

Executive Board Annual Report 2021

Name of the Section/Network/Temporary Working Group:

Political Communication

Management team:

Chair: Melanie Magin (NTNU, Trondheim)

Vice-chair: Agnieszka Stępińska (University of Poznan)

Vice-chair: Jakob Ohme (FU Berlin)

Number of members:

427 (as of mid-November 2021)

Social media:

Facebook group: <https://nb-no.facebook.com/groups/1394409020594291/>

Activities in 2021:

When ECC2020 was moved to autumn 2021, we decided to hold our regular interim conference (which usually takes place in autumn) in spring 2021. The conference was hosted by Nicoleta Corbu, Dragos Farmazon and their team at the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (March 26th - 27th March 2021; virtual). 80 abstracts (including one panel submissions with 4 papers) were submitted. These were reviewed by 51 reviewers (2-3 reviewers per abstract). 59 papers were accepted (acceptance rate: 78%). The final program consisted of 15 panels with 3-5 presentations each. The keynote was given by Darren Lilleker (U Bournemouth). Winners of the Best Abstract Award were Jakub Jakubowski (Adam Mickiewicz University) and Filip Biały (Kazimierz Wielki University/University of Cambridge) for their paper "Spreading the (misinformation) disease. Discourse in the web portals and political decision making during COVID 19 pandemic and 2020 presidential campaign in Poland".

For the ECC2020/21 in Braga (6-9 September 2021; virtual), the section received 173 abstracts (including 6 panel submission with 5 presentations each). These were reviewed by 97 reviewers (2 reviewers per submission). Due to the postponement of the conference and the change to a virtual format, a significant number of originally accepted abstracts were withdrawn and substituted by the next highest rated abstracts. The final program contained 98 presentations (78 individual presentations + 4 panels with 5 presentations each) (acceptance rate: 57%). Winners of the Best Abstract Award were (with equal scores) Christian Baden, Tali Aharoni, Maximilian Overbeck, Moran Avital & Keren Tenenboim-Weinblatt ("Anchoring uncertain futures: How voters anticipate the implications of collective political choices"), Svetlana Bodrunova, Anna Litvinenko & Ivan Blekanov ("Communicative aggression as a baking agent of polemics? Aggressive speech and the dynamics of political discussion on the Russian Youtube"), and Edina Strikovic, Rens Vliegthart, Toni G.L.A. van der Meer & Linda Bos ("Politicians and the people: trends in press and parliamentary data"). Thanks to our technical assistants, Cristina Monzer and Harshad S. Pujari.

During ECC2020/21, a new section management team was elected, consisting of Melanie Magin (chair), Agnieszka Stępińska (vice-chair) and Jakob Ohme (vice-chair). We thank the previous members of the section management team, Andreas Schuck and Václav Štětka, for all their work and efforts for the section in the last five years. Both did not run for a third term of office.

In November/December 2021, the PolCom section started the second round of its mentoring program for young scholars. 11 young scholars applied for the program. Due to the high quality of the submissions, all of them were accepted, and the section management team found a mentor for each of them. The mentees (6 female, 5 male) come from 7 different countries. The mentors (6 female, 5 male) come from 8 different countries.

We have updated the website of our section (<https://ecreapoliticalcommunication.com/>).

Plans for 2022:

The section will organize the reviewing process and the section panels at the ECC 2022 in Aarhus as usual. Special emphasis will be given to the mentorship program. We will have a kick-off meeting with mentees and mentors in February 2022 and plan to organize regular virtual workshops for young scholars twice a year in collaboration with our new YECREA representative Cristina Monzer (NTNU, Trondheim). These workshops will be open for other interested young scholars.

In advance of the ECC2022, the section will provide a two-day virtual workshop on Methods and Concepts in Contemporary PolComm Studies in collaboration with our YECREA representative. This workshop mainly addresses young scholars but will be open to everyone.

Moreover, we are working on improving our networking with national associations/communities of researchers into political communication across Europe.

In October 2022 during the ECC2022, a new section management team will be elected.

The organization of the 2023 ECREA Political Communication Section Conference will begin later this year.