

# Laudation

## For the 2025 Rising Star Award

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The Jury has this year chosen to award the prize to Sabine Dorothea Volk of Universität Tübingen.

### The jury had the following to say:

The Jury unanimously agrees that Dr. Sabine Dorothea Volk is an exemplary candidate for the 2025 ECPR Rising Star Award. Dr. Volk's profile combines exceptional academic achievement, profound social engagement, and tireless commitment to the political science community.

Her trajectory is defined by intellectual rigor, innovative research, and a collaborative spirit that enriches the discipline. Her scholarly record is distinguished by depth and timeliness. Her research examines the rise and normalization of far-right actors and exclusionary ideologies, emphasizing gender dynamics and the politics of memory. Her PhD, awarded with distinction from Jagiellonian University in Kraków, analyzed far-right mobilization in post-communist Eastern Germany.

She has secured highly competitive funding, including a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship for her project on anti-gender mobilization (achieving a perfect score), and grants from the European Commission, the Kone Foundation, and the Bavarian Equity Promotion.

Dr. Volk has contributed to eight collaborative research projects, demonstrating her ability to connect ideas across borders. In 2025 alone, she published four articles in leading journals on urgent topics such as climate obstruction by far-right parties and anti-gender protests.

Her work is highly original, socially relevant, and ethically grounded. Beyond research, she elevates the academic community through service and mentorship. Since 2023, she has played a key role in the ECPR Extremism and Democracy Standing Group, co-editing the newsletter e-Extreme, co-chairing a section at the 2021 Virtual General Conference, and organizing ten panels for the 2024 Dublin General Conference.

She has served as Equal Opportunity Commissioner at the University of Passau and represents early-career researchers at the Institute for Research on Far-Right Extremism (IRex) in Tübingen. She is recognized for supporting first-generation students and junior scholars, often including newcomers in professional networks and volunteering for unrecognized academic service. She bridges academia and the public sphere, contributing to outlets such as LSE EUROPP and ECPR's The Loop, and providing expertise to international media including the BBC, NPR, and Politico.

As a dedicated educator, she has designed and taught multiple courses in English and German with inclusive pedagogy. Guest lectures further demonstrate her role as a pedagogical leader. Having worked across Kraków, Passau, Helsinki, and Tübingen, she has built an international network poised to shape far-right studies. For all these reasons, Dr. Sabine Volk is an ideal and deserving recipient of the 2025 Rising Star Award.

## Gianfranco Baldini

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On behalf of the Rising Star Award Prize Jury  
European Consortium for Political Research