

Call for Papers

An Interdisciplinary Workshop on Consequences of Political Polarization

December 16, Brno, Czech Republic

The workshop examines the impact of polarization on individual beliefs and behaviors, particularly its effects on democratic norms, political engagement, well-being, and trust in institutions. While polarization research has grown rapidly, a complete understanding of its consequences remains elusive. Some scholars highlight negative effects, such as harm to democratic legitimacy and cross-party collaboration, while others see benefits like clearer political alternatives. Additionally, some argue that the presumed effects of polarization are often overstated and weakly supported by data. The workshop aims to explore how polarization affects individuals psychologically and behaviorally, including its influence on well-being in daily life and within digital environments, assess its broader consequences, and analyze the role of elites in driving or mitigating divides. By convening scholars from various disciplines, it seeks to offer a nuanced perspective on polarization's challenges and explore strategies for preserving democratic values and fostering societal cohesion.

The workshop will be held at Masaryk University in Brno on December 16, 2024. Early-career scholars are especially encouraged to apply. We are currently negotiating the possibility of travel grants for junior scholars.

If you are interested in attending, please send an email including an extended abstract (with full methods and results, 500 to 1000 words) to figureout.polarization@gmail.com. Alternatively, you may submit a detailed pre-analysis plan. The deadline for applications is October 18. We will notify successful applicants by October 25.

There are no registration fees for this event. Dinner and refreshments throughout the day will be provided.

Featuring:

Sean Westwood, Polarization Research Lab, Dartmouth College

Markus Wagner, University of Vienna

Organizers:

Tadeas Cely, Masaryk University

Lenka Hrbková, Department of Political Science, Masaryk University

Jan Šerek, INPSY: Psychology Research Institute, Masaryk University

LINK:

<https://x.com/CelyTadeas/status/1838111058986451344>