

2025 ISPP Nominee Bios



PRESIDENT-ELECT: Michał Bilewicz is an Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Warsaw, Poland, and the founder of the Center for Research on Prejudice at the same institution. He also serves as the vice-president of the Committee of Psychology of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Dr. Bilewicz's research focuses on the psychological mechanisms behind intergroup relations, prejudice, and collective memory. His work investigates how ideologies, social identity, and historical narratives influence individual and group behavior, particularly in the context of intergroup conflict and reconciliation.

Recently, Dr. Bilewicz has centered his research on the role of historical trauma in contemporary social and political processes. In collaboration with Sabina Cehajic-Clancy, he developed the moral-exemplars-based model of reconciliation. Together with Wiktor Soral he proposed the epidemic model of hate speech. His research has been published in leading journals, including *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *Advances in Political Psychology*, and *Social Psychological and Personality Science*.

Dr. Bilewicz is the co-author of *The Psychology of Conspiracy* (Routledge, 2015) and has contributed to several edited volumes on political psychology and intergroup relations. His work has been supported by funding from the Polish National Science Centre (NCN), the European Commission, the German Research Foundation (DFG), the Foundation for Polish Science (FNP), and the Rothschild Foundation. He has received numerous awards for his scholarly contributions, including the Nevitt Sanford Award from the International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP).

An active member of the international academic community, Dr. Bilewicz has served on the Executive Board of the European Association of Social Psychology and the Governing Council of the ISPP. He was also a conference co-chair for the 36th Annual Meeting of ISPP in Warsaw (2016).

Dr. Bilewicz earned his Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the University of Warsaw in 2005. He was a DAAD post-doctoral scholar at Friedrich Schiller University in Jena (Germany), a Fulbright Junior Scholar at the New School for Social Research (USA), a visiting professor at the University of Leipzig (Germany), and an affiliated professor at the University of Delaware (USA).



VICE PRESIDENT – INITIATIVES: Martijn van Zomeren is a full professor in Social Psychology at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands, with a chair in the *Political and Cultural Psychology of Social Relationships*. He was an elected ISPP Governing Council member from 2016-2018, chaired the ISPP Best Dissertation Award in 2016, and has been part of various ISPP subcommittees.

Martijn is a productive scholar, probably best known for his work on motivations for social protest, an enthusiastic teacher, and a committed PhD supervisor and mentor. He publishes empirical and theoretical journal articles but also writes monographs and puts together edited volumes. He was awarded ISPP's Erik Erikson Early Career award in 2016, and EASP's Jos Jaspars Early Career award in 2011. He was editor-in-chief of the *European Journal of Social Psychology* (2018-2020) and served as action or associate editor of various journals. He currently is editor-in-chief of the *European Review of Social Psychology* (2023-2026). He also is a series editor of the Routledge book series *Global Perspectives on Political Psychology*.

Regarding the Vice President (Initiatives) role, Martijn is looking forward to overseeing ongoing and starting new initiatives that will benefit and grow the ISPP membership, and political psychology more broadly across the globe. He values the international and diverse professional atmosphere within ISPP and strongly supports initiatives to stimulate early career researchers in political psychology. Furthermore, he values theoretically integrative efforts within and across disciplinary boundaries, empirically integrative efforts within and across methodological boundaries, and team science.



GOVERNING COUNCIL: Alexa Bankert is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Georgia (USA). Since 2024, she has been serving as the Undergraduate Program Coordinator for Political Science. After completing her B.A. in Political Science at Freie Universität Berlin in Germany, she earned her Ph.D. in Political Science from Stony Brook University in 2016.

Alexa's research and teaching interests lie in political psychology and experimental methods. Her current research focuses on the measurement, development, and consequences of negative partisanship, as well as the role of group norms in reducing partisan hostility. She is the author of *When Politics Becomes Personal: The Effect of Partisan Identity on (Anti-)Democratic Behavior*, published by Cambridge University Press in 2024. Her work has also appeared in top peer-reviewed journals, including the *Journal of Politics*, *Political Psychology*, *Political Behavior*, and *Electoral Studies*.

She is the recipient of several awards, including the Distinguished Junior Scholars Award from the Political Psychology Section of the American Political Science Association. Alexa has also contributed to the discipline in various capacities, including serving as the Political Psychology Section Chair at the annual meetings of the *American, Midwest, and Southern Political Science Associations*. Since 2024, she has been a member of the editorial board of *Political Behavior*. Additionally, for the International Society of Political Psychology, she served as the Professional Development Coordinator of the Early Career Committee and as an admissions committee member for the ISPP Academy.



