Our jury had the following comments on Julia Schulte-Cloos' achievement:
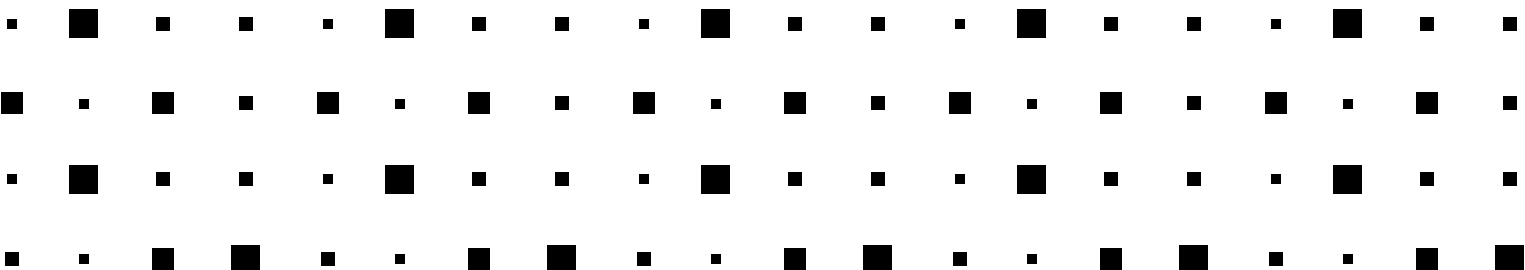
The jury recommends for the Rising Star award as the winner Dr Julia Schulte-Cloos. The nominee has obtained an outstanding academic performance throughout her career to date. Her recent performance in terms of publications and teaching are simply astounding. Her PhD (European University Institute, 2019) was entitled "European integration and the surge of the populist radical right" which finds that contestation around European integration provides a feeding ground for the growth of populist radical right – helping to activate nationalistic and EU-hostile sentiments among parts of the European public.

Whereas her PhD examined the rise of the populist right in Western Europe her postdoc (Marie Skłodowska-Curie funded Research Fellow at the Geschwister Scholl Institute of Political Science at Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich) focuses on "Attacks on Liberal Democracy and their Effects on Political Behaviour". In this postdoctoral study she explores how public attacks on liberal democracy impact citizens' attitudes and electoral behaviour in Eastern Europe. Her research uses (quasi)experimental design to tease out causality.

Her publications have come out in leading journals such as Electoral Studies, European Union Politics, Journal of European Public Policy, Party Politics and Political Behavior. She has been awarded top ranking grades throughout her education trajectory, including

exceptional grades early on, as well as winning the Peter Mair Party Politics Prize for the best paper during the 26th ECPR Summer School on 'Political Parties and Democracy'. Her PhD received an honourable mention from EUSA and her first article was awarded the best paper award for 2018 in European Union Politics. She has held various visiting positions at a number of academic institutions in different countries and environments (University of Chapel Hill in North Carolina, Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES), London School of Economics and Political Science, University of Vienna, and Aarhus University.

During the past few years, she has also generously served the profession. She has been involved in the Berkeley Initiative for Transparency in the Social Sciences (BITSS), tutor for the data clinic at the EUI, for three years she was the principal organiser of the Quantitative Methods Working Group of the EUI, and been already involved in various service capacities at the LMU (Open Science Centre; and the Research Ethics Committee). She is committed to open science and to facilitating reproducibility. She has developed a 'reproducr package' that allows users without any prior knowledge of R Markdown to implement reproducible research practices in their scientific workflows. Finally, she has disseminated her work through blogs, published through the ECPR Political Science Blog 'The Loop' as well as the LSE EUROPP Blog.

In addition, our jury wished to award an honourable mention to Stefan Müller, and had the following comments:

The jury recommends an Honourable Mention for the 'runner up' for the Rising Star award to Dr Stefan Müller, Assistant Professor and Ad Astra Fellow at the University College Dublin, who received his PhD in 2019 from Trinity College Dublin. The nominee has obtained an outstanding academic performance in particular in terms of his publication record. Of note is his excellent quantity and quality publications in leading journals, such as American Political Science Review, Electoral Studies, European Journal of Political Research, the Journal of Politics (for this paper he received the 2018 Manifesto Corpus Conference Best Paper Award), Legislative Studies Quarterly, Political Communication and PS: Political Science and Politics.

He has generously served the profession, in particular through the development of open-source software for quantitative text analysis, which has already been much used. Furthermore, he has been active in social outreach. He is also already an award-winning teacher, having received the Dermot McAleese Award for Teaching Excellence in 2018.

The 2021 prize jury consisted of

- **Amy Verdun** University of Victoria (Chair)

- **Ladislav Cabada** Metropolitan University Prague

- **Giliberto Capano** Bologna University

- **Daniela Irrera** University of Catania

- **Hana Kubátová** Charles University

- **Tanja Munro** Director of the ECPR