

Rules governing the 2016 Italian Constitutional Referendum Research Preacceptance Competition

These Rules govern the administration, participation, and execution of the 2016 Italian Constitutional Referendum Research Preacceptance Competition (also referred to as the “Competition”) sponsored by the Italian National Election Studies Association, the Società Italiana di Scienza Politica and the Italian Political Science Review (also referred to as the “Sponsors”).

By entering and participating in the Competition, participants agree to be bound by and comply with the Rules, the decisions of the Sponsors and any additional terms and conditions established by the Sponsors. The Sponsors reserves the right to modify, change and/or update the Official Rules at any time. Updated rules will be posted at <http://www.itanes.org/en/>. The new rules will apply to all participants that continue to take part in the Competition.

These rules do not cover, nor do they exempt participants from, any rule of the award of the Preregistration Challenge of the Center for Open Science.

Section 1: Entrant Eligibility

1. An Eligible Entrant is a user of the Open Science Framework that has met all eligibility criteria listed in the Rules, including having submitted a Research Plan at either <https://cos.io/prereg/> or <https://osf.io/>, having an Article accepted by the Italian Political Science Review and, upon notice of publication, lifting any embargoes of the preregistered Research Plan.
2. Any Entrant in this Competition who preregisters the research design with the Center for Open Science’s Preregistration Challenge and publishes the study in the Italian Political Science Review may be eligible for an additional \$1,000 award from the Center for Open Science.
3. These Rules do not exempt entrants taking part also in the Preregistration Challenge from meeting all the eligibility criteria set by the Center for Open Science.
4. Entrants are eligible for the Award even if they have not participated in the Preregistration Challenge. Entrants must be at least 18 years of age and identify themselves with government issued valid document of identification to claim the Award.
5. Entrants who are members of ITANES or coauthoring the study with members of ITANES are eligible subject to the Rule 5 of Section 3. It is the sole responsibility of

each entrant to ensure that they are permitted to enter the Competition and is under no conflicting contractual, legal or any other restriction to enter.

6. Any entrant that is reasonably suspected at any time of attempting, engaging in, or benefitting directly or indirectly from fraudulent activity, cheating, deception, manipulation, misconduct, artifice, harassment, undue influence, deception or any other suspect activity in connection with the Competition will be immediately excluded and will not be eligible for the Award.
7. The Competition ends at 11:59 pm CET on December 31, 2018 or the date at which three awards have been awarded, whichever occurs first. The end date may be shortened or extended as deemed necessary.

Section 3: Study Eligibility

1. Research Plans must be submitted through either <http://osf.io/prereg/> or, if Entrants do not wish to take part in Center for Open Science's Preregistration Challenge, <https://osf.io/>.
2. Research Plans outline the specific steps that the Entrant expects to perform in order to conduct the Study and analyze the generated data. A complete Research Plan includes, but is not limited to, research questions, hypotheses, data inclusion and exclusion rules, variables, and statistical models. The Research Plans must involve the use of data from the 2016 ITANES referendum survey. If a registered Research Plan is accepted by the Center for Open Science, it becomes an un-editable, time-stamped Preregistration.
3. Acceptance of the Research Plan by the Center for Open Science is not an assessment of the quality or publishability of the proposed research. It is a requirement of eligibility for the Center for Open Science's Preregistration Challenge.
4. An Entrant may register multiple Research Plans, even if they cover similar topics.
5. If one or more authors of the Article are members of ITANES, the Entrant must preregister the Research Plan before ITANES surveys are conducted.
6. A Study consists of data collection, data analysis, and reporting the research design and results in an Article. The Study must not begin prior to its Research Plan being accepted and becoming a Preregistration.
7. Confirmatory (hypothesis testing) and exploratory (hypothesis generating) analysis contribute most effectively to scientific progress when they are clearly identified as such. The Competition seeks to promote the use of preregistration of research designs for hypothesis testing as well as transparency about the distinction between

confirmatory and exploratory analysis. An Article must include confirmatory analyses of Italian Constitutional Referendum survey data and may also include exploratory analyses of such data as well as exploratory or confirmatory (pre-registered) analyses of other data.

8. Entrants must clearly and consistently distinguish between confirmatory and exploratory analyses in the Article.
9. A Study must specify the analysis that will be applied to the data in order to arrive at the statistical and inferential conclusions that are reported in the Article.
10. Entrants can enter the Competition multiple times.

