THE WAPOR 76TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE. CONFERENCE REVIEW

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The World Association for Public Opinion Research (WAPOR) 76th Annual Conference took place on September 19-22, 2023 in Salzburg, Austria, at the Paris Lodron University, the largest educational institution in Salzburg, founded by Prince Archbishop Paris Lodron in 1622 and re-established in 1962.

This year conference theme, "Public Opinion Research in a Technology-Driven World", addressed the potential and limits of big data analytics, fostering a rich exchange of ideas and knowledge about what we can learn from public opinion and elite opinion over time, but also about the latest developments in this field.

During the first conference day, the organizers provided a great mixture of interactive workshops and methods training focusing on cross-cultural survey methodology, factorial survey experiments for the study of opinions and intentions, measurement invariance in comparative social research, assessment of survey data quality, and fundamentals and best practices of administrative records for survey methodology.

The keynote speakers, distinguished university professors, delivered compelling presentations that set the tone for the entire event.

Various parallel sessions and panels offered a platform for engaging discussions on the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP), public opinion research in times of crisis, the European Values Study on its way to the sixth wave, democracy, fake news and disinformation, elections, gender and public opinion research, anti-gender backlash in times of crisis, studies of social phenomena and society, survey methodology and software, polarization, migrants and refugees, development of public opinion research, and case studies. The diversity of perspectives presented during these discussions provided a holistic view of the challenges and innovations in the field.

Several WAPOR awards and prizes are awarded annually to recognize significant accomplishments in the Public Opinion field. This year, Naomi Turner Prize, that honors the best paper written and presented at the annual conference by a student, was received by Daniel Casey for his paper "Democratic responsiveness to different forms of public opinion"; Elizabeth H. Nelson Prize, for best conference paper from a society in

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transition, was received by Nataliya Reshetova the paper "Support for Democracy in Ukraine: The Reinforcing Effect of Critical Junctures", co-authored by Malina Voicu;

Alexis de Tocqueville Award, for the best conference paper concerned with democracy and public opinion, whether in a consolidated or in an emerging democracy, was offered to Bernardo Mackenna, Ricardo Gonzalez, Adolfo Fuentes, and Esteban Munoz for their paper "Breaking The Populist Spell: A Comparative Study of The Association Between Interpersonal Ties and Populist Preferences"; Robert M. Worcester Award, for an outstanding paper published in the International Journal of Public Opinion Research, was received by Matthew DeBell of Stanford University for his paper "Measuring Political Knowledge and Not Search Proficiency in Online Surveys".

Also, to encourage students' participation at the WAPOR annual conference, the organizers distribute a limited number of student travel grants. This year, the WAPOR Conference Committee offered 7 student travel grants out of 24 applications.

All the participants in the annual conference and WAPOR members will soon have the possibility to share conference presentations and topical international poll findings, as an Archive is expected to be launched before 2024, accessible via WAPOR website.

The next edition of WAPOR conference, with the theme "The Soul of Public Opinion Research: Liberty, Quality and Humanity", will take place on July 28-31, 2024, in Seoul, South Korea.