

ECPR Standing Group on **Political communication**



Newsletter January 2023

Dear members of the Standing Group on Political Communication,

Best wishes for the new year!

Below please find information on the Joint Sessions workshop (deadline **today**, January 9th), results of the Standing Group's Best Paper Award, the Hazel Gaudet-Erskine Best Book Award organized by the International Journal of Press & Politics, as well as job openings for both early career positions (12 PhD positions) and more senior positions (assistant professorship). Also a short reminder about the forthcoming summer school.

Important: we have set up a Mastodon account. If you are active on Mastodon and want to keep up to date on news about the standing group, you can find us here: https://mastodon.nl/@ECPR_PolCom@toot.io

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 Aaldering

Joint Sessions workshop on Media and Policymaking in the Age of Digital Media

Emiliano Grossman and Ana Ines Langer are putting together a panel for the ECPR joint sessions: **Political Communication & Policymaking in the Age of Digital Media**. More information on the panel is available [here](#).

Transformation of the media landscape in the past few decades has profoundly affected the business of governing and policymaking (Grossman 2022). The process of steering public attention by governments and competing political actors has thus become much more complex (Langer & Gruber 2021).

This, in turn, might have affected governments' capacity to generate public support for policy decisions, possibly preventing some policies, or increasing implementation costs. Conversely, other actors might now have greater discursive power (Jungherr et al 201) to influence those decisions and the public's reactions.

To study these transformations, we want to focus, in a comparative fashion, on the discursive power of governments, competing actors and journalists in governing and policymaking.

The main factor behind this transformation is the increasing hybridization of contemporary media systems, with old media logics now coexisting with new ones (Chadwick 2017). The rise of digital media means that we can no longer assume the existence of a common national public sphere (Bennett & Pfetsch 2018).

Moreover, these transformations have profoundly affected gatekeeping and, thereby, the communicational pre-eminence and 'indexing power' of incumbent governments vis-à-vis other actors. Government- or policy-critical discourse can be voiced much more easily in the hybrid media system, including alternative visions – fake or not – of government or policies.

'Legacy' media, in this context, may feel compelled to follow statements, people and debates in new or social media, thereby echoing those trends and importing them into the more traditional media world. Conversely, this media environment might provide certain actors, especially in increasingly polarized political contexts or in crisis contexts such as the recent pandemic, with the opportunity to mobilize their core constituents' support more easily.

The characteristics of these trends and their consequences are not well understood. A first question concerns this apparent decline of government's discursive power vis-à-vis other actors. While processes of agenda-setting and framing appear to be more competitive, there is little unambiguous evidence about this, especially across cases, in terms of systems and policy domains. Relatedly, we need to know more about how this is linked to the changing roles of professional journalism.

A second, equally important, dimension concerns the impact of these changes. To what extent do these processes challenge governments' discursive power and empower other elites – and with what consequences? A third question concerns differences across policies, given that not all policies will get same amount of media attention nor will all be equally sensitive to the consequences of (negative) media coverage. Some policies may raise more legacy or social media interest or might be more vulnerable to mobilization by a range of competing actors, resulting from historical factors, cleavages or organizations.

A fourth question concerns governments' and other elites' responses to a changing media environment. Are new patterns of elite communication emerging? Which forms do they take?

Finally, and crucially, how do these different processes and trends vary across countries and/or media systems? This Workshop invites contributions trying to address any or several of these questions.

Feel free to get in touch with any questions (emiliano.grossman@sciencespo.fr). Deadline for extended abstracts 9/1/2023. To submit a paper, go to the event page on the ECPR website ([link](#)) and click 'Submit a paper'.

