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https://www.icahdq.org/page/ICA23CFP

Political Communication Division

Conference Call for Papers

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The **Political Communication Division** supports research and theory development at the intersection of politics and communication. Political communication involves creating, shaping, disseminating, and processing information among actors from the political system, the media, and the public, as well as the effects of such communication. Political communication today is initiated by a multitude of actors with different interests, who use a broad variety of different channels to spread their messages. Studies of communication dealing with governments, media, policy, political actors, citizens, campaigns, platforms, social movements, and advocacy groups are all within the purview of the division. Papers that address political communication problems at all levels of analysis (from the individual to the institutional, from the local to the global) using a variety of theories and methods are welcome. The division especially encourages participation from Latin America, Asia, and Africa. Our division is committed to ICA's guidelines on Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Access (IDEA).

Members of our division have repeatedly advocated at business meetings that the focus of our conference program should be on *fully completed papers*, because this format allows reviewers to best identify strengths and weaknesses of submissions. We also accept a small number of *panel proposals* that are focused on cutting-edge topics and are diverse in terms of methodologies, theoretical standpoints, or nationalities of the presenters. We will again allow so-called *works in progress* for the 2023 Toronto Conference; these are short papers of 3000-4000 words. We are also including a new format called *research escalators* for the upcoming conference as well. Research escalators are extended abstract opportunities for early career scholars with less developed research ideas to receive feedback and support for their work with the goal of helping them develop the ideas into future projects for publication or conference presentation.

Please note the following detailed information:

1. **Full completed research papers**. These submissions remain the standard format of our division and have a minimum length of 6000 and a maximum length of 8000 words, including abstract and references (but excluding tables, figures, or other illustrative material). When submitting the paper on ICA's ScholarOne website make sure to select appropriate and meaningful keywords out of our division's keyword list. More specific keywords on the submission process can be found below.

Important: Please note that papers must adhere to the guidelines in the general ICA call for papers. Specifically, papers MUST NOT contain any identifying information (i.e. author names) and may not have been previously published or accepted for publication. Submission of the same paper or proposal to more than one division is not allowed. Covert self-plagiarism in papers can constitute a serious ethical transgression. Papers violating ICA's general submission rules MAY DISQUALIFY your submission from review.

2. **Panel submissions**. Panels provide a good forum for the discussion of new approaches, timely topics, ongoing political developments, innovative ideas, and debates in the field. If you plan to submit a panel, please submit the following details: (a) panel theme or title, (b) a 75-word description of the panel for the conference program, (c) a 400-word rationale, providing justification for the panel and the participating panelists, (d) 350-word (maximum) abstract of each paper, (e) names of panel participants (usually four presenters, plus a designated respondent), and (f) name of panel chair/organizer. In terms of diversity, we expect a strong panel proposal to (a) include contributions of at least two different countries, (b) feature gender balance, and (c) include not more than one contribution from a single faculty, department, or school.

3. **Works in Progress** (Short Papers). Short work-in-progress papers of 3000-4000 words in length allow scholars to present ongoing work that could not be translated in a fully completed research paper by the deadline. Work-in-progress papers should include succinct and sufficient information about research objectives, significance, methods, and preliminary (or expected) findings. Work-in-progress contributions provide an opportunity for late-breaking results to be presented more fully at the conference. We expect work-in-progress papers to be based on rigorous high-quality original research that further our understanding of political communication. They will undergo regular peer-review process and enjoy no special treatment and no softer admission barriers than full papers. Work-in-progress contributions are not eligible for top paper awards. They could be programmed with a higher probability in high density sessions or the interactive poster session.

Important: Submissions of this format may in no case be shorter than 3000 words and must not be longer than 4000 words (including abstract and references but excluding tables, figures or appendix material). They MUST include the words **"Work In Progress"** in the TITLE of the paper. Papers must not contain any identifying information (i.e.

author names) and may not have been previously published or accepted for publication. Submissions violating these rules will be desk-rejected.

