

ECPR Standing Group on
Political communication



Dear members of the Standing Group on Political Communication,

Below please find information on the upcoming first edition of the ECPR Political Communication Summer School for PhD students, a call for sections for the ECPR General Conference, a call for papers for the ECPR Joint Sessions on political communication and policymaking in the age of digital media and for a special issue on methodological developments in visual politics and protest, a job opening for an early career positions (PhD or post-doc) and an announcement on future job openings for post-doctoral researchers.

If you have news you want included in the next newsletter, please email: jonas.lefevere@vub.be

Kind regards,

The Steering Committee of the ECPR's standing group on Political Communication

Laura Jacobs
Linda Bos
Katjana Gattermann
Jonas Lefevere
Loes Aldering

Upcoming: ECPR Political Communication Summer School 2023

As was discussed during the Business Meeting, we are planning to organize a Political Communication Summer School every 2 years, for doctoral students. Good news: funding from the ECPR and the Amsterdam School of Communication Research (ASCOR) of the University of Amsterdam is now granted. Therefore, we are very happy to announce that in July 2023, **we will have the first edition of the ECPR Political Communication Summer School!**

About the Summer School

The ECPR Summer School on Political Communication is a new initiative taken by the ECPR Standing Group on Political Communication (Conveners: Linda Bos, Katjana Gattermann, Laura Jacobs, Jonas Lefevere and Loes Aaldering). The first edition will take place in **Amsterdam** at the Amsterdam School of Communication Research (ASCoR) from **3-7 JULY 2023** and will be organized in close collaboration with ECPR. The main objective is **to provide PhD students with a future-oriented conceptual and methodological toolkit for the study of political communication**: it thus features 5 days of methods and theory lectures from leading scholars in the field, plus a keynote lecture, roundtable, presentations by PhD students in smaller groups and plenty other opportunities for both formal and informal exchange and interaction.

More information on the program and how to apply for the summer school which will be provided to you as soon as possible.

Call for Proposals: sections for the ECPR General Conference 2023 in Prague

We're thrilled to announce that the call for sections for the ECPR General Conference 2023, held in Prague at 4-8 September, is now open. All info can be found here: <https://ecpr.eu/GeneralConference>.

Obviously, we want to have a section on Political Communication at the ECPR's flagship conference again. Therefore, we encourage all members of our standing group to propose a Political Communication section for this event. Organizing a section is fun, brings experience and is actually not that time-consuming.

If you are interested, please get in touch with Katjana Gattermann (k.gattermann@uva.nl) asap, and no later than **13 December**, to discuss your idea. After that, you can prepare the section proposal with our endorsement until 9 January. Note already that ECPR would like gender balance among the section coordinators. We also recommend keeping the section broad to include many relevant political communication topics.

Call for papers: ECPR Joint Session workshop ‘Political Communication and Policymaking in the Age of Digital Media’

The ‘Political Communication and Policymaking in the Age of Digital Media’ workshop, organized at the ECPR Joint Sessions by Emiliano Grossman (Science Po) and Ana Ines Langer (University of Glasgow), will be held at 25-28 April 2023 in Toulouse and online.

There is no doubt that there have been massive transformations to the contemporary media landscapes, but how have they affected governing and policymaking? What are the implications for the discursive power of governments, other competing political actors, and journalists? Are new patterns of elite communication emerging? Which forms do they take? How do these different processes and trends vary across countries, media systems and policy domains?

This workshop aims to bring together scholars from various subfields and methodological backgrounds to shed new light on these questions. We welcome studies from a variety of geographical origins, democracies and non-democracies and are particularly keen on comparative studies. We encourage submissions by PhD candidates and early-career scholars.

These workshops are a unique opportunity to discuss your work in-depth with a selected group of scholars working on the same topic from various subfields and methodological backgrounds. Please do consider submitting if you have a paper on the subject.

Deadline for submissions: **9th January 2023**.

More information can be found here: <https://ecpr.eu/Events/Event/PanelDetails/12452>

Please feel free to get in touch with the co-chairs for any additional questions.

Call for Paper: Special Issue ‘Methodological Developments in Visual Politics and Protest’

We are pleased to share the Call for Papers for a Special Issue on "Methodological Developments in Visual Politics & Protest", to be published in the Journal of Digital Social Research (<https://www.jdsr.io/>). Abstracts of 400-500 words are due 15th December 2022.

Full details can be found on the dedicated call website: <https://www.jdsr.io/call-for-papers>

Background to the special issue

War streaming on Instagram, propaganda in press photography, refugee activism on TikTok - recent European crises have shown images and videos as essential tools of communication in politics and protest, a trend mirrored in the increasing use of visual data in research methodologies. Visual data may capture practices of visual, performative, or non-verbal communication, text-image relationships, the development of visual formats, notions of aesthetics, as well as underlying meanings of symbols and codes. Extant research has since captured different elements of visual politics and protest, including social history (e.g. protest photography), political commentary or affiliation (e.g. through memes or profile picture overlays), social cues in political communication (e.g. in the form of GIFs, filters, or emoji), visual activism practices (e.g. culture-jamming, sousveillance video coverage, graphic flesh-witnessing, or video activism), and visual forms of information documentation and distribution (e.g. infographics).

