Welcome from the Chair

For those of you who were not in Fukuoka: Hi, I am your new chair. After being the program planner for two year, I am honored to serve as chair of our division for the next two years. I am really looking forward to working together with our new vice chair and program planner, Kim Gross (George Washington University), and our new secretary, Thomas Zerback (LMU Munich).

Let me take this opportunity to thank, Jesper Strömbäck, who has been an excellent program planner (2013-2014) and a committed chair (2015-2016). You did a great job! Also thanks to our former secretary, Natalie Stroud, for her service to the community.

I plan to continue this monthly newsletter. Thus, if you have information you want to share with the members, please let me know (peter.vanaelst@uantwerpen). In addition you can send announcements that need to be distributed more quickly to our social media editor Eike Rinke (rinke@uni-mannheim.de).

Enjoy the summer,
Peter Van Aelst, University of Antwerp, Belgium

Looking back at FUKUOKA 2016

The PolComm program

The 2016 Fukuoka conference was a great success for the Political Communication Division. 349 individual papers and 16 panel proposals were submitted. This is an all-time record. We were able to accept almost 50% of the proposals, which resulted in 41 panels and 20 posters.

To all 261 reviewers who helped out: THANK YOU! I hope you will all continue to review for the next conference in San Diego. Program planner Kim Gross will send out more information about this in due time. The growing success of our division will demand an extra effort from all of us.

2016 Best Papers Awards

During the Fukuoka conference, awards for the best papers (highest reviewer scores) were given.

Student Paper Awards
- Carina Weinmann, University of Mannheim. "Measuring Political Thinking: Development and Validation of a Scale for "Deliberation Within"
- Jasper van de Pool, University of Amsterdam/ASCoR and colleagues. "Do Voting Applications Narrow the Digital Divide? A Quasi-Experiment."

Faculty Paper Award
- Lukas Otto; University of Koblenz-Landau. "Beyond simple valence: Discrete emotions as mediators of political communication effects on trust in politicians"

Kaid-Sanders Best Journal Article of the Year Award

This year committee consisted of Lauren Feldman (chair), Rutgers U, USA; Lindita Camaj, U of Houston, USA; Johanna Dunaway, Harvard U, USA; Ulrike Klinger, U of Zurich, Switzerland; Michael Meffert, U of Leiden, The Netherlands

Starting from a list of journals (including most communication, political science, journalism, and public opinion journals with a political communication focus) the committee roughly classified 550 articles as "political communication". Each member read about 110 articles and nominated a short list of maximum 3. This process produced 12 nominated articles which were read, reviewed, and ranked by all committee members.

And the "ICA Kaid-Sanders Best Political Communication Division Article of 2015" award goes to...
David Swanson Award for Service to Political Communication Scholarship

A committee consisting of PolComm members from ICA and APSA chaired by Gianpietro Mazzoleni decided to give the 2006 David Swanson Award to Shanto Iyengar, Stanford University

The motivation for the choice:
Professor Shanto Iyengar has provided extensive service to the political communication community. He has served as chair of the division at APSA and has been a successful editor of our flagship journal, Political Communication, for 8 years (2007-2014). In that period it has become a leading journal in both communication science and political science.

Shanto is a world-renowned scholar in the field. Several of his books and articles have a major impact on many people in pol com. He is a creative thinker bringing new ideas and innovative theories to the table. Having his own original research agenda, he has not been following but consistently leading the academic pack.

He works regularly outside the US context and collaborates with scholars across the globe. Long before the term “interdisciplinary” became fashionable Shanto was and is the prime example of a scientist who is not constrained by the artificial boundaries within the behavioral sciences but who gets inspiration from a broad range of adjacent disciplines.

Not only theoretically but also in terms of methodological approach Shanto’s impact on the discipline has been huge. During the last few years, political science and communications have been becoming experimental disciplines at a fast pace. Experiments are now becoming one of the primary research method for explanatory research. Here as well, Shanto was a forerunner.

Last but not least, Shanto’s typical positivistic research approach hides an engaged and committed academic who cares strongly about good citizenship and the quality of democracy.

Congratulations to all the winners!

More info on the previous winners and the members of the jury on our updated website:
http://politicalcommunication.org/ica.html
http://politicalcommunication.org/icaleadership.html

The minutes and some pictures of the business meeting of the meeting can be found here.

MESSAGE FROM DAN HALLIN

Dear Political Communication Colleagues,

As we were completing a new book on mediatization of health and medicine, Making Health Public, my co-author and I ran into a problem with The New York Times demanding steep payments to reproduce quotations from news stories. We told Routledge, our publisher, that the reproduction of such quotations in scholarship on the media was covered by the principle of fair use, but their rights division wouldn’t budge on this. So we ended up paying the Times $1884 to reproduce three quotations ranging from 69 to 102 words. We didn’t want to do this quietly, though, so we decided to crowd fund the cost of paying for these quotations (https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1184347796/making-health-public-defending-fair-use?ref=email), as a way to protest the refusal of publishers and rights-holders to respect the right of Fair Use and to raise awareness about the importance of this issue to media scholarship. Please join our backers, and add your voice!

Dan Hallin, Department of Communication, University of California, San Diego

CALL FOR EDITOR of Political Communication Report and the APSA-ICA Political Communication Webmaster/Social Media Manager

The APSA-ICA Political Communication Joint Publications Committee invites applications for the position of Editor of Political Communication Report and the Divisions’ Webmaster/Social Media Manager.

The Political Communication Report is the online newsletter sponsored by the ICA and APSA Political Communication Division/Section. The editor of PCR is responsible for creating two newsletters a year and for overseeing the division/section’s joint website, politicalcommunication.org as well as its social media channels.

This is an exciting role within the division/section leadership that has the scope for real ownership and innovation. You will keep abreast of developments in our professional associations and others related to political communication, recently published books, and organize forums and features on topics of your choice. Funding is available for updating the website as needed.

As part of the social media operations of the division you will research and circulate opportunities (e.g., upcoming conferences, calls for papers, job positions) and engage with the community of political communication scholars. You
will be responsible for managing the political communication community and providing content on our social channels such as Facebook & Twitter.

You will be able to identify and develop new ways of engaging with and integrating the diverse global political communication community online. You will also cooperate with the Political Communication Forum editor to coordinate division communications in the form of features, forums, and so on.

The successful applicant will be appointed to a three-year term beginning 1 January 2017, after the current editor/webmaster/social media manager Eike Mark Rinke steps down. Interested applicants should send a CV and letter of interest indicating relevant experience by 1 September 2016.

All applications and queries should be directed to Michael Traugott (mtrau@umich.edu).

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