4. **Research Escalators.** The research escalator is an opportunity for early career scholars with less developed research ideas to receive feedback and support on their work, with the intent of helping the work toward advanced stages of the knowledge sharing process: either publication or conference presentation. Research escalator submissions will take the form of extended abstracts that are not to exceed 1,000 words (excluding references). Extended abstracts should present concisely the purpose of the paper, main theoretical framework/assumptions, and, if applicable, research methods. Submitters should delete all identifying information before submitting an extended abstract. The extended abstract will be reviewed by potential mentors with expertise in the field and/or paper topic. If an abstract is selected for mentorship, the submitter will be expected to send the most recent version of their paper to their mentor(s) six weeks prior to the conference so that they have sufficient time to review the piece.

During the conference, time will be set aside specifically for the research escalator sessions. Submitters will meet with their mentors to discuss their feedback on the submission.

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How to submit?

- Go to submission website, which can be found on the ICA website: https://www.icahdq.org/
- Either log in or register
- Submission deadline is TBA

Please make sure to observe the following points:

- Each *submitter* (whomever is entering the individual submission in the system) is limited to three first author peer-reviewed submissions. Participating as a Co-Author, Session Organizer, Chair, or Respondent does not count against the three (3) limit.
- Given limited space on the program, the division may accept only one first-authored submission per person. If one submits more than one first-authored submission that receives high reviewer scores, the division may choose only one for the first author to present at the conference.
- We select reviewers based on paper title, abstract, and the keywords used when submitting the paper. Please be as descriptive as possible and select meaningful

keywords about theory, method/approach, and topic area so that appropriate reviewers can be identified.

- In the submission process, please also choose meaningful keywords about your own reviewer expertise. Consistent the ICA-wide policy, all submitters to Political Communication will be automatically added as reviewers for the division.

- As the submitter, you are presumed to be the first/presenting author. It is expected that at least one author of an accepted submission will present the work, no matter what the format. No last minute drop-outs, please!

- To protect the integrity of the anonymous reviewing process, papers and projects may not be available on pre-print servers prior to the completion of the conference review. Papers posted online or presented in other public venues or forums will not be accepted to the conference. Authors of submitted papers may make their work available after the reviewing process has been completed. The review process will most likely be completed by December 10.

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Call for Reviewers: We ask all paper authors and coauthors to volunteer as reviewers for the division.

We need YOU as reviewer!

The Political Communication Division routinely receives a large number of submissions, and we need a large number of volunteer reviewers to meet the goal of having each submission reviewed and rated by three qualified reviewers. We strongly encourage all faculty members and final year PhD students to volunteer to review submissions -- particularly those who are an author or coauthor of a submission to the Political Communication Division. The Division recognizes this important service each year with a Top Reviewer Award.

All reviewers must be registered with the ScholarOne paper submission website to be able to review and rate submissions. If you did not previously register with the ScholarOne website (which is different than the ICA website), you will be asked to create an account.

As part of the registration process, you will have an option to volunteer to be a reviewer (please check "Yes"), and then to select a division (please add Political Communication Division).

Next, select from the list provided at least three keywords that best represent your area of expertise. These keywords will be used to match you with the most relevant submissions given your expertise. Again, please select keywords that best identify your expertise in terms of content and methodology.

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Travel Grants

The Political Communication Division is offering travel grants for attendees without (sufficient) funding for the conference. These grants are especially directed at scholars from Tier B/C countries as well as junior scholars without own funding.

The call for the travel grants usually goes out shortly after the acceptance notifications from ICA have been made.

If multiple authors of one paper want to apply for funding, all who want funding will need to submit an application. Otherwise, the grant will only be awarded to the presenting author.

The travel grants do not cover all the costs for travelling and accommodation. Please also consider applying for the ICA-wide travel grants: https://www.icahdq.org/page/TravelGrant.

If you have any questions about the travel grants, please do not hesitate direct them to the secretary of the Political Communication Division, Lukas Otto (lukas.otto@gesis.org).