Even so, new creative practices have at times challenged research practices, for example with regards to image authenticity and appropriation in mis- and disinformation campaigns (e.g. deepfakes), the role of platform affordances in new visual formats and spaces (e.g. short videos on TikTok), (mis)interpretation and differing levels of visual literacy in communications, trust in image data as factual evidence, and opaqueness in the production of visual materials. These critical debates have been particularly contentious in the arena of politics and protest, where visuals have been seen to shape political opinion and discourse, electoral campaigns, war coverage, and Covid-19 data visualisations.

In response to these trends, we are looking for methodologically oriented papers on visual politics and/or protest. This

may include methodological discussions, new methods or approaches, worked examples or case studies, research on emerging visual digital phenomena, or submissions linking theory to methodology surrounding digital culture, data, or methods. Foci may be based around methods of data collection, analysis, visualisation, theorisation, or other methodological areas.

On a broad level this may include (but is not limited to):

- New methodological approaches in visual or multimodal data collection or analysis
- Platform- or format-specific mitigations in conducting visual research on politics and protest
- New methodological approaches (including software tools if applicable) for capturing visuality or visual cultures in politics and protest
- Discussions of the relevance of technological formats, tools, and infrastructures in visual research
- Innovations in embedding visuals or visuality with textual, audio, or sensory materials
- Advancements in analysing specific political visual digital practices and/or phenomena
- Methodological strategies for interpreting and/or quantifying visual data
- Emerging approaches to visualising image or video data
- Suggestions or developments in the ethical treatment of visuality in politics, protest, or activism
- Epistemological discussions of the role of the visual in politics, protest, or social movements
- Advances in collecting, interpreting, and conceptualising social media data
- Linking theory to methodology in visual research

We are open to different article structures. However, articles should have clear contributions in the arena of methodological research by outlining or describing new methodological approaches, innovations, strategies, or frameworks. As such, they should draw on methodological scholarship in the wider field.

Submission and Key dates

Extended abstracts of 400-500 words excluding reference list (references are optional) are due 15th December 2022 and should be sent directly to the special issue editors - see email info below. Final articles should be submitted directly via the journal website of the Journal of Digital Social Research (<https://www.jdsr.io/>) and have a word count of up to 8500 words inclusive of everything (abstracts, reference list, notes).

15th December 2022: special issue abstract submissions

15th February 2023: End of abstract selection & communication of results

15th April 2023: Full papers due

15th July 2023: End of first review round

15th October 2023: End of second review round

December 2023: Publication of special issue

Further details

This special issue call follows on from the pre-conference workshop “Visual Politics & Protest - Methodological Challenges” organised by the ECREA Visual Cultures section (see <https://visualculturesecrea.wordpress.com/>).

Submissions to the special issue call are, however, open to everyone. For added context, the programme can still be viewed on the pre-conference website: <https://cutt.ly/visual-politics-ecrea>, along with a list of references discussed during the conference. In the case of both questions or submissions, please email us directly on the below indicated email addresses.

Special issue team

Suay Melisa Özkula, University of Trento, suaymelisa.ozkula@unitn.it

Hadas Schlussek, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, hadas.schlusssek@mail.huji.ac.il

Danka Ninković Slavnić, University of Belgrade, dninkovic@yahoo.com

Doron Altaratz, The Hadassah Academic College, doronal@edu.hac.ac.il

Tom Divon, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, zem1987@gmail.com

Job Opening

Where: University of Bern, Institute of Communication and Media Studies

Position: PhD student or early Post-doc

Topic: Spreading of conspiracy beliefs

Contract: 3 years

Deadline: 30-11-2022

More information: Prof. Dr. Silke Adam (silke.adam@unie.ch)

Link: <https://ohws.prospective.ch/public/v1/jobads/489189ad-b93b-4fbf-9688-abac78643055>

Job Openings coming up

Joseph Lacey in the School of Politics and International Relations at University College Dublin is the recipient of an ERC Starting Grant for his project **Moral Agency in Election Campaigns (ELECT)**. The project motivation rests on the observation that the modern campaign environment has changed significantly over the last decade. Big data, new media and the emergence of new electoral forces have altered how campaigns are run and won. ELECT will investigate what motivates the behaviour of candidates, campaign professionals, journalists and citizens in their varied campaign roles. In particular, the project is interested in understanding the opportunities and risks posed to democracy by changes in the campaign environment. The study will focus on four countries: Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Over the course of the project, **several post-doctoral researchers will be recruited from the field of political communication**. Recruitment for a September start will begin around February/March 2023.