Political Communication ECPR Best Paper Award 2022

Every year, the Standing Group on Political Communication conveys an award to the best paper presented at that year's general conference. Based on nominations by the various panel chairs and discussants, the following eight papers were nominated for the award:

Panel	Paper title	Author(s)
Applying computational content analysis in political communication	Where to talk about what? Party issue strategies across communication channels	Christoph Ivanusch
Changing campaigns: understanding digitalization	Paying to Win, Exploring the Influence of the Meta Ad Delivery Algorithm in the Dutch Context	Fabio Votta, Tom Dobber, Natali Helberger & Claes de Vreese
Framing and attention effects in political communication	Do Online Discussions Trigger Political Participation? Results of Two Online Experiments	Carina Weinmann, Ole Kelm, Stefan Marschall & Gerhard Vowe
Media effects: comparative perspectives	Negative Campaigns, Negative Votes? The Effects of Negative and Dirty Campaigns on Citizen Meanings of Voting	Ming Boyer, Cal Le Gall & Carolina Plescia
Mis- and disinformation and the rise of alternative media	A Portrait of Alternative COVID-19 News Users – Who They Are, What They Read and How They Access It	Ernesto de León, Mykola Makhortykh & Silke Adam
Populist and far-right communication	Do real-world developments predict far-right news on immigration?	Christian S. Czymara
The impact of digital campaigning	Media effects on preferential voting	Lukáš Linek & Michael Škvrňák
The impact of the new information environment: effects of dis- and misinformation and incivility	Populist radical-right attitudes, media trust, and social media reliance: Combining survey and tracking data to investigate predictors of online exposure to disinformation.	Clara Christner, Mykola Makhortykh & Teresa Gil-Lopez

The best paper award committee read & reviewed all papers. This year, the jury was composed by: Mariken van der Velden, Jade Vrielink, Puck Guldemon, Emily Gravesteijn, Rossana Sampugnaro, Daniel Thiele and Jonas Lefevere (chair). A big thank you to all committee members. After evaluating the papers, the jury decided to designate as the **winner of the best paper award**:

“Negative Campaigns, Negative Votes? The Effects of Negative and Dirty Campaigns on Citizen Meanings of Voting” by Ming Boyer, Cal Le Gall & Carolina Plescia.
Congratulations!!

The committee praised the paper's contribution to a well-established and important field of research in political communication, the robust empirical design that features an original case to study both negative and 'dirty' campaigning. Moreover, it does so through a combination of a panel survey and an experiment, and complies with the highest norms in open science.

Because the nominated papers were of extremely high quality, this was not an easy decision. For this reason, the committee also wants to give an honourable mention to the paper by Fabio Votta, Tom Dobber, Natali

Helberger & Claes de Vreese, entitled “*Paying to Win, Exploring the Influence of the Meta Ad Delivery Algorithm in the Dutch Context*”. A very strong contender in its own right, the paper tackles a burgeoning field in political communication and features a highly original empirical approach.

Call for Nominations for The International Journal of Press/Politics Hazel Gaudet-Erskine Best Book Award 2023

Nominations are invited for the annual [International Journal of Press/Politics](#) Hazel Gaudet-Erskine Best Book Award, to be sent to committee members no later than March 17, 2023.

Rationale

The *International Journal of Press/Politics* Hazel Gaudet-Erskine 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 the following criteria: the extent to which the book contributes to internationally relevant knowledge; the significance of the problems addressed; the strength of the evidence the book relies on; conceptual innovation, clarity of writing; and the book’s ability to link journalism studies, political communication research, and other relevant fields of intellectual and scholarly inquiry.

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](#) (Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Press/Politics*), [Frank Esser](#) (chair of the Political Communication Division of ICA), and [Annika Sehl](#) (chair of the Journalism Studies Division of ICA).

Nominations

Nominations including a rationale of no more than 350 words should be emailed to Cristian Vaccari (c.vaccari@lboro.ac.uk) by March 17, 2023. 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 if applicable.

Arrangements should be made with the publishers of nominated books for one hard copy or e-book (i.e., the full book in PDF form) to be sent by March 17 to each of the three committee members at the following addresses:

- **Cristian Vaccari**, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Brockington Building U3.19, Loughborough University, Epinal Way, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 3TU, United Kingdom. Email: c.vaccari@lboro.ac.uk.
- **Frank Esser**, Department of Communication and Media Research, University of Zurich, Andreas St 15, 8050 Zurich, Switzerland. Email: f.esser@ikmz.uzh.ch

- **Annika Sehl**, Department of Journalism, Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Ostenstraße 25, 85072 Eichstätt, Germany. Email: annika.sehl@ku.de

Presentation

The award will be presented at the 2023 Annual Meeting of the International Communication Association and will be announced [on the IJPP website](#).

