

Chiara Vargiu

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Current appointments

09/2024 – present **Post-doctoral Researcher & Program Manager, “Conflict & Society” Research Priority Area**
Amsterdam School of Communication Research (ASCoR),
University of Amsterdam

Education

01/2021 – 08/2024 **Ph.D., Political Science**
PhD award: 20/01/2025 University of Lausanne, Advisors: Prof. Diego Garzia, Prof. Alessandro Nai, and Dr. Lionel Marquis
* **Faculty Thesis Prize**, awarded by the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences for excellence in doctoral research, CHF 1,000 (2025)

09/2022 – 06/2023 **SNSF Doctoral Mobility Fellowship**
Amsterdam School of Communication Research (ASCoR),
University of Amsterdam

02/2018 – 03/2020 **M.Sc. (research), Communication Science**
Amsterdam School of Communication Science (ASCoR),
University of Amsterdam
* **Cum laude**

09/2017 – 01/2018 **Pre-master, Communication Science**
Amsterdam School of Communication Science (ASCoR),
University of Amsterdam

09/2015 – 10/2017 **M.A., Political Science and International Relations**
Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)

02/2015 – 06/2015 **Erasmus Exchange Program (6 months)**
University of Warsaw, Centre for Europe

09/2013 – 07/2015 **B.A., Political Science and International Relations**
Università di Bologna, Campus di Forlì
* **Cum laude**

Other research experience

09/2020 – 12/2020 **Research Executive, Public Opinion Research**
Kantar Public, Brussels

09/2019 – 01/2020 **Trainee, Public Opinion Research**
Kantar Public, Brussels

Publications

Books

1. Nai, A., Otto, L., & **Vargiu, C.** (2025). *The Psychology of Attack Politics: Perceptions, Evaluations, and Effects*. Routledge.

Peer-reviewed articles

1. **Vargiu, C.**, Nai, A., Garzia, D. 2025. Stage 2 Registered Report: Incivility Does Not Exist: An Experimental Assessment on the Drivers of Incivility Perceptions and their Effects on Candidate Evaluations. *The Journal of Politics*.
2. **Vargiu, C.**, Nai, A., Valli, C. (2024). Uncivil Yet Persuasive? Testing the Persuasiveness of Political Incivility and the Moderating Role of Populist Attitudes and Personality Traits. *Political Psychology*, 00, 1-20.
3. **Vargiu, C.** (2022). It's All Relative: Perceptions of (Comparative) Candidate Incivility and Candidate Sympathy in Three Multiparty Elections. *Politics and Governance*, 10(4), 261-274.
4. **Vargiu, C.** & Nai, A. (2022). Sincerity Over Accuracy: Epistemic Preferences and the Persuasiveness of Uncivil and Simple Rhetoric. *International Journal of Communication*, 16(0), 1-24.

Chapters in edited books

1. Manuccci, L. & **Vargiu, C. [in preparation]**. Personality Politics and Populist Communication. In Gatterman, K., Costa Lobo, M. (Eds.). *Oxford Handbook on Personality Politics*. Oxford University Press.
2. **Vargiu, C.** (2025). Perceived Incivility. In Nai, A., Grömping, M., & Wirz, D. (Eds). *Elgar Encyclopaedia of Political Communication*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
3. van Dijk, R., van der Goot, E., Runderkamp, Z., Turkenburg E., & **Vargiu, C.** (2024). Verruwing in de politiek: hoe kiezers conflict en geweld in de politiek ervaren. In Voogd, R., Jacobs, K., Lubbers, M. (Eds). *Van onderstroom naar doorbraak: Onvrede en migratie* (pp. 46-54). SKON: www.dpes.nl.

Book reviews

1. **Vargiu, C.** (2025), Political psychology perspectives on populism: edited by Gilda Sensales, Cham, Palgrave Macmillan, 2024, pp. 478, ISBN 9783031440724. *Contemporary Italian Politics*, 1–2.

Media

1. **Vargiu, C.**, Nai A, (forthcoming), Chatbots can persuade voters. *News & View | Nature*.
2. **Vargiu, C.**, Nai A., Valli C. (May 2024), Uncivil Yet Persuasive? *Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Blog*.

Work in progress (* under review)

1. * **Vargiu, C.** & Nai, A., (2025). Partisan Differences in Support for Political Violence: Results from a Natural Experiment in the United States.
2. * **Vargiu, C.**, Vik A., Nai A., Hino A., R. Fahey. (2025). Past Petty Pouting: Perceived Marginalization, Need for Chaos, and Support for Political Violence in the USA and Japan.
3. * **Vargiu, C.** & Nai, A., (2025). Dangerous speech, partisan campaign (mis)perceptions, and radical negative partisanship.
4. * Nai, A., **Vargiu, C.**, Garzia, D. (2025). You must like me for me. New experimental evidence on the interplay between musical preferences and ideological attitudes.
5. * Nai, A., Allen, W., Borucki, I., Bossi, G., Boukes, M., Escalante-Block, E., Grömping, M., Hamilton, A., Hartmann, H., Reiter, J., Turnbull-Dugarte, S., Votta, F., **Vargiu, C.** (2025). Mapping peer review in the social and behavioural sciences, worldwide: Attitudes, preferences, and (questionable) practices.
6. **Vargiu, C.**, Da Silva, F., Nai, A., Garzia, D., (2025). Hitting Close to home: How in-party incivility increases affective polarization worldwide.
7. **Vargiu, C.**, Mann, L., Nai, A. (2025). When we think they despise us: Meta contempt and support for inter-partisan violence.
8. van der Goot, E., Turkenburg E., **Vargiu, C.** (2025). When yelling is compelling: Who perceives and approves of conflictual and uncivil communication in politics?
9. Nai, A. & **Vargiu, C.** (2025). Do American voters really have dark political attitudes? Evidence from open-ended survey responses.
10. Johnson, T., Lin, Z., Bos, L., Hurdogan, S., **Vargiu, C.**, Nai, A. (2025). King for a Day? The Influence of Media Use, Political and Threat to Democracy on Authoritarian Beliefs in the U.S. and the Netherlands.

