

Curriculum Vitae – Václav Štětka

Current position: Professor of Digital Political Communication, European New School of Digital Studies, European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder), Grosse Scharnnstrasse 59, 15230 Frankfurt (Oder), Germany, email: Stetka@europa-uni.de

Education

- **2005 (25/11):** PhD in Sociology, Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University, Brno
- **2000:** MA [Mgr.] in History and Sociology, Faculty of Social Studies and Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, Brno
- **1999:** BA [Bc.] in Mass Communication and Journalism, Faculty of Social Studies and Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, Brno

Previous employment history (full-time jobs after PhD; including promotions):

- **06/2016 – 01/2026:** Department of Communication and Media, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Loughborough University (02/2020 Senior Lecturer; 02/2023 Reader in Comparative Political Communication; 05/2025 Professor of Media and Political Communication)
- **09/2013 – 12/2015:** Senior Researcher, Institute of Communication Studies and Journalism, Charles University, Prague, Head of Political Communication Research Group
- **10/2009 – 09/2013:** Senior Research Fellow, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford
- **09/2006 – 09/2009:** Assistant Professor at the Department of Media Studies and Journalism, Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University

Research grants awarded as PI/Co-I:

- **2025:** “Unpacking the Impact of Russian Disinformation in Eastern Europe: A comparative study of Poland, Romania and Serbia”, UKRI Network Plus ‘Shifting Global Polarities’, £14,000, April – November 2025 (Principal Investigator)
- **2022:** “[Pandemic Communication in Times of Populism: Building Resilient media and Ensuring effective Pandemic Communication in Divided Societies](#)”, £250,952, May 2022 – April 2024, ESRC/Trans-Atlantic Partnership (Co-Investigator)
- **2019:** “[The Illiberal Turn: News Consumption, Polarization and Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe](#)”, £807,000, February 2019 – October 2022, Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) (Principal Investigator)
- **2013:** “The Role of Social Media in Political Communication”, £95,000, Czech Science Foundation, 2014 – 2016 (Principal Investigator)

Participation in other research activities and projects (selection):

- **2023 – present:** Advisory Board member for the Horizon Europe project “[DIACOMET](#) - Fostering capacity building for civic resilience and participation: Dialogic communication ethics and accountability”
- **2020 – 2023:** member of the research project “[THREATPIE: The Threats and Potentials of a Changing Political Information Environment](#)”, funded by NORFACE
- **2018 – present:** member of the [Network of European Political Communication Scholars](#)
- **2017 – 2019:** member of the research team for the project “Dynamics and forms of citizen online participation in the Czech Republic”, Department of Sociology, Charles University
- **2015 – present:** participant on the [Media Pluralism Monitor](#) project (European University Institute, Florence); leader of the Czech team
- **2015 – present:** contributor to the [Digital News Report](#), Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, University of Oxford (author of the Czech report)
- **2014 – 2018:** participant in the COST Action IS 1308 “Populist Political Communication in Europe” (MC member for the Czech Republic)

Teaching profile:

- **2016 – 2025:** teaching various courses on UG and PGT levels at the School of Social Sciences & Humanities, Loughborough University, including:
 - Undergraduate courses: Introduction to Communication and Media Studies (UG); Introduction to Research Methods (UG) ; Advanced Research Methods (UG); Political Communication (UG)
 - Post-graduate courses: Understanding Modern Media (PGT); Media and Cultural Industries (PGT); Key Debates in Social Media and Political Communication (PGT); Data, Power and Democracy (PGT)
- **2004 – 2016:** teaching courses on UG and PGT level in the fields of media and communication; journalism, and sociology at Masaryk University (Brno, CZ); Charles University (Prague, CZ), New York University in Prague, and Anglo-American University in Prague; also supervising over 50 UG and PGT dissertation students
- **PhD supervision:** 2 completed (2021, 2022), 2 currently supervising

Professional service – internal:

- **2025 – 01/2026:** Unit of Assessment Lead (D34) for REF2029, Dept. of Communication and Media, School of Social Sciences & Humanities, Loughborough University
- **2024 – 01/2026:** Research & Innovation Director, Dept. of Communication and Media, School of Social Sciences & Humanities, Loughborough University
- **2022 – 2023:** Co-Lead of Political Communication Theme, Centre for Research in Communication and Culture, Loughborough University
- **2022 – 2023:** Programme Lead, BSc Media and Communication Studies, Dept. of Communication and Media, Loughborough University

Professional service – external:

- **2024 – present:** member of the [ESRC Peer Review College](#)
- **2024 – present:** member of the [International Panel on the Information Environment](#)
- **2023 – present:** member of the ECREA mentorship programme for early career scholars
- **2022 – present:** Associate Editor for the *Journal of Information Technology and Politics*
- **2016–2021:** Vice-Chair of Political Communication section of ECREA (European Communication Research and Education Association)
- **2015-2019:** Member of the evaluation panel 404 of the Czech Science Foundation (the main funding body for basic research in the Czech Republic); 2017-2019 Panel Chair
- **Ongoing:** Member of editorial board of the journals *International Journal of Press&Politics* (since 2025), *Medijska istraživanja / Media Research – Croatian Journal for Journalism and the Media*; *Cyberpsychology – Journal of Psychosocial Research on Cyberspace*

Engagement with industry and civil society:

- **2019 – present:** member of the [Committee for Editorial Independence](#), *Economia* (CZ)
- **2018 – 2023:** member of the Expert Board, Endowment for Independent Journalism (CZ)
- **2017 – present:** local expert for the World Press Freedom Index (Reporters without Borders)

External fellowships and other awards:

- 09/2026 – 11/2026: Visiting Fellowship at the [Institute for Human Sciences](#), Vienna (Guest of the Institute)
- 2025 Best Book Award, APSA (Information Technology & Politics Section), for *The Illiberal Public Sphere: Media in Polarized Societies* (Palgrave 2024, with Sabina Mihelj)
- 2025 The Media and Democracy Karol Jakubowicz Award (nominated), for *The Illiberal Public Sphere: Media in Polarized Societies* (Palgrave 2024, with Sabina Mihelj)
- 2023 Article of the Year Award, *European Journal of Communication* (“The ambivalences of visibility: News consumption and public attitudes to same-sex relations in the context of illiberalism”, co-authored with S.Mihelj, K.Kondor and F.Toth)
- 2021 Top Paper Award, the 71st International Communication Association Conference, Political Communication Division (co-author)
- 2019 Czech Science Foundation – [President’s Award](#) for excellent research outcomes from the project “The Role of Social Media in Political Communication”