

# Global Crises

## Awareness, Literacy and Political Communication

International online symposium

Monday

20

December  
2021





## Global Crises

### Awareness, Literacy and Political Communication

The last ten years and more will be remembered as a time of crises: poverty, migration and population displacement, international relations, privacy and technology, climate change, the pandemic. Some of these issues are long lasting and unsolved global problems that will only exacerbate unless drastic measures are undertaken. Others incrementally undermine and erode trust in national and international institutions. Cumulatively, however, the confluence of crises is like nothing we have experienced before outside of wartime, and it seems that most governments have been unable to communicate efficiently with their public. Against this backdrop, there is an urgent need for effective leadership and for citizens of the world and their leaders to come together to achieve collective goals.

Coming together to generate a concerted, globally relevant societal response is ambitious and challenging. It is not only a matter of changing policy but also the nature of citizens' political engagement and political public communication. During the pandemic and the wildfires that hit hard a great part of South Europe, we witnessed the harm that fake news and disinformation has done to the fabric of our societies. To achieve change, we argue that there are three interrelated areas that need to be addressed so as to face these new challenges, that is awareness, literacy and communication.

Drawing on the covid-19 pandemic and the environmental crisis that have hit the world hard, this symposium aims to reflect and offer solutions to these challenges, specifically:

- how do we ensure there is a well-informed citizenry which are so crucial in times of crisis;
- how do we ensure media make a positive contribution to supporting efforts to manage current crises and avoid future crises;
- how do we ensure education prepares citizens for a changing world;
- how do we ensure government communication follows best practices in times of crises;
- and ensure that political (public) communication performs to reflect a service ethos, is inclusive and empathic?

**The event aims to offer proposals to political and non-governmental institutions and media organisations on how to improve communication practices in times of crisis, as well as highlight the role of education and subsequently the role of civic society, in order to address the challenges faced by the nations of our world.**

Event organizers

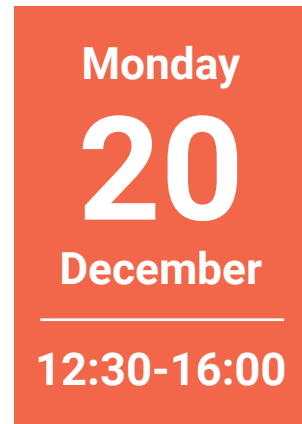


Media sponsor





# Programme



On Eastern European  
Standard Time, GMT+2

**12:30** **Greetings**  
**Dr. Anastasia Veneti**  
Bournemouth University

**Petros Ioannidis**  
aboutpeople



## **Panel 1** **Political Communication & Global Crises**

**12:30-13:45** **Moderator:**  
**Andreas Panagopoulos**  
Journalist, Academic Researcher

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**Prof. Darren Lilleker**  
CCPMR-Bournemouth University

**Prof. Dimitris Papadimitriou**  
University of Manchester

**Prof. Anna Feigenbaum**  
Bournemouth University

**George Petroulakis**  
Former General Secretary of Information  
& Communication



## **Panel 2** **Communicating the Environmental Crisis**

**14:30-15:45** **Moderator:**  
**Lefteris Papagiannakis**  
Greek Council for Refugees

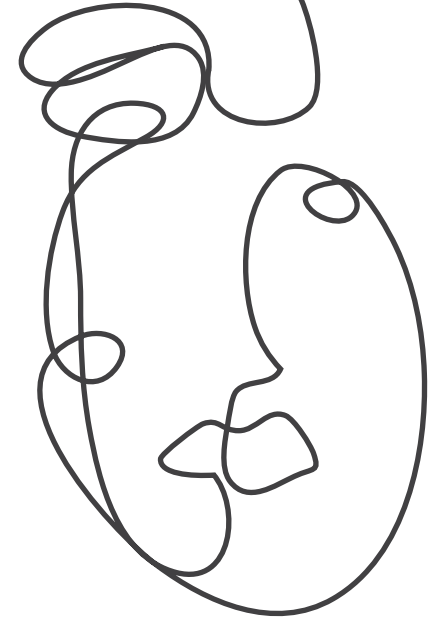
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**Theodota Nantsou**  
Head of Policy, WWF Greece

