

ANINA SCHWARZENBACH

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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

09/2022-present	Postdoctoral Researcher / Lecturer at the Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology; Department of Criminal Law and Criminology University of Bern, Switzerland.
11/2024-present	Research associate at the Institut de Recherches Sociologiques; Department of Sociology University of Geneva, Switzerland.
06/2023-10/2023	Maternity leave.
08/2020-07/2022	Fellow with the Cyber Project; Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs; Harvard University, United States.
07/2020-04/2022	Research Associate / Lecturer at the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice; School of Behavioral Social Sciences; University of Maryland, United States.
07/2021-03/2022	Maternity leave.
08/2018-07/2020	Postdoctoral Researcher with the International Security Program; Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs; Harvard University, United States.
10/2017-07/2018	Senior Researcher at the Department of Criminology; Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law, Germany.
02/2015-05/2015	Visiting Researcher at the Institute of Criminology University of Cambridge, United Kingdom
01/2013-09/2017	Graduate Researcher at the Department of Criminology; Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law, Germany.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social Cohesion; Social Networks; Social Norms; Inequalities; Migration; Social Change; Resilience; AI and Ethics; Digital Societies; Computational Social Sciences.

EDUCATION

2017	University of Freiburg, Faculty of Philosophy International Max Planck Research School on Retaliation, Mediation, and Punishment (IMPRS REMEP) PhD in Sociology, magna cum laude (Defense: 20. September 2017)	Germany
2012	University of Bern, Faculty of Law LL.M. in Criminology, summa cum laude	Switzerland
2011	University of Zurich, Faculty of Philosophy M.A. in Communication Science, Economics, and Criminology	Switzerland
2007	University of Örebro, Faculty of Philosophy Economics	Sweden

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2025, under review	Swiss National Science Fund (SNSF) Starting Grant (as PI, CHF 186'000)
2025	Digitalisation Grant supporting innovative project in the realm of AI and digital society; University of Bern (as PI, CHF 20'000).
2023	Initiator Grant supporting early career researchers in the preparation of third-party funding applications; University of Bern (as PI, CHF 24'860).
2023-2024	Career Promotion Grant for Young Scientists; University of Bern (CHF 25'000).
2023-2024	COMET Career Program Fellowship Award; University of Bern (CHF 3'500).
2022	Achieved a top 10 % ranking in the application for the Swiss National Science Fund (SNSF) Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship.
2020	Postdoc Mobility Grant; Swiss National Science Fund (SNSF) (as PI, CHF 120'000).
2020-2022	Harvard Belfer Center Cyber Project Program Fellowship Award; Harvard University (non-stipendiary award recognized for academic distinction).
2018-2020	Harvard Belfer Center International Security Program Fellowship Award; Harvard University (non-stipendiary award recognized for academic distinction).
2019	Research Grant; Fondazione Leonardo (as PI, CHF 20'000).
2013-2017	Doctoral Fellowship; International Max Planck Research School on Retaliation, Mediation, and Punishment (non-stipendiary award recognized for academic distinction).
2007	EU Erasmus Program Scholarship (six months, CHF 20'000).

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

- Schwarzenbach, A.** (2025). Targets of Police Attention. Young People, Discrimination and Stop-and-Search in Germany and France. *European Sociological Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/esr/jcaf006>
- Schwarzenbach, A.,** and Jensen, M (2024). Extremists of a feather flock together? Community structures, transitivity, and patterns of homophily in the US Islamist co-offending network. *PLoS ONE* 19(6): e0298273. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0298273>
- LaFree, G., **Schwarzenbach, A.** (2021): Micro and Macro-Level Risk Factors for Extremism and Terrorism. Toward a Criminology of Extremist Violence. *Journal of Criminology and Penal Reform*, 104, no. 3: 184-202. <https://doi.org/10.1515/mks-2021-0127>
- Schwarzenbach, A.,** Tankebe, J., and Oberwittler, D. (2020): In Their Own Hands: Young People and Self-Justice Retaliation in Germany. *Crime & Delinquency*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0011128720948032>
- Oberwittler, D., and **Schwarzenbach, A.** (2015): Police and Adolescents in Multi-Ethnic Societies. Findings of a Comparative Survey of Adolescents in German and French Cities. In: *SIAK-Journal – Journal for Police Science and Practice, International Edition*, Vol. 5, 4-15.

Peer-reviewed
Monograph

Schwarzenbach, A. (2020): Youth-Police Relations in Multi-Ethnic Cities. A Study of Police Contacts and Attitudes toward Police in Germany and France. Berlin: Duncker & Humblot. <http://hdl.handle.net/21.11116/0000-0007-064D-D>

Peer-reviewed Book
Chapters

Schwarzenbach, A. (2023) Extremism, Violence, and the Media Discourse. In: Brewster, C., and Wieboldt, D. (Eds.). Journalism and Democracy. The Clough Center for The Study of Constitutional Democracy, Boston College., pp. 43-47.