GOVERNING COUNCIL: Huseyin Cakal (Senior Lecturer in Political and Social Psychology, Keele University-United Kingdom). I obtained my DPhil in Social Psychology from the University of Oxford in 2013 and worked as a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Exeter. My work is defined by its co-creative approach and focuses on prejudice reduction, social change, and mental health and funded by national (UKRI and British Council) and international (Governments of India, Turkey, Chile, and Colombia). Funders. I have clear commitment to using science to improve lives where it is most needed. This is underpinned by a strong track record of working with the severely disadvantaged gender based, refugee and indigenous communities as active research partners in the global south as well as collaborating with various government bodies. I have also been actively involved in CARA (the Council for At-Risk Academics established in 1933 to help at-risk academics persecution and violence around the world) and Scholars under Threat. In 2022, I hosted the launch of the Latin American Network of Social Psychologists (of which I am founding member). I advise 2 refugee established and run NGOs. I have engaged with ISPP since 2010. If elected, I aim to use my expertise to foster active and equitable involvement of researchers, communities, and civil society organizations from the Global South both within ISPP and the wider academic community.



GOVERNING COUNCIL: Dr. Maria Chayinska. I am a Ukrainian social psychologist, currently serving as an Assistant Professor at the Department of Cognitive Sciences, Psychology, Education, and Cultural Studies, University of Messina (Italy). Since 2024, I have been a visiting lecturer in MS Program in Social Psychology at the Kyiv School in Economics (Ukraine).

I received a Double PhD in Social Psychology from University of Milano Bicocca (Italy) and University of Limerick (Ireland) in 2017, followed by a one-year postdoctoral fellowship at the *Centro de Estudios de Conflicto y Cohesión Social* (Chile) and a three-year postdoctoral fellowship at the School of Psychology at the *Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile* (Chile). I served as an Academic Coordinator for Erasmus+ for incoming and upcoming students in psychology at my institution in 2023-2024.

My research investigates the psychological underpinnings of social change in the areas of intergroup conflict, engagement in collective action and the formation of conspiracy mentality. I have participated in and coordinated several international research projects funded by national and international associations, mostly focused on the facilitation of intergroup relations in the contexts affected by long-lasting disputes.

I have greatly benefited from my membership in ISPP since 2014 and am committed to devotedly serving our community if elected to the Governing Council. My involvement would be in the areas of internationalization and access with a particular focus on securing, increasing and amplifying the current initiatives ISPP provides for emerging scholars, researchers from lower and middle-income countries and under-represented backgrounds, and those with family or caring responsibilities.



GOVERNING COUNCIL: Stavroula Chrona (Assistant Professor in Politics at the Department of Politics, University of Sussex). My research focuses on the exploration of the affective, cognitive and motivational determinants of citizen's political judgments. I am interested in the psychological underpinnings of political behaviour in times of crisis, with a particular focus on pro- and anti-democratic attitudes and support for and opposition to authoritarianism. I have been extremely fortunate to be part of ISPP since the early years of my postgraduate studies. I presented my first paper at ISPP in 2008 and have been actively engaged with the society ever since. Over the years, I have been attending and presenting my work at the Annual Meetings, served as Conference Program Co-Chair (2022), and held various roles within the Early Career Scholars Committee- including Mentoring Program Coordinator (2014-2016) and Web-Blog Coordinator (2012-2014). I also assisted in the launch and development of the now well-established ISPP Summer Academy, where I served as administrative assistant from 2011 to 2015. Throughout this time, ISPP has offered me innovative training in political psychology, invaluable mentoring and the opportunity to build research collaborations and connections with scholars from across the world.

It would be a great honor to be elected to the Governing Council and to continue contributing to the ISPP community. If elected, I would focus on the following key areas: 1) expand initiatives to support graduate student training in political psychology through a diverse range of virtual opportunities; 2) strengthen ISPP's outreach to underrepresented regions and marginalised communities by supporting and promoting the ongoing internationalisation efforts; 3) further develop the Teaching Corner by introducing innovative ways to share materials that support the teaching of political psychology at graduate and postgraduate levels and 4) advance the Society's core initiatives that promote academic freedom, such as the Scholars Under Threat scheme and the Twinning Program.