Past winners of the award

- 2022: Nikki Usher, *News for the Rich, White, and Blue: How Place and Power Distort American Journalism* (Columbia University Press 2021).
- 2021: Allissa V. Richardson, *Bearing Witness While Black: African Americans, Smartphones, and the New Protest #Journalism* (Oxford University Press 2020).
- 2020: Thomas Hanitzsch, Folker Hanusch, Jyotika Ramaprasad, and Arnold S. de Beer (Editors), *Worlds of Journalism: Journalistic Cultures Around the Globe* (Columbia University Press, 2019).
- 2019: Maria Repnikova, *Media Politics in China: Improvising Power Under Authoritarianism* (Cambridge University Press, 2017).
- 2018: Erik Albæk, Arjen van Dalen, Nael Jebril, and Claes H. de Vreese, *Political Journalism in Comparative Perspective* (Cambridge University Press, 2014).
- 2017: Katrin Voltmer, *The Media in Transitional Democracies* (Polity Press, 2013).
- 2016: Andrew Chadwick, *The Hybrid Media System: Politics and Power* (Oxford University Press, 1st edition 2013).
- 2015: Rodney Benson, *Shaping Immigration News* (Cambridge University Press, 2014).

The Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Politics of Adolescence and Democracy' (IP-PAD) is recruiting 12 fully funded PhD students

We represent a new Marie Curie Doctoral Network that brings together political science and communication, psychology and neuroscience to study the development of the political self in adolescence. '**Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Politics of Adolescence and Democracy'** (IP-PAD, <https://www.ippad.eu/>) is a partnership between the University of Amsterdam (Netherlands), University of Vienna (Austria), Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences (Greece), Jagiellonian University (Poland) and Royal Holloway, University of London (UK).

We have twelve PhD studentships across these five countries available to begin between September and October 2023. We just opened now the [call for applications](#). The deadline for applications is January 30.

As we are an interdisciplinary network, we are looking for MSc/MA students who want to do a PhD and have a background in the fields of Psychology, Political Science, Communication Science, Neuroscience, Sociology and related disciplines with an interest in Political Psychology, Cognitive Science, Survey Methodology, Experimental Psychology, Social Psychology, Cognitive or Developmental Psychology and Neuroscience.

Interested applicants can find more information here : <https://www.ippad.eu/phd> where we describe who we are, what we are looking for, what we offer and how to apply! And interested students can apply here: <https://vacatures.uva.nl/UvA/job/12-PhD-Positions-Politics-of-Adolescence-and-Democracy-%28Political-Science%2C-Psychology%2C-Neuroscience%29/760752402/>

Assistant Professor (UD) in Political Science with expertise in comparative politics

[Link to the vacancy on the VU website](#)

Are you a political scientist with a strong and appealing research agenda that involves comparative politics in an international context? Are you motivated to teach substantive and more methodological courses in this domain? Then, please apply at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU).

Location: AMSTERDAM

FTE: 1

Job description

The Department of Political Science and Public Administration is searching for an Assistant Professor in Political Science with expertise in comparative politics in an international context. The envisaged candidate is to teach courses in comparative politics and related themes and undertake research that contributes to our research program. We are keen to have a colleague who is methodologically self-reflective and commands distinctive skills in quantitative and/or qualitative methods. Given the range of expertise in the department, we particularly welcome applicants who hold expertise on (parts of) the global south. Other thematic interests that would enrich our political science team include political parties, political violence, processes of democratization, and digital politics.

Do you have a compelling research agenda that can contribute to our research programme on 'Multi-Layered Governance in Europe and beyond'? Then this may be an interesting offer for you. You need to hold a PhD in political science and demonstrate experience in teaching with positive evaluations. You maintain international research networks. You have a proven track record of high-quality international publications, and the potential to acquire research grants.

As an Assistant Professor, you are expected to be able to teach a variety of courses in political science at Bachelor and Master level. This may also be in the Bachelor in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) and the Master in Law and Politics of International Security. You conduct research, publish this in international, refereed journals and, where feasible, spread the findings to a wider public. Besides, you are active in acquiring external research funding, alone or with colleagues, and you may co-supervise PhD candidates.