Schwarzenbach, A. (2019): Counter-radicalisation strategies: An analysis of German and French approaches and implementations. In: Akhgar, B., Wells, D., and Blanco, J. M. (eds.). Investigating Radicalization Trends: Case Studies in Europe and Asia. Springer Nature, pp.101-122.

Schwarzenbach, A. (2018): Fighting the “Threat from Within”: France and its Counter-Radicalization Strategy. In: Vidino, L (ed.). De-radicalization in the Mediterranean. Comparing Challenges and Approaches. Istituto per gli studi di politica internazionale (ISPI). Milano: LediPublishing. <https://www.ispionline.it/en/pubblicazione/de-radicalization-mediterranean-21009>

Roché, S., **Schwarzenbach, A.**, Oberwittler, D., and De Maillard, J. (2017): Adolescents’ Divergent Ethnic and Religious Identities and Trust in the Police. Combining Micro- and Macro-Level Determinants in a Comparative Analysis in France and Germany. In: Oberwittler, D. and Roché, S. (ed.): Police-Citizen Relations: A Comparative Investigation of Sources and Impediments of Legitimacy Around the World. London: Routledge, pp. 175-195. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315406664>

Schwarzenbach, A. (2017): Wie stehen Jugendliche in Deutschland zur Polizei? Ergebnisse aus dem Forschungsprojekt POLIS. In: Bartsch, T., Brandenstein, M., Grundies, V., Hermann, D., Puschke, J., and Rau, M. (ed.): Sammelband des 50. Kolloquium der Südwestdeutschen und Schweizerischen Kriminologischen Institute. Berlin: Duncker & Humblot.

Manuscripts under
Revision

Schwarzenbach, A. Distributive Injustice, Health Inequity, and Domestic Terrorism.

Schwarzenbach, A., and Zöbeli, L. The Construction of Social Threat. Integrating Topic Modeling and Word Embedding to analyze 30 years of Media Coverage on Extremism.

Working Papers

Schwarzenbach, A., and Baier, D. Political Legitimacy and Political Extremism.

Liu, S., and **Schwarzenbach, A.**. Societal Impacts of Embodied Artificial Intelligence.

Schwarzenbach, A.. Morality and Artificial Intelligence.

SELECTED RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Exploring Social Resilience through Agent-Based Modeling: Insights from the Twin-Life Dataset. (solo-authored). This project employs agent-based modeling and the Twin-Life dataset to reveal how social norms and structural characteristics interact to shape adaptive capacities within diverse societies.

Resilience and Social Change. (solo-authored). This research investigates how communities and institutions build resilience in the face of rapid social, economic, and technological transformations. Drawing on survey experiments, natural language processing, and social network analysis, the project seeks to understand the processes through which social systems adapt to challenges and foster enduring change.

Analyzing the Success and Failure of Terrorist Events Using Hyper-Event Models. (with M. Jensen). This project employs a novel hyper-event modeling framework to systematically examine the dynamics of terrorist incidents. By quantifying how individual and interrelated event components contribute to either the escalation or disruption of terrorist actions, the study aims to uncover the critical factors that determine an event's outcome.

COOPERATION

since 09/2022	Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy, Boston College (Prof. Dr. Jonathan Laurence, Dr. Nicholas Hayes-Mota).
since 07/2020	Center for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), University of Maryland (Prof. Dr. Gary LaFree, Dr. Michael Jensen).
08/2020 - 07/2022	Cyber Project of the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs; Harvard University (Prof. Dr. Ash Carter and Erich Rosenbach).
01/2013-09/2017	Science Po Grenoble; University of Grenoble (Prof. Dr. Sebastian Roché).

LEADERSHIP

Academic Leadership

09/2022 to present	Principal Investigator of the project Social Challenges, Democracy, and the Public Discourse. Leads the project and overviews the work of the graduate research assistant Livia Zöbeli, BA in Computational Linguistics.
06/2020-04/2022	Principal Investigator of the project Legitimacy and Effectiveness of Strategies to Counter Violent Extremism. Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice; School of Behavioral Social Sciences; University of Maryland. Led the project funded with a SNSF Postdoc Mobility Grant.
10/2017-07/2018	Principal Investigator of the project Islamist Radicalization in Europe. Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law. Lead the project and carried out expert interviews.

02/2014-02/2016 **PhD. representative at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law.** Promoted equal pay and equal opportunities for all PhD. candidates of the Max Planck Society. Co-organized a conference on Open Access in Legal Research.

Private Sector Leadership

10/2020 to 04/2022 **Co-founder and co-director of DartKite Limited (Stevenage UK); Chief Research Officer.** Spinoff from the Harvard Belfer Center National Cyber Power Index (NCPI). Provided geopolitical and cyber risk assessment products and strategic advisory services on cyber security to national governments, international institutions, and innovative businesses.

SUPERVISION AND TEACHING

Graduate Student Supervision

02/2023 to present **Master Thesis supervisor of Annette Feitscher.** Institute of Criminal Law, and Criminology, University of Bern, Switzerland. Master Thesis title: "Political Agenda Setting: The Role of Media and Social Media".

