

Call for Papers for Special Issue

**Citizens, Media and Politics in Challenging Times: Perspectives on the Deliberative Quality of Communication**

Growing anti-immigration attitudes, rising nationalist tendencies, landslide victories of populist figures as well as the dissolution of national and supranational entities – these are just some of the multiple political and societal challenges western democracies are facing nowadays. These challenges have been said to affect the way citizens, the media and political actors communicate among and with each other. More specifically, concerns about the deliberative quality of these communications have been put forward. While this observation has so far been corroborated by a series of isolated studies, which produced not more than a few islands of analysis, an integrative and comprehensive perspective on the deliberative qualities of citizens', journalists', and politicians' communication is yet missing.

The special issue *Citizens, Media and Politics in Challenging Times: Perspectives on the Deliberative Quality of Communication* thus addresses this gap in the literature by systematically bringing together different strands of research on the deliberative qualities of citizens', journalists', and politicians' communication. The special issue thus aims at providing an integrative and comprehensive picture on modern political communication in times western democracies are facing a multitude of disruptive challenges. Theoretical, empirical and methodological contributions focusing on the deliberative qualities of citizens', journalists', and politicians' communication are welcome. Topics and questions of interest include, but are not limited to:

- (1) The deliberative quality of political debates: To which extent do political debates come close to the genuine benchmarks of deliberation? How deliberative is political communication transmitted via different channels (e.g., media types, media formats) as well as by different actors (e.g., journalists, politicians)? How is the deliberative quality of these debates perceived by the public?
- (2) Determinants and consequences of citizens' deliberation: Which role do arguments and scientific evidence play in promoting the quality of citizens' deliberation? Does civic deliberation indeed result in "better" outcomes? To which extent is civic deliberation positively related to political participation?
- (3) Uncivil online communication and deliberative interventions: To what degree does the deliberative quality of user comments reflect the deliberative quality of the news coverage? How does online deliberation via user comments develop over time? How do users interact when encountering dissonant viewpoints? To which extent are online civic interventions a panacea for disruptive and uncivil online behavior?

## Submission Guidelines

Submissions need to speak to the deliberative democracy and democratic innovations literature.

When preparing your submission, please check the JPD website for **guidelines on style and paper length**: [https://www.publicdeliberation.net/jpd/author\\_instructions.html](https://www.publicdeliberation.net/jpd/author_instructions.html)

Please **submit your manuscript** to the following email address: [si.jpd@mzes.uni-mannheim.de](mailto:si.jpd@mzes.uni-mannheim.de)

**Questions** about the special issue shall be directed to the guest editors **Christiane Grill** and **Anne Schäfer** under the email address: [si.jpd@mzes.uni-mannheim.de](mailto:si.jpd@mzes.uni-mannheim.de)

The **deadline** for manuscripts to be considered for the special issue is **July 31, 2019**. Manuscripts will be peer reviewed and a **decision** rendered until **November 2019** with a target **publication** of the issue in **2020**.

## Editorial Information

Guest Editor: Christiane Grill  
Mannheim Centre for European Social Research, University of Mannheim,  
Email: [si.jpd@mzes.uni-mannheim.de](mailto:si.jpd@mzes.uni-mannheim.de)

Guest Editor: Anne Schäfer  
Department of Political Science, University of Mannheim  
Email: [si.jpd@mzes.uni-mannheim.de](mailto:si.jpd@mzes.uni-mannheim.de)