**James Painter**  
Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism,  
Oxford University

**Dr. Jacob Ainscough**  
Lancaster Environment Centre,  
Lancaster University

**Prof. Miyase Christensen**  
Stockholm University, (KTH) Royal Institute  
of Technology





## Speakers' Biographies



**Dr. Jacob Ainscough** is a Senior Research Associate at Lancaster Environment Centre where he works on the Climate Citizens project. His work focuses on the role of public deliberation in responding to the climate emergency - both as a means of accelerating action and designing better climate policy. Prior to joining Lancaster University, Jacob worked with UK politicians and policy makers as the manager of the APPG on Climate Change at the think-tank Policy Connect. He has degrees in zoology, economics and human geography and a PhD in environmental governance from the University of Edinburgh.



**Miyase Christensen** is Professor of Media and Communication Studies and affiliated researcher at the Dept. of History and Philosophy, KTH Royal Institute of Technology. Christensen has served as Visiting Senior Fellow at the London School of Economics; Guest Professor at KTH; Editor-in-Chief of Popular Communication; and the Director of the Leading Research Environment in Global Media Studies and Politics of Mediated Communication at Stockholm University. Christensen's research is interdisciplinary and integrative in nature and comprises social theory perspectives on globalisation processes, mobility and environmental change with a focus on the Arctic; technology and culture; and, politics of communication. As part of the Horizon2020 InsSciDE project Inventing a Shared Science Diplomacy for Europe, she has conducted a case study on environmental change communication as a diplomatic problem. Christensen has published numerous international articles and seven books, the last two being Arctic Geopolitics, Media and Power (2019); and Cosmopolitanism and the Media: Cartographies of Change (2015).



**Anna Feigenbaum** is a Professor in Digital Storytelling based at Bournemouth University in the UK. She is the Principal Investigator of the UKRI/AHRC COVID-19 Rapid Response project 'Comics in the time of COVID-19'. She is author of The Data Storytelling Workbook (Routledge 2020) and regularly trains health and humanitarian organisations in data-based and digital communications. More about the project can be found on the website <https://www.covidcomics.org/>.



**Petros Ioannidis** is the founder and Managing Partner of aboutpeople, a public opinion research company. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Lancaster University and a Master's degree in Communications from the Department of Sociology of City University. Since 2002, his work focuses on research, communications, and strategy. He is a member of the International Association of Political Consultants and of the Greek Association of Political Studies. He is the author of the book The last elections of the Metapolitefsis era (2009) and the Co-Editor of the book The first elections after the Memorandum era (2019).



**Darren G. Lilleker** is Professor in Political Communication in the Faculty of Media & Communication, Bournemouth University and Convenor of the Centre for Comparative Politics & Media Research. Dr. Lilleker's expertise is in the intersecting areas of political campaigning and public engagement in politics, with a particular focus on the impacts of digital technological developments. He is author of Political Communication and Cognition (Palgrave, 2014) and The Psychology of Democracy (Routledge, 2021) and editor of the Palgrave series Political Communication and Campaigning.



**Theodota Nantsou** is Head of Policy at WWF Greece and Chair of the Strategy Board of WWF's European Policy Office. Her studies are in philosophy, with a Master's in Environmental Ethics, and Public Administration. Her work focuses on policies addressing the climate crisis, nature protection, and governance for sustainable development and the transition to climate neutrality.



