

## **Application: Vice President for Public Relations, IAPSS Executive Committee**

**Name:** Paola Navarro Villa

**Email:** p.navvil@gmail.com

**Academic background:** Political Science Master student at the University of Bonn with focus on nationalism, populism, and the role of language. Two Subjects B.A in Political Science and English Philology from the University of Goettingen.

**Dear members,**

I first joined IAPSS in the 2018/19 mandate as a Social Media Coordinator. During the 2019/2020 mandate, I held different positions within the Public Relations Department, first as Deputy Head, then as Interim Vice President for PR, and then as the official VP for PR. I was elected Vice President for the Public Relations Department at the May 2020 General Assembly, when I ran on a platform that aimed to expand our network and online presence, strengthen cooperation between the different Departments and Regions, and bridge the gap between the association and its members by bringing more useful and engaging material. I feel confident in saying that those goals have been accomplished.

The 2020/2021 mandate was markedly different from the previous mandates, as it took place in the middle of the global pandemic, which in the latter half of the previous mandate represented a challenge for the association as a whole. Nevertheless, the PR Department adapted well and was able not only to maintain the ongoing work, but to expand to new territories. The IAPSS YouTube channel had an increase of around 570 members and, with the invaluable contributions of members from other departments and Student Research Committees, the PR Department created a schedule that works by publishing new material on a weekly basis. Our social networks expanded as well, as we are constantly gaining new followers on virtually all platforms. Together with the Academic Department, the Programs Department, and the International Cooperation Department, we were able to develop and carry out different initiatives and projects, aiding in the planning phase, creating materials, providing technical support, and engaging with the audience on social media. The many partnerships that IAPSS entered into this mandate were also key to extending our presence and collaborate in important projects and initiatives with partners all over the world. I was able to contribute to the completion of many partnership agreements, as well as to participate in different events hosted both by our partners and by IAPSS, either as a representative of the association or in a supporting role.

The 2021/2022 mandate will be an exciting new chapter in the history of our association, and it will certainly bring a new set of projects and challenges. It is a chapter that I very much want to be a part of, as there are still many initiatives that I want to be involved in, like expanding IAPSS as a platform where students can find more resources for their development as political scientists, as well as fostering a space where students can share their finds and knowledge, as well as develop invaluable skills for their personal and professional lives. Internally, I want to build on what was established in the previous mandate, working to smooth communication and cooperation between departments with the aim of planning and carrying out more events

throughout the year, as was the norm before the pandemic. I want to take advantage of the virtual aspect of the events to reach more students. Furthermore, I want to establish a system in which knowledge and skills acquired during the time at IAPSS can be shared with other members via workshops and targeted webinars. Externally, it is my goal to make use of the partnerships that we have established to help further cement the role of IAPSS as a serious organization that is capable of providing resources and advocacy for students all around the globe. In the last few years, the organization has changed for the better and we have aimed at creating an atmosphere where students can explore their interests freely, expand their skills in a friendly and professional environment, and get to know new perspectives. It is my wish to continue being a part of and contributing to these goals for one more mandate.

It is for all of these reasons why I want to continue in my role as Vice President for Public Relations and why I ask for your support once more for the mandate of 2021/2022. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Best,

Paola Navarro Villa

*Vice President for Public Relations and Head of the Public Relations Department*

Bonn, Germany, 20.04.2020