GOVERNING COUNCIL: Rongbo Jin (Assistant Professor, Division of Global Studies and Division of Computational Social Science, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen). I received my Ph.D. in Political Science from the School of Government and Public Policy at the University of Arizona in 2024. My research examines intergroup conflicts and cooperation, group identities, and democratic attitudes, with a particular emphasis on developing interventions to improve intergroup relations, reduce hostility, and counter discrimination. My work has been published in journals such as *Political Behavior*, *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*, and *Politics and Life Sciences*.

I have been an active participant in ISPP, serving on the ISPP Early Career Committee (2021-2023), the David O. Sears Book Award Committee, and the Noel Markwell Media Award Committee (2024-2025). ISPP has been my intellectual home, providing invaluable networking and mentorship opportunities from the outset of my academic journey. ISPP offers a strong sense of community that has profoundly influenced my professional growth. It would be a privilege to contribute to this legacy by giving back and supporting scholars in this community.

If elected to the Governing Council, I will prioritize three key initiatives. First, I will actively promote greater engagement and participation among Asian scholars by expanding ISPP's presence in Asia, such as organizing annual conferences in Asian cities and inviting leading political psychologists to deliver lectures at universities in the region. Second, I will dedicate efforts to enhancing virtual engagement through monthly online workshops and mentoring programs, thereby broadening access and fostering connections across the global ISPP community. Third, I will leverage my interdisciplinary background to cultivate new scholarly networks and encourage inclusive collaborations, particularly supporting young and underrepresented scholars.

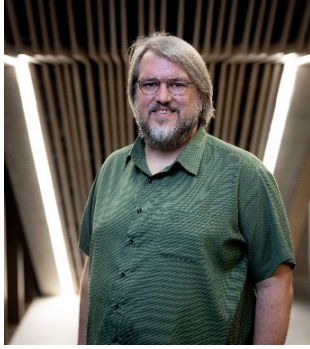


GOVERNING COUNCIL: Barbara Lášticová (senior researcher and director of the Institute for Research in Social Communication at the Slovak Academy of Sciences). I am a social and political psychologist with a PhD from Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia, and a DEA from Université René Descartes-Paris V. I have served on the management boards of Comenius University and the Institute of Psychology at the Czech Academy of Sciences.

My main research interests involve intergroup relations and collective action, particularly how they are shaped by norms communicated in political discourse. I have been teaching political psychology at Comenius University for more than a decade. I have co-authored studies published in the *European Journal of Social Psychology*, *Political Psychology*, *Journal of Social and Political Psychology*, *Peace and Conflict*, and others. I also co-edited the volume *The Psychology of Politically Unstable Societies* (Routledge, 2024), which is part of the *Global Perspectives in Political Psychology* book series.

I have been a member of ISPP since 2004 and have participated in most of its general meetings in Europe. With support from an ISPP small grant, I co-organized the scientific meeting "*Boundaries, Norms, and Conflicts: Understanding Intergroup Relations and Rising Intolerance Across Europe and Beyond*" in Bratislava (2018). I have also been part of the Social Psychology Ambassadors initiative by EASP (2022–24), focusing on networking and empowering scholars from underrepresented regions in mainstream social psychology, and advocating for greater inclusivity in scientific organizations.

If elected, I am particularly interested in helping ISPP support researchers from underrepresented regions and epistemologies, especially early-career scholars, to further foster a more inclusive environment within our scientific associations and networks.



GOVERNING COUNCIL: Levente Littvay (Levi) is a Research Professor at the Department of Political Behaviour at HUN-REN Centre for Social Sciences and a Senior Research Fellow at Central European University Democracy Institute in Budapest, Hungary. He is co-convenor of the Global Forum for Democracy and Development, a fellowship program for scholars of the Global South, where he coordinates collaboration between the Bogota, Colombo, Cape Town, and Budapest hubs and advises fellows on research methods and, building on his work on populist, conspiracy, and democracy attitudes, on political psychology. Two-time recipient of CEU's Teaching Award (2015 for methods-, and 2021 for online teaching), where he used to be a Professor at the Department of Political Science (2007-2023). He holds a PhD in Political Science and an MS in Survey Research and Methodology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; he teaches methods workshops globally and online, and is the founder and Academic Coordinator of MethodsNET. He was a member of the European Social Survey's (ESS) Round 10 (2020-21) democracy and COVID19 module questionnaire design teams, contributor to ESS-CRONOS2, and principal co-investigator for the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems in Hungary and Tunisia. Other awards include the European University Institute's Fernand Braudel Senior Research Fellowship (2019-20), the 2022 Giovanni Sartori Prize for best paper in the *Italian Political Science Review*, and 2017 Morton Deutsch Award for best article in *Social Justice Research*.