The Department of Political Science and Public Administration is committed to high quality academic education and research. Our educational programmes include Political Science (bachelor and master), Governance and Organisation (bachelor), and Public Administration (master). We collaborate with the faculties of Humanities and Economics in the bachelor Philosophy, Politics and Economics, and with the Law Faculty in the master Law and Politics of International Security. Our research is organized in two programmes: 'Multi-layered governance in Europe and beyond' and 'New modes of public governance'. A central theme in our teaching and research in political science is the way in which domestic politics and international relations have become systematically interconnected.

Your duties

- teach and coordinate a variety of courses in political science at the bachelor and the master level
- undertake independent research and realize international high-ranked peer-reviewed publications
- apply for external research funding
- take on (minor) managerial duties
- where appropriate, co-supervise PhD students and mentor students and junior colleagues
- actively contribute to the scholarly community of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration

Requirements

- a PhD in political science, with
- a strong profile in comparative politics
- a proven track record in publishing in high-quality international refereed journals
- an attractive research agenda that fits the political science research programme “Multi-layered governance in Europe and beyond”
- demonstrable experience with high-quality teaching in political science
- (proven) ability and willingness to apply for external research funding
- excellent command of the English language
- a willingness to acquire a working knowledge of Dutch within two years of the appointment (for non-Dutch applicants)
- the ability to work in a team as well as independently

Given the current composition of the department, we especially welcome applications by female candidates and by applicants who enrich the diversity of our department in other relevant respects.

What are we offering?

A stimulating position in a highly committed team within a societally-engaged university and a vibrant international city. The job profile is based on the university job ranking system Universitair Docent 2 (UFO) and is vacant for 1.0 FTE. The position is towards a permanent contract. On full-time basis the remuneration amounts to a minimum gross monthly salary of €3,974 (scale 11) and a maximum €5,439 (scale 11), depending on your education and experience.

The initial employment contract will affect a period of 18 months.

Additionally, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam offers excellent fringe benefits and various schemes and regulations to promote a good work/life balance, such as:

- a maximum of 41 days of annual leave based on full-time employment,
- 8% holiday allowance and 8.3% end-of-year bonus,
- solid pension scheme (ABP), contribution to commuting expenses,
- optional model for designing a personalized benefits package.

About Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

The ambition of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam is clear: to contribute to a better world through outstanding education and ground-breaking research. We strive to be a university where personal development and commitment to society play a leading role. A university where people from different disciplines and backgrounds collaborate to achieve innovations and to generate new knowledge. Our teaching and research encompass the entire spectrum of academic endeavor – from the humanities, the social sciences and the natural sciences through to the life sciences and the medical sciences.

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam is home to more than 30,000 students. We employ over 5,500 individuals. The VU campus is easily accessible and located in the heart of Amsterdam’s Zuidas district, a truly inspiring environment for teaching and research.

Diversity

We are an inclusive university community. Diversity is one of our most important values. We believe that engaging in international activities and welcoming students and staff from a wide variety of backgrounds enhances the quality of our education and research. We are always looking for people who can enrich our world with their own unique perspectives and experiences.

Faculty of Social Sciences

The Faculty of Social Sciences examines the major social problems of our time from multiple perspectives. From bullying at school to dealing with transnational immigration, from the rise of populist politicians to creating a self-reliant society. Only at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam you will find all the academic disciplines needed to understand these 'wicked problems': alongside the traditional disciplines such as sociology, anthropology and politics, we also research and teach the new social sciences such as communication science and management & organization science. We do not settle for easy answers in our teaching and research. Our researchers and students are critical thinkers and doers who work together to devise surprising solutions to the problems of today.

Working at the Faculty of Social Sciences means working with colleagues from a range of academic disciplines in an inspiring and personal work and study environment with excellent research facilities. We employ more than 500 staff members, and we are home to around 2,500 students.

Application

Are you interested in this position? Please apply via the application button and upload your curriculum vitae and cover letter until **10/02/2023**.

Applications received by e-mail will not be processed.

Vacancy questions

If you have any questions regarding this vacancy, you may contact:

Name: Prof. dr. Ben Crum

Position: Professor of Political Science

E-mail: b.j.j.crum@vu.nl

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.