

Call for Papers

PADEMIA-Workshop

EU-communication transformed? The 2014 Elections and future challenges

19 November 2014

Bertelsmann-Repräsentanz, Unter den Linden 1, 10117 Berlin

PADEMIA (<http://www.pademia.eu>) is a Europe-wide network of 56 academic institutions from 31 countries to promote research and teaching in reaction to growing European demands to study parliamentary democracy in Europe. PADEMIA seeks to enhance discussion among students, junior and senior researchers, also in exchange with stakeholders, on how to deal with the new challenges that parliaments and citizens across Europe are facing today.

The PADEMIA-Work Package 5 „Parliaments and the European Public Sphere“ focusses on the actors that exercise representative functions within the European polity, notably the parliaments, their communicative dimension in the context of European politics, and their role in legitimising politics by publicising political processes and democratic decisions.

However, when it comes to representation, relevant actors may be situated at extra-institutional levels, too. Historically, the media have been key to the institutionalization of modern democracies, serving as technologies for publicity and, in a wider sense, means for social integration. The question how, in an age of „communicative abundance“ (John Keane) and an increasingly fragmented media environment, the media, old and new, exercise their function in relation to other systems – including parliaments – is subject to intense debate and constitutes the topic of the PADEMIA workshop „EU-communication transformed: The 2014 Elections and the Media“ (jointly organized by the Institute for Media and Communications Policy and Bertelsmann Stiftung).

Against the backdrop of the 2014 European elections, we are particularly focusing on empirical as well as theoretical and methodological insights into...

1. The performance of the media in covering the 2014 elections (output, influencing variables etc.);
2. The communication efforts – particularly vis-a-vis the media – by the political parties;
3. The way the legislative and electoral functions of parliaments as well as the traditional "linkage function" of political parties are being transformed by social and technological change, notably the rising importance of the internet as a source of information and means of direct communication.

Paper proposals from different disciplinary strands, whether theoretical or empirical in focus, are invited.

Possible questions to be covered include the following:

- What, in quantitative as well as a qualitative terms, were the characteristics of the media coverage of this years European elections?
- To which extent did campaign efforts of the political parties differ from previous campaigns?
- How did political parties make use of the opportunities available to them beyond the traditional media?
- How did extra-parliamentary organizations, including populist, anti-European networks, make use of the internet to address parliamentary actors or influence the elections?
- What are the connections / interactions between national discourses in mass-mediated discourse as well as online? If the level of exchange remains limited overall, can we observe an intensified transnational debate surrounding EU topics in in forums, blogs etc.?

Funding is available to support travel and accommodation expenses for speakers.

Proposals should be submitted via email no later than October 24, 2014, to

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