



Parliament  
Austria

Parliamentary Administration

# How do you feel about parliament? Analysing the role of reasoning, sensing and emotion in democracy

Call for Contributions to the Day of Parliamentary  
Research – June 16, 2026

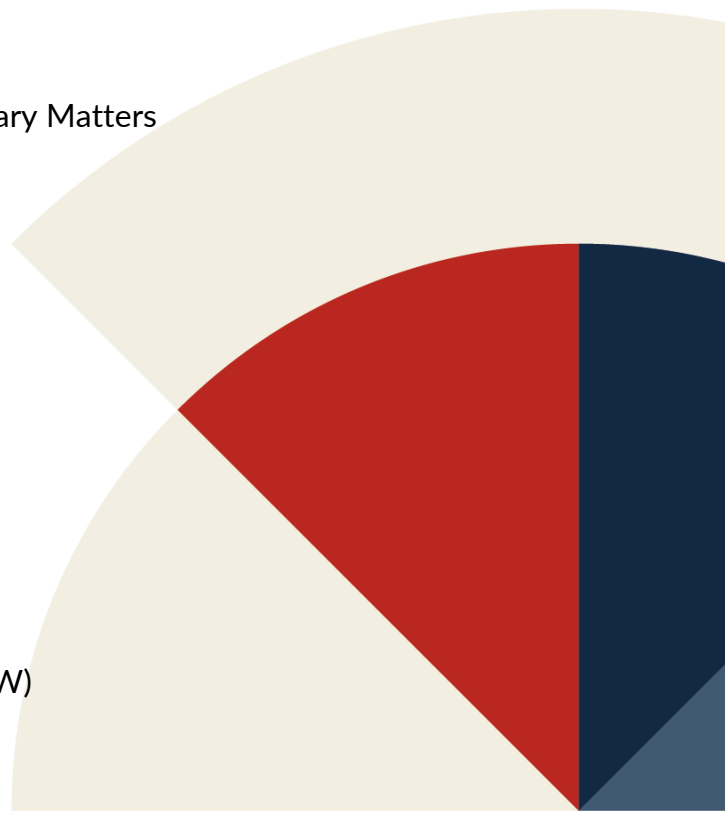
December 2025

Dept. 3.2 – Research and Support in Parliamentary Matters

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## Day of Parliamentary Research 2026

For the fourth time, the Parliamentary Administration of the Austrian Parliament invites scholars from all disciplinary backgrounds to present and discuss their parliament-related research at the Day of Parliamentary Research – in the Austrian Parliament on June 16, 2026. The upcoming event aims to bring together researchers, experts and practitioners to discuss the role of reasoning, sensing and emotion in democracy – and everything in the area of parliamentary research and practice that is connected to it.

### Thematic Focus

Emotions not only shape our individual experiences, but also influence political decisions and public debates. The latter seem to become increasingly emotional, which might be one reason why a wide range of academic disciplines (from social sciences, humanities, and cultural studies to legal studies and natural or computational sciences) are focusing increasingly on emotions, feelings, and sensations and how they correspond to the ideal of “rational” politics based solely on reasoning.

The upcoming Day of Parliamentary Research acknowledges the significance of these phenomena and their interplay in the analysis of politics and contemporary democratic societies. In view of this focus, we invite representatives of all disciplines to present their research and discuss questions such as (but not restricted to):

- ◆ What roles do emotions and reasoning play in political debates (in parliament and beyond)? How have they changed in recent years? Which emotions are displayed more than others, and why?
- ◆ Are we currently seeing emotions being prioritised over facts in political decisions? How must scientific evidence be presented in order to play a central role, even in emotionally charged debates?



- ◆ What role do emotions and feelings play in the creation and application of law? What feelings do citizens develop towards the rule of law and/or the constitution?
- ◆ To what extent does the emotionalisation of political discourse occur across different kinds of media? How does this contribute to the polarisation of society and/or the mobilisation of various actors? How are digital media changing political communication (especially with regard to the use of emotional messages)?
- ◆ What influence do emotions have on voting behaviour? How do political parties and politicians strategically use emotions like fear, anger or sadness in election campaigns (and beyond)?
- ◆ How do technological developments, such as the emergence of AI, influence the role of feelings and emotions in processes of (parliamentary) decision-making and administration?
- ◆ In what ways do the infrastructures of today's political institutions and public administrations, as well as their communication channels (including chatbots, digital participation formats, television and streaming services), determine our perception of democracy?
- ◆ Which physical elements (e. g. architecture, art, or spaces for assembly) enable citizens to experience democracy and participation? What methods and techniques can strengthen the perception of democracy and parliamentarism?



## Submission of Abstracts

We invite you to submit an abstract until April 6, 2026 to the e-mail address [parlament@parlamentsforschung.gv.at](mailto:parlament@parlamentsforschung.gv.at) that ...

... fulfils the following formal criteria:

- ◆ English language
- ◆ PDF format
- ◆ Maximum of 400 words
- ◆ Contains the name(s), institution(s)/organization(s), and contact details of the author(s) (not included in the 400 words)

... and provides the following information about your research:

- ◆ Research question/research interest
- ◆ Methodology and progress of the research
- ◆ (Expected) research findings
- ◆ Innovative potential of the research and links to other disciplines (if available)
- ◆ (Potential) relevance to parliamentary practice

The contributions will be discussed as part of either a panel session or a poster session. Therefore please indicate whether you prefer to present in one of the two ways. The final decision is up to the organizing team but will of course be discussed with the submitting author(s).

The authors of the submitted proposals will be notified by April 24, 2026.



## Further Information

For organisational reasons, we kindly ask you to take note of the following information in preparation of the event:

- ◆ The event, including all presentations, will be held in English.
- ◆ By being included in the program of the Day of Parliamentary Research, you agree that the submitted abstract, including the name(s) and institution(s)/organization(s) of the author(s), may be published on the Parliament's website and in an abstract booklet.
- ◆ For the participants there will be no conference fees. However, the Parliamentary Administration cannot reimburse any costs incurred for participation.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the organizing team by e-mail or phone. Contact details can be found on the cover page of this document.