

Chiara Vargiu

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Current appointments

02/09/2024 – 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

10/2016 – 04/2017 **Trainee, Law Clerk and Legal Research Assistant**
International Criminal Court (ICC), Office of the Prosecutor

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.

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.

Textbooks/Educational Material

1. Ghiani, A. & **Vargiu, C.** (2021). *Check-in. Places, facts, people. Prove INVALSI & esame di Stato. Per la Scuola media*. Aimed at preparing middle school students for INVALSI and State exams [school textbook]. Edufidenia.

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). Stochastic terrorism, 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. **Vargiu, C.**, Da Silva, F., Nai, A., Garzia, D., (2025). Hitting Close to home: How in-party incivility increases affective polarization worldwide.
6. 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 behavioral sciences, worldwide: Attitudes, preferences, and (questionable) practices.
7. van der Goot, E., Turkenburg E., **Vargiu, C.** (2025). When yelling is compelling: Who perceives and approves of conflictual and uncivil communication in politics?
8. Nai, A. & **Vargiu, C.** (2025). Do American voters really have dark political attitudes? Evidence from open-ended survey responses.
9. 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)

- Workshop "Toward affective depolarization? Finding remedies to affective polarization in democracies", European University Institute, Firenze (IT), June 27-28, 2024
- TegCog seminar, University of Bristol [online], May 9, 2024
- Workshop "Negative Politics", U. of Amsterdam/U. of Lausanne [online], Nov. 11-12, 2021.
- Prof. Silke Adam's Colloquium, U. of Bern, Bern (CH), November 24, 2022
- EUI Political Behavior Colloquium, European University Institute, Firenze (IT), March 1, 2022.

Workshops/conferences (organizer)

- Closing event of the Swiss National Foundation (SNF) Project "The Rise of Negative Voting" at the Institute of Political Studies of the University of Lausanne (with Diego Garzia and Frederico

Ferreira da Silva; keynote speech by Sondre Ulvund Solstad), Lausanne (CH), forthcoming June 19-20, 2025.

- 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.
- Public talk on "Defending and Rejecting Democratic Pluralism – The New American Conflict" (with Alessandro Nai and Abbey Steele; 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 – SNSF Eccellenza 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.