

Political Communication Section Annual Report 2016

Frank Esser (Chair)

Maria Jose Canel (Vice Chair), David Hopmann (Vice Chair)

1. Development of the section

The section has continued to grow. The number of submissions for the 6th ECC conference in Prague was 148, the highest in the history of the section. Currently, the section has 360 active members on the ECREA email list (and 620 according to longstanding historical ECREA files). Compared to previous main conferences (Lisbon, Istanbul, Hamburg) the section shows a picture of consistent growth and high activity.

2. Program building for Prague Conference

In addition to the 148 individual paper submissions we received 4 panel proposals for the Prague conference in November 2016. Each submission was assessed by 2 or 3 reviewers, meaning that a total of 62 reviewers were used on the blind review process. The section works with its own data base of over one hundred reviewers that is annually updated and can be drawn on for each conference. From the Executive Board, the division was allocated 18 slots in the Prague program, and this relationship between submissions and available program space yielded an acceptance rate of 50%.

3. Top Abstract Award at Prague Conference

At the Prague Business Meeting, the Top Abstract Award was presented to Carlos Brenes Peralta, Magdalena Wojcieszak, Yphtach Lelkes & Claes de Vreese for their paper titled "Desired vs. Correct Conclusions: The Motivated Selection of Balanced Content." The award was accepted by Carlos Brenes Peralta and Claes de Vreese (University of Amsterdam) on behalf of the co-authors.

4. Journal

At the Prague Business Meeting, Darren Lilleker (Bournemouth University) presented the outcomes of the Task Force (also including Lars Nord and Katrin Voltmer), formed to explore possibilities of launching a political communication journal – an idea the section has been playing with for several years. All the available options involve significant financial commitment from the section, which does not seem feasible at present given that the

section does not have any budget of its own. The new section management team will continue exploring alternative options (open-source publication models) in collaboration with the Task Force members.

5. Election of section management team

As the old management team (Frank Esser as Section Chair, Maria Jose Canel and David Nicholas Hopmann as Vice Chairs) has completed their term, an election was organized to fill the three vacant positions. In accordance with the section's Modus Operandi, Christina Holtz-Bacha (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg) was appointed as independent Election Officer. In the months prior to the Prague conference, she collated the nominations resulting from a published call and organized the election at the BM. The candidates were Andreas Schuck (University of Amsterdam), running for the position of the Section Chair, Vaclav Stetka (Loughborough University and Charles University Prague) and Melanie Magin (University of Mainz), running for Vice-Chairs. All the three candidates were elected by a unanimous decision of the present section members.

6. Next conferences

The next interim conference of the Political Communication Section will take place in Zurich on 22-23th November 2017, entitled 'Political Communication in Times of Crisis: New Challenges, Trends & Possibilities'. In 2018, the 7th European Communication Conference will take place in Lugano (Switzerland).

7. Internal communication

In addition to the section website and email newsletter, the section is currently also in the process of setting up a new Facebook page.