analysis by Mireille Lalancette, March 29 2022, Brussels

In an era of increasing digitalization and the rapid rise of social media as a key tool in leaders' political communication, the role of visuals and imagery should not be overlooked. In political campaigning, the role of images, memes, visuals can be powerful tools to attract voters and to convey political messages. Images are easy to understand and have the potential to appeal to a large audience and surpass language barriers. Importantly, images thrive well on social media outlets which are aimed at visual attention and online interactions based on images and movies, such as Instagram or TikTok. Notwithstanding their relevance in an increasingly digitalized world, the role of images and visuals have remained understudied in literature on political communication. Importantly, the study of visuals and images in political communication brings along specific methodological challenges. The aim of this 1-day workshop is to provide insight in the basics of visual content analysis applied to the study of political communication.

Participants

This offline workshop is aimed at PhD or early career scholars in the field of political communication and media/journalism studies who will make use of visual content analysis of social media in their projects. The workshop will be open to maximum 6 PhD students who will be granted the opportunity to present their work and receive feedback from Mireille Lalancette, a leading specialist in the field. Selected participants will be invited to submit a short paper (2500-3000 words) 1 week before the workshop describing their research project.

About Mireille Lalancette

The Cevipol (Centre d'Etude de la Vie Politique) of the Université Libre de Bruxelles will host professor Mireille Lalancette (Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières). Mireille Lalancette is a specialist in (digital) political communication. More specifically, she has published on the use of visual tools on social media outlets (such as Instagram) by politicians and she is an expert in visual content analysis with a focus on Instagram and the role of visual framing. Recent work on this topic has been published in *Canadian Studies* and *Visual Communication Quarterly*. More info can be found [here](#).

The workshop will take place on March 29, 2022 from 1:30 to 5:00 pm at the Université libre de Bruxelles, and will include a coffee break and possibly a drink, depending on the sanitary conditions and rules in force at the time of the event.

Submission deadline

Please submit a 1-page proposal by email to clemence.deswert@ulb.be by February 10, 2022. This proposal should briefly outline your research project and how you plan to use visual content analysis as part of your research. Selection will be notified to participants by February 20th.

Organizing committee

Caroline Close, Academic coordinator, caroline.close@ulb.be

Clémence Deswert, PhD researcher, clemence.deswert@ulb.be

Laura Jacobs, FNRS Postdoctoral researcher, laura.jacobs@ulb.be

Contact

For questions and enquiries, please contact: clemence.deswert@ulb.be.

Job Opening

Where: KU Leuven

Position: PhD Position

Project: NOTLIKEUS

Topic: Polarisation, Political Trust, and Participation

For: 4 years

Deadline: 13/02/2022

More information: <https://www.kuleuven.be/personeel/jobsite/jobs/60087461>

Job Opening

Where: University of Bamberg

Position: Postdoc at the Chair for the Governance of Complex and Innovative Technological Systems

Deadline: 31-01-2022

More information: <https://andreasjungherr.net/2021/12/20/job-ad-postdoc-at-the-chair-for-the-governance-of-complex-and-innovative-technological-systems-university-of-bamberg-2/>

Request for published and unpublished studies on social media use and political knowledge

Dear colleagues,

We are political communication researchers currently working on a meta-analysis of the relationship between social media use and political knowledge. We have so far collected and analyzed 68 studies, and at this stage we would like to ensure our list of studies is comprehensive. To be included in our meta-analysis, studies must be written in English, include quantitative data, and report the relationship between social media use (of any type: Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, general SNS use, etc.) and political knowledge. The meta-analysis covers studies that employ various research designs (experiments, surveys, panels, etc.) and that operationalize social media use in different ways, such as self-reports, behavioral data, or experimental manipulations.

We are looking for both published and unpublished studies (e.g., working papers, conference papers, dissertations, etc.).

If you have conducted such a study or can think of one that seems relevant, we would be grateful if you could send it to Dr. Eran Amsalem at: eran.amsalem@mail.huji.ac.il

If you are currently conducting research on this topic that has not yet been written up in full, and are willing to share your information with us, please provide us with an effect size measure (e.g., Cohen's *d*, Pearson's *r*, odds ratio) or any statistics that can be converted into a standardized metric. Alternatively, you may send us the dataset so we can compute the effect size ourselves.

Kindest regards,

[Eran Amsalem](#) (Assistant Professor, Department of Communication, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel)

[Alon Zoizner](#) (Assistant Professor, Department of Communication, University of Haifa, Israel)