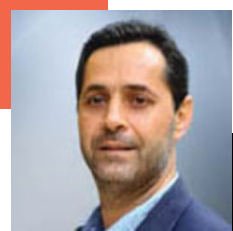
**James Painter** is a Research Associate at the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, Department of Politics and International Relations at Oxford University, a senior teaching associate at the Environmental Change Institute, School of Geography, also at Oxford, and an external collaborator at the LEAP project at the Oxford Martin School. Prior to becoming an academic, he held several journalist and editorial positions at the BBC World Service, and was a correspondent for several outlets in South America. He has published widely on climate change in the media in several countries. His current research interests include media portrayals of extreme weather events, animal agriculture and climate change, climate scepticism, and more widely on the challenges of climate journalism and the emergence of climate niche sites. He has acted as a consultant on communication issues to several organisations, including the IPCC, IPBES and Oxfam.



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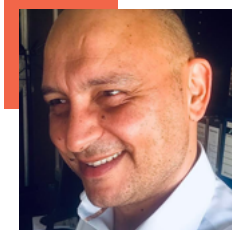
**Dimitris Papadimitriou** is Professor of Politics at the University of Manchester and Director of the Manchester Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence. He has previously held visiting posts at Princeton University, the London School of Economics and Yale University. He is a leading scholar of Greek politics and public policy. His last book, *Prime Ministers in Greece: The Paradox of Power* (with Kevin Featherstone) was published by Oxford University Press in 2015. He has also published widely on political leadership, policy narratives, European political economy (particularly on the Eurozone crisis) and the EU's external relations.



**Andreas M. Panagopoulos** is an experienced news director and on the field journalist and an academic Researcher. He is currently working as a news manager and New Business Development Manager. He was responsible for the Newsroom organization and operation of ONETV and run the news department, the first in Greece LIVE web TV, the relaunch of MEGA TV and the digital version of Megatv.com. He also manages New Business projects on MegaTV. During his career, he was a senior columnist at CNN Greece and founder - director of DPG Digital Multimedia Hub. He also served as News Manager for CNN Greece. For more than 7 years he was News Director for ANT1 TV and redesigned ant1news.gr. He is a visiting professor in higher education institutions, a Researcher and PhD candidate in the Department of Journalism and Media of Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki. He has been honored with the Journalism Award Botsis Foundation.



**Lefteris Papagiannakis** studied public law in the University of Lille II, followed by a DEA in European Community Law and International Economy. He worked in the European Parliament as a parliamentary assistant. He also worked on the education of the Muslim minority in Greece and as a legal counselor for the political party Ecologists Green and the Special Secretariat on environmental inspection. He was a member of the Municipal Council of Athens in 2014, and Vice Mayor on Migrant and Refugee affairs from 2016 to 2019. In parallel, he served as Chair of the working group Migration and Integration of the Eurocities Network, Vice President for Refugee Issues of the European Coalition of Cities against Racism, and President of the Council for the Integration of Migrants of the Municipality of Athens. Currently he is the Director of the Greek Council for Refugees.



**George Petroulakis** was Secretary General of Communication of the Greek Government between 2009 and 2012. He studied Political Science and International Relations (BA) in Panteion University (Athens) and European Politics (MA) in the Institute of European Studies (ULB - Brussels). He was a member of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement's (PASOK) communications unit between 2007 and 2009, head of the 2014 Greek EU presidency's communications team, and has been actively involved in various political campaigns in Greece over the years.



**Dr. Anastasia Veneti** is Principal Academic in Political Communication at the Faculty of Media and Communication, at Bournemouth University, and Program Leader of the MA International Political Communication. Her research lays at the intersection of media and politics. She has acted as consultant on communication issues for politicians, NGOs and the Hellenic Parliament, and as a research analyst for various market research companies in Greece. She is the author/co-editor of four books; most recent *The Emerald Handbook of Digital Media in Greece: Journalism and Political Communication in Times of Crisis* (Emerald, 2020), *Visual Political Communication* (Palgrave, 2019). She is deputy director of the Centre for Comparative Politics and Media Research (BU).



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The event will be held in English

For more information about the event: +30 210 321 7053 - [info@aboutpeople.gr](mailto:info@aboutpeople.gr)

[To watch the event click here](#)

Event organizers



**CCPMR**  
Centre for Comparative  
Politics & Media Research  
Bournemouth University

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