Conferences, workshops, symposia, and other talks

Conferences (presentation/accepted paper)

- American Political Science Association (APSA), Annual Meeting: 2023
- European Consortium of Political Research (ECPR), General Conference: 2025
- International Communication Association (ICA), Annual Conference: 2021, 2023
- International Journal of Press and Politics (IJPP), Annual Conference: 2022
- International Political Science Association (IPSA), World Congress: 2025
- International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP), Annual Meeting: 2020, 2022, 2025
- Italian Political Communication Association (AssoComPol), Annual Conference: 2022
- Italian Political Science Association (SISP), Annual Conference: 2021, 2023
- Italian Society of Electoral Studies (SISE), Post-election Seminars: 2021
- Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA), Annual Conference: 2022
- Netherlands and Flanders Communication Association (Etmaal), Annual Conference: 2023, 2025
- Swiss Political Science Association (SPSA), Annual Congress: 2022

Workshops/conferences (invited speaker)

1. Workshop "Toward affective depolarization? Finding remedies to affective polarization in democracies", European University Institute, Firenze (IT), June 27-28, 2024

2. TegCog seminar, University of Bristol [online], May 9, 2024
3. Workshop "Negative Politics", U. of Amsterdam/U. of Lausanne [online], Nov. 11-12, 2021.
4. Prof. Silke Adam's Colloquium, U. of Bern, Bern (CH), November 24, 2022
5. EUI Political Behavior Colloquium, European University Institute, Firenze (IT), March 1, 2022.

Workshops/conferences (organizer)

1. ECPR Joint Session on "The Rise of Hostile Communication Styles and their Consequences for the Functioning of Modern Democracies" (co-directed with J  r  my Dodeigne), University of Innsbruck, forthcoming in April 7-10, 2026.
2. Closing event of the Swiss National Foundation (SNF) Project "The Rise of Negative Voting" (with Diego Garzia and Frederico Ferreira da Silva; keynote speech by Sondre Ulvund Solstad), Institute of Political Studies of the University of Lausanne, June 19-20, 2025.
3. Launch event of the Research Priority Area (RPA) "Conflict & Society" at the Faculty of Social & Behavioral Science of the University of Amsterdam (with Alessandro Nai and Abbey Steele; keynote speech by Leonie Huddy), Amsterdam (NL), November 29, 2024.
4. Public talk on "Defending and Rejecting Democratic Pluralism – The New American Conflict" (with Alessandro Nai and Abbey Steele; keynote speech by Lilliana Mason), Amsterdam (NL), December 13, 2024.

Grants and research funding

20'000 CHF	Mobility Grant, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) July 7, 2022, Ref. PCEFP1_186898 / 2
3'000 CHF	Research funds, Fondation pour l'Unil (FUNIL) October 10, 2023

Service to the discipline

Reviewer (Journals): European Journal of Political Research (EJPR), European Political Science Review (EPSR), Journal of Social and Political Psychology (JSPP), Nature Human Behavior, PLOSone, Political Psychology, Party Politics.

Reviewer (Grantors): National Science Centre (NSC) Poland

Reviewer (Publishers): Palgrave, Wiley

Reviewer (International conferences): International Communication Association (ICA), Netherlands and Flanders Communication Association (Etmaal)

Teaching

09/2025 – 02/2026	Master's Theses Supervision (Supervisor, U. Amsterdam) Currently supervising two Master's theses at the Amsterdam School of Communication Research.
10/2025 – 12/2025	Political Communication and Journalism (Tutor, U. Amsterdam) Currently leading a tutorial group (6 ECTS; weekly meetings) in the Communication Science Bachelor's course <i>Domain Module in Communication Science</i> at the University of Amsterdam, which introduces students to key theories and empirical findings in the field of political communication and journalism studies.

06/2025	Research Methods Tailored to the Thesis (Lecturer, U. Amsterdam) Taught block-seminar (6 ECTS; biweekly meetings) at the Amsterdam School of Communication Research aimed at methodologically preparing Master's students in Communication Science for their upcoming master thesis, with a focus on experimentation.
11/11/2024	Emotions in Political Campaigning (Guest Lecture – U. Bern) Delivered a guest lecture on the role of negativity and incivility in political communication during the seminar "Emotions in Political Campaigning" taught by Assistant Prof. Tobias Rohrbach.

References

Prof. Alessandro Nai	A.Nai@uva.nl – Associate Professor of Political Communication and Journalism at the University of Amsterdam.
Prof. Diego Garzia	Diego.Garzia@unil.ch – Assistant Professor of Political Science at University of Lausanne.
Dr. Andrea Vik	andrea.vik@rhul.ac.uk – Postdoctoral research fellow at the Centre for the Politics of Feelings, Royal Holloway University of London.