



## Call for papers for the special issue: *Affective polarisation*

*Politics of the Low Countries (PLC)* is the official journal of the Flemish (VPW), Francophone (ABSP) and Luxembourg (LuxPol) political science associations in cooperation with the Dutch Political Science Association (NKWP). The journal has a comprehensive scope, embracing all the major political developments in Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. PLC publishes articles from a wide variety of methodological perspectives and on a broad range of topics such as political behaviour, political parties, political communication, parliamentary studies, public administration, political philosophy and even EU- and international politics. All these areas of study are considered in relation to Belgium, the Netherlands or Luxembourg. Either as specific case studies or as part of comparative research.

**PLC** is delighted to launch a special issue focused on the topic of affective polarisation. This special issue aims to advance our understanding of the dynamics, causes, consequences, and potential remedies of affective polarisation within the context of the Low Countries. We encourage researchers to explore this phenomenon from multidisciplinary perspectives, including but not limited to political science, sociology, political psychology, communication studies, and public policy.

**Scope and Objectives:** Affective polarisation refers to the deepening divisions within societies along emotional and affective lines, leading to increasing levels of hostility, animosity, and dehumanisation between political and social groups. This special issue seeks to uncover the underlying causes of affective polarisation in the Low Countries, but also to examine its implications for political processes, policy-making, social cohesion, and democratic governance, and explore potential strategies to mitigate its detrimental effects. We invite original research articles, comparative studies, theoretical frameworks, case studies, and methodological contributions that shed light on the following themes related to affective polarisation in the Low Countries:

1. Origins and drivers of affective polarisation in the Low Countries.
2. Impacts of affective polarisation on political behavior, public opinion, and electoral outcomes.
3. Media, communication, and affective polarisation: Role of traditional and social media in exacerbating or mitigating divisions.
4. Intersectionality and affective polarisation: Understanding the interplay between identity, race, ethnicity, religion, and affective divides.
5. The role of political elites, parties, and populism in fostering or countering affective polarisation.
6. Affective polarisation and public policy: Implications for governance, policy-making, and public administration.
7. Social movements, civil society, and affective polarisation: Mobilisation, activism, and the quest for social change.
8. Comparative studies of affective polarisation in other national or regional contexts and its relevance to the Low Countries.
9. Strategies to overcome affective polarisation: Promoting dialogue, empathy, and reconciliation in diverse societies.
10. Methodological approaches to studying affective polarisation, including quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods.

Submission Guidelines: Submitted papers should be maximum 8,000 words in length and must be prepared according to the journal's guidelines (available at <https://www.editorialmanager.com/plc/>). The deadline for submissions is 1 October 2023.

Manuscripts must be original, unpublished work and should not be under consideration elsewhere. All submissions will undergo a peer-review process to ensure the highest scholarly standards.

**If you are interested to contribute to this special issue, please submit your abstract, by 15 July 2023, via email to Rebecca Gebauer, PLC's editorial assistant, at [politicslc@boomdenhaag.nl](mailto:politicslc@boomdenhaag.nl). Please put "PLC special issue on affective polarisation" in the subject line.**

*PLC continues to accept stand-alone research articles for inclusion in our regular issues. Papers can be submitted via Editorial Manager (<https://www.editorialmanager.com/plc/>). Accepted papers will be published as online first. Besides research articles, PLC also publishes PhD reviews and provides space for descriptive notes on politics in the Low Countries and literature reviews on the academic evolutions within political science in Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. If you are interested in submitting a literature review, a research note or a PhD review, please contact the following editors:*

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