Section 4: Preregistration Eligibility

1. Since projects on the Open Science Framework are created as “Private” projects by default, Entrants who enter the Competition must designate the Entrant’s co-authors and the Editors of the Italian Political Science Review as having access to view the contents of all materials that they submit to either <http://osf.io/prereg/> or <https://osf.io/>.
2. The Editors of the Italian Political Science Review have access to the private Research Plans only for the purposes of administering the Competition.
3. Upon submission of the Research Plan, the Entrant may request an embargo until December 31, 2018 or the date of publication of the Article, whichever occurs first. During the Embargo, the Preregistration will remain private except for basic information. After conducting the Study and publishing the Article, Preregistrations must be made public to be eligible for the Award. Projects designated by the Entrant as “Public” and Preregistrations that are not embargoed will be publicly accessible.
4. A complete Research Plan includes: A single study, Entrant (as Author) and co-authors being listed as contributors on the Preregistered study, and responses in English to all queries in the Preregistration form.
5. Competition administrators retain authority to determine and certify eligibility of submitted Research Plans for the Competition.

Section 5: Completed Study Eligibility

1. The Study procedures must be conducted as described in the Preregistration. Data analysis and reporting of those analyses in the Article must occur as specified in the Preregistration.

2. When deviations from the Preregistration occur, the Entrant must document the deviations with justification in the Article as described these Rules, including those described in Section 6.

Section 6: Article Eligibility

1. At least one Study reported in the main text of the Article must have been Preregistered on <http://osf.io/prereg/>. Articles in which the only reference to a Preregistered Study is in “supplemental material” are ineligible for the Award.
2. The Study must include a URL link to the public Preregistration on <http://osf.io/prereg/> in the Article. For example, “Study 1’s design and analysis plan was preregistered at the Open Science Framework and is available at: [http://osf.io/\[...\]](http://osf.io/[...]).”
3. Any deviations from the Preregistration in the Study procedure, analysis, or result reporting must be documented and justified in the Article to the satisfaction of the Editors of Italian Political Science Review.
4. The results of the Preregistration must be distinguished clearly from the results of other analyses conducted and reported in the Article. For example, the results section could have subsections titled “Confirmatory analyses” and “Additional analyses.” Other distinctions may be acceptable as long as they are clear and accessible.
5. Articles based on Preregistrations completed after the release of ITANES data are excluded.
6. An Article may be rendered ineligible for the Award in case of:
 - a. Failing to report some of the preregistered analyses.
 - b. Reporting analyses as having been preregistered when they were not.
 - c. Using different covariates for an analysis without also reporting the analysis outcomes with the preregistered covariates.
 - d. Using different rules for excluding observations without also reporting the analysis outcomes with the preregistered exclusion rules.
 - e. Changing the outcome or predictor variables without also reporting the analysis outcomes with the preregistered outcome or predictor variables.
 - f. Transforming variables, or changing the method of constructing or calculating variables, without also reporting the analysis outcomes using the preregistered transformation plans.
 - g. Changing the statistical model without also reporting the analysis outcomes using the preregistered statistical model, or providing explicit evidence for violation of statistical assumptions that invalidate the original statistical model.

- h. Conducting a different procedure than had been described in the Preregistration.
- 7. An Article may be rendered ineligible for the Award for other deviations from the preregistered Research Plan that are not listed in point 6.
- 8. The associated Preregistration must be publicly available on the Open Science Framework and the URL reported in the article for the Preregistration must correspond to the public URL for the Preregistration. Any embargoes on the Research Plan must be lifted on the date of publication.

Section 7 Award

1. Entrants will be awarded € 250 per Article. The Award is equally divided among all the authors of the article unless requested otherwise. Funding is available to support up to three awards for published Articles.
2. The Editors of ISPR verify if the Article and the Entrant meet the requirements stated in these Rules. The Awards will be announced at the Annual Conference of the Società Italiana di Scienza Politica.
3. If more Eligible Entrants exist than the number of available awards, the Award will be given on a first-come first-served basis according to the date Entrants have submitted their initial submission to Italian Political Science Review.
4. Money will be distributed by check mailed to an address provided by an Eligible Entrant or bank wire-transfer in Euros.

November 21, 2016