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Do we live in the age of emotion politics?

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Propositions PhD Thesis Martijn Benjamin Blikmans

1. The communication of anger, disgust, hope, and nostalgia in political messages seems ineffective as political support and polarisation are generally unaffected by it (*this dissertation*).
2. The communication of anger, disgust, hope, and nostalgia in political messages sets in motion the psychological processes of emotion contagion and goal inference (*this dissertation*).
3. Cognitive reactions to the communication of anger, disgust, hope, and nostalgia in political messages seem more common than emotional ones (*this dissertation*).
4. Nostalgia seems most distinctive in its communicative effects in political messages, essentially communicating intentions to return to the values and systems of the past, and at times eliciting past-focused feelings and appraisals (*this dissertation*).
5. Detailed theoretical differences between emotions seem to get lost in communication, as the audience seems to respond more to general characteristics such as valence (*this dissertation*).
6. The communication of anger, disgust, hope, and nostalgia in political messages yields similar goal inferences and situation appraisals for both liberals and conservatives (*this dissertation*).
7. The effects of the communication of anger, disgust, hope, and nostalgia on political polarisation seem to be context- and topic-dependent as reactions differ across different national contexts and topics (*this dissertation*).
8. As potential voters do not automatically take on or fall prey to politicians communicating anger, disgust, hope, and nostalgia, it seems likely that the popular fear that we are living in a post-truth political age where facts do not matter is overstated (*this dissertation*).