



Politics isn't cool, it's hot! Do emotions influence political attitudes?

Fact Sheet

Project Information

HotPolitics

Grant agreement ID: 750443

[Project website](#)

DOI

[10.3030/750443](https://doi.org/10.3030/750443)

Project closed

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EXCELLENT SCIENCE - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Total cost

€ 174 864,60

EU contribution

€ 174 864,60

Coordinated by

UNIVERSITEIT VAN
AMSTERDAM

 Netherlands

Objective

Europeans and Americans are anxious about the number of refugees entering their country; angry about unresponsive political elites; or sad how immigrants are treated. To answer the question whether these emotions influence citizens' political attitudes, the state-of-the-art relies primarily upon self-reported emotions. Yet, when asked to self-report emotions, people are likely to mix their initial emotion with their cognitive evaluation which leads to an invalid measure of the emotion. In HotPolitics, I employ a ground-breaking methodological design by not relying upon self-reported emotions

but measuring emotions via the actual physiological responses that citizens experience. Physiological responses are automatic, directed by the autonomous nervous system, when the brain experiences emotion.

I test which citizens experience which physiological responses to political messages in two studies. First, I assess whether citizens experience physiological responses to political messages. Next, I assess whether political sophistication - i.e. political knowledge and political interest - as well as political ideology condition these physiological responses. The second Research Objective addresses whether physiological responses influence political attitudes. I expect that the experience of negative physiological responses triggers the disconfirmation bias which leads citizens to formulate counterarguments and disregard the political message they received. As a consequence their attitudes should become stronger and more extreme. The experience of positive feelings triggers the confirmation bias which makes people likely to accept the message. This should make attitude stronger and more extreme. Building upon research in psychology, political science and communication science, I move beyond self-reported measures of emotions and theorize and assess whether emotions – measured using physiological responses – influence citizens' political attitudes.

Fields of science (EuroSciVoc)

[social sciences](#) > [political sciences](#) > [political communication](#)

[social sciences](#) > [media and communications](#) > [journalism](#)

[social sciences](#) > [psychology](#)

[social sciences](#) > [sociology](#) > [ideologies](#)

[social sciences](#) > [sociology](#) > [demography](#) > [human migrations](#)



Programme(s)

[H2020-EU.1.3. - EXCELLENT SCIENCE - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#)

MAIN PROGRAMME

[H2020-EU.1.3.2. - Nurturing excellence by means of cross-border and cross-sector mobility](#)

Topic(s)

[MSCA-IF-2016 - Individual Fellowships](#)

Call for proposal

[H2020-MSCA-IF-2016](#)

[See other projects for this call](#)

Funding Scheme

[MSCA-IF-GF - Global Fellowships](#)

Coordinator



UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM

Net EU contribution

€ 174 864,60

Total cost

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Address

SPUI 21

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Activity type

Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Links

[Contact the organisation](#)  [Website](#) 

[Participation in EU R&I programmes](#) 

[HORIZON collaboration network](#) 

Partners (1)



PARTNER 

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY OF THE COMMONWEALTH SYSTEM OF HIGHER
EDUCATION

 United States

Net EU contribution

€ 0,00

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Activity type

Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Links

[Contact the organisation](#)  [Website](#) 

[Participation in EU R&I programmes](#) 

[HORIZON collaboration network](#) 

Total cost

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