

# Dr. Chiara Vargiu

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## University of Amsterdam

Department of Communication Science  
Amsterdam School of Communication Research (ASCoR)  
Postbus 15791, 1001 NG Amsterdam, The Netherlands

[c.v.vargiu@uva.nl](mailto:c.v.vargiu@uva.nl)

ORCID: 0000-0003-4841-1143

OSF: [osf.io/3x2zv](https://osf.io/3x2zv)

Bluesky: @cvargiu.bsky.social

## CURRENT APPOINTMENTS

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- 09/2024 - present     **Postdoctoral researcher, "Conflict & Society" Research Priority Area**  
Amsterdam School of Communication Science (ASCoR), University of Amsterdam
- 10/2024 - present     **Program Manager, "Conflict & Society" Research Priority Area**  
Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research (AISSR), University of Amsterdam

## EDUCATION

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- 2025     **Ph.D., Political Science**  
University of Lausanne, Advisors: Prof. Diego Garzia, Prof. Alessandro Nai, & Dr. Lionel Marquis
- 2020     **M.Sc. (research), Communication Science**  
Amsterdam School of Communication Science (ASCoR), University of Amsterdam  
\* *Cum Laude*
- 2018     **Pre-master, Communication Science**  
Amsterdam School of Communication Science (ASCoR), University of Amsterdam
- 2017     **M.A., Political Science and International Relations**  
Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)
- 2015     **B.A., Political Science and International Relations**  
Università di Bologna, Campus di Forlì  
\* *Cum Laude*

## PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- 09/2020 – 12/2020     **Research Executive, Public Opinion Research**  
Kantar Public, Brussels
- 09/2019 – 02/2020     **Trainee, Public Opinion Research**  
Kantar Public, Brussels

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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10/2016 – 04/2017 **Trainee, Law Clerk**  
International Criminal Court, Office of the Prosecutor, The Hague (NL)

## GRANTS AND RESEARCH FUNDING

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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

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Books

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

### Peer-reviewed articles

- **Vargiu, C.**, Nai, A., Garzia, D. (in press), 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*. <https://doi.org/10.1086/735437>
- **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, <https://doi.org/10.1111/pops.12969>
- **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. <https://doi.org/10.17645/PAG.V10I4.5677>
- **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

- **Vargiu, C.** (2025). Perceived Incivility. In Nai, A., Grömping, M., & Wirz, D. (Eds). *Elgar Encyclopedia of Political Communication*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- 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](http://www.dpes.nl).

### Media

- **Vargiu, C.**, Nai, A., Valli, C. (2024), Uncivil Yet Persuasive? *Character & Context Blog*. <https://spsp.org/news/character-and-context-blog/vargiu-nai-valli-political-incivility-swaps-opinions>

## VISITING FELLOWSHIPS & STUDY EXCHANGES

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2022-2023                    **University of Amsterdam**  
Amsterdam School of Communication Research  
SNSF Doctoral Mobility Fellow

2015                            **University of Warsaw**  
Centre for Europe  
Erasmus Exchange Program

## CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, SYMPOSIA, AND OTHER TALKS

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### **Conferences (presentation/accepted paper)**

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

### **Workshops, symposia, and other talks**

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

### **Organized workshops, symposia, and other talks**

- 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 in 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.

## REVIEWERSHIP

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Reviewer for: Journal of Social and Political Psychology (JSPP)  
International Communication Association (ICA)  
European Political Science Review (EPSR)  
Political Psychology  
Party Politics

## STATISTICAL & IT SKILLS

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**Software:** R-Studio (experienced), SPSS (experienced), STATA (intermediate)

**Programming languages:** R (experienced)

**Online research platforms:** Qualtrics, Amazon MTurk, CloudResearch, OSF

## LANGUAGE SKILLS

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**Italian:** native

**English:** fluent

**French:** good passive knowledge

**Spanish:** good passive knowledge

## REFERENCES

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Prof. Dr. Diego Garzia - [Diego.Garzia@unil.ch](mailto:Diego.Garzia@unil.ch) –SNSF Eccellenza Professor of Political Science at University of Lausanne

Prof. Dr. Alessandro Nai – [A.Nai@uva.nl](mailto:A.Nai@uva.nl) – Associate Professor of Political Communication and Journalism at the University of Amsterdam