GOVERNING COUNCIL: Rosa Rodriguez-Bailon is a professor of social psychology at the University of Granada (Spain). My research has focused on analyzing the psychosocial effects of power disparities and, more recently, economic inequality.

Using the results of survey studies, experiments, and public survey data, I have explored how inequality triggers psychosocial processes that impact outcomes such as support for democracy or the support or rejection of policies aimed at reducing inequality.

I have led numerous research projects funded by the Spanish Research Foundation, as well as the Spanish team in several projects funded by the EU or within ERC programs.

I coordinated the Master's in Psychology of Social Intervention at the University of Granada from 2016 to 2024 and I am a member of the governing board of the Mind, Brain, and Behavior Research Center at the University of Granada. I have served as an associate editor for journals such as *IRPS*, *IJSP*, and *EJSP* and have numerous publication in high impact journals in social psychology and related areas.

I have actively participated in the organization of meetings of the *European Association of Social Psychology* and have attended numerous *annual meetings of the ISPP*. In 2023, I was co-chair of the scientific committee for the *annual meeting of the ISPP* held in Montreal.

If elected, I would encourage the participation of members from the Global South and other underrepresented countries in the ISPP. Highly interested in and aware of the importance and responsibility researchers have in translating research findings into practice, she would promote the transfer and translation of our findings into recommendations for policymakers and social agents responsible for their implementation to drive social improvement.



GOVERNING COUNCIL: Felipe Vilanova (Assistant Professor of Psychology at the Universidade LaSalle, in Brazil). I am eager to serve on the ISPP Governing Council as not merely a representative of the Global South, but as someone who lives and works within this context. Living in this context has shaped my research, leading me to focus on how worldviews and ideologies develop and their relationship with critical societal issues such as corruption. I also examine cultural variability in traditional political constructs, highlighting how mainstream theories often require significant adaptation to be applicable in majority-world contexts. I aim to use this connection between majority-minority perspectives within the Governing Council, collaborating with members from developed contexts to implement initiatives that truly make ISPP an international society — one that integrates not only American and European scholars but also researchers from Latin America and beyond. My previous involvement with ISPP reflects this commitment. As a former Web Resources Coordinator, I spearheaded calls for papers specifically targeting Latin American scholars to publish blog posts and increase the visibility of their work. Later, as Editor of the ISPP Newsletter, I consistently invited contributors from distinct underrepresented regions and used the kudos column to recognize their achievements. I want to continue this work by addressing my main platform in the Governing Council: advocating for ISPP Annual Meetings to be held in regions beyond North America and Europe and ensuring that researchers from diverse linguistic backgrounds have the opportunity to present their work in their native languages. Only then can ISPP truly embody its mission of fostering a global political psychology community, one where research is not only produced but also disseminated, discussed, and valued across different cultural backgrounds. This also means strengthening financial support mechanisms for scholars from historically marginalized regions and promoting multilingual publication opportunities. Through these efforts, I aim to help ISPP move toward a truly global and inclusive future, where diverse perspectives are not merely represented but actively shape the direction, policies, and priorities of the society.



GOVERNING COUNCIL: Christopher Weber is a Professor in the School of Government and Public Policy at the University of Arizona. He received his PhD from Stony Brook University in 2008. Currently, he is acting Director of the Arizona Voter Project. His scholarly work focuses on methodology, political polarization, ideology, and the structure of mass belief. His work has appeared in multiple outlets, including *Political Psychology*, *The American Journal of Political Science*, *The Journal of Politics*, *Political Behavior*, *Social Science Quarterly*, *Human Communication Research* and *Political Research Quarterly*. He has a forthcoming book with Stanley Feldman and Christopher Federico entitled *The Authoritarian Divide: Partisan Identity, Voting, and the Transformation of the American Electorate*. He has been engaged in ISPP throughout much of his career, serving as editorial assistant at *Political Psychology* from 2002-2003. He was a member of the Junior Scholars Committee (now the Early Career Committee, ECC) from 2007-2010. He served as President of the Junior Scholars Committee from 2010-2011. From 2015-2020, he was Director of the ISPP Summer Academy. And most recently, he served as co-editor at *Political Psychology* (2020-2024).