02/2023 to 07/2023 **Supervision of Anastasija Kaplane.** Advanced Program in European Law and Economics. International Department of the Riga Graduate School of Law (RGSL). Guided the student in developing research proposals and methodology, advised the student on their research paper "Comparative analysis of prevention of youth radicalization in the EU and the Central Asia.

01/2014-08/2015 **Supervision of three Master students in sociology: Göran Köber (University of Freiburg, Germany), Johann Wesemann (University of Mannheim, Germany) and Selma Lamprecht (University of Mannheim, Germany).** Instructed the students in the coding of occupations according to the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) and International Socio-Economic Index of Occupational Status (ISEI).

Teaching and Course Development

2025 (forthcoming) **AI, Ethics, and Society (BA and MA).**
(5 ETCS) University of Bern, Institute for Criminal Law and Criminology. Developed and will teach the course.

2023 **Media, Polarization, and Democracy (BA and MA).**
(3 ETCS) University of Bern, Institute for Criminal Law and Criminology. Developed and taught the research seminar.

2021 **Human Causes and Consequences of Terrorism (BA).**
(5 ETCS) University of Maryland, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Course development and co-teaching with Prof. Gary LaFree.

2019 **Cyber Information and Operations (MA).**

- (5 ETCS) Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Belfer Center. Teaching Assistant. Developed course material for the Center's Co-director Eric Rosenbach, wrote case studies and teaching notes, evaluated the students' assignments, and administered the course.
- 2019 **Leadership and Execution in Global Affairs (MA).**
- (5 ETCS) Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Belfer Center. Teaching Assistant. Developed course material for the Center's Co-director Eric Rosenbach, wrote case studies and teaching notes, evaluated the students' assignments, ran leadership simulations, and administered the course.
- 2018 **Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences (BA).**
- (5 ETCS) University of Freiburg (Germany), University College Freiburg. Developed and taught the course. Semester course.

RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

- 01/2020-10/2020 Research Assistant to Julia Voo, Director of the Cyber Power Project; John F. Kennedy School of Government; Harvard University.
- 01/2013-08/2017 Research Assistant to Prof. Dietrich Oberwittler for the Project Police and Adolescents in Multi-Ethnic Societies. Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law; Freiburg, Germany.

PRESENTATIONS, MEDIA COVERAGE, AND INVITED SPEAKER AND EXPERT

- Selected Presentations**
- November 2024, Framing Social Threats. Analyzing Topics and Sentiments in 30 Years of Media Coverage of Extremism. Seminar in Analytical Sociology: Theory and Empirical Applications. LMU and Venice International University, Venice, Italy.
- September 2024, Rethinking AI Ethics. Swiss Sociological Association Congress, Muttensz, Switzerland.
- July 2024, Social Norms and Violent Co-Offending Networks. Social Norms Conference on Emergence, Stability, and Social Change, Ascona, Switzerland.
- July 2024, Extremism, Violence, and the Media Discourse: Framing of Extremism over Time. Conference of European Studies (CES), Lyon, France.
- May 2024, Extremists of a Feather Flock Together? Community Structures, Transitivity, and Patterns of Homophily in the US Islamist Co-Offending Network. International Network of Analytical Sociology, Leipzig, Germany.
- May 2024, Extremists of a Feather Flock Together? Community Structures, Transitivity, and Patterns of Homophily in the US Islamist Co-Offending Network. International Conference of Young Scientists, Washington, DC, US.
- November 2022, Extremists of a Feather. Homophily in Violent Extremist Networks. International Conference on Social Networks and their Application. University of Palermo, Palermo, Italy.

		<p>March 2021, Political Legitimacy and Worldwide Terrorist Attacks. International Studies Association ISA Conference (virtual).</p> <p>November 2020, Harvard National Cyber Power Index 2020, together with Julia Voo, Simon Jones, and Daniel Cassidy. 2020 Conference on Cyber Norms, The Hague Program for Cyber Norms, Leiden University, the Netherlands (virtual).</p> <p>May 2020, Terrorism and Political Legitimacy. “Harvard-MIT-Tufts-Yale Political Violence Conference”, hosted by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge MA, US (virtual).</p> <p>April 2020, Terrorism and State Legitimacy. How Government Accountability, Efficiency, and Fairness Relate to Domestic Terrorism. Annual Meeting of American Sociological Association ASA (virtual).</p> <p>November 2019, Countering Violent Extremism: A Quest for Legitimacy and Effectiveness. Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology ASC in San Francisco, US.</p> <p>February 2019, Keynote speaker at the Policing and Society Conference, University of Akureyri in Akureyri, Iceland.</p> <p>December 2016, Religion and National Identification, Variations Across two Countries (France, Germany). Together with Sebastian Roché. Violent Radicalization Conference in Grenoble, France.</p> <p>September 2016, Youth-Police Interaction in a Multi-Ethnic Society. RC33 Conference on Social Methods in Leicester, UK.</p> <p>March 2015, Attitudes towards the Police in two EU Countries. Together with Sebastian Roché, International Conference on Citizen Police Relations in Paris, France.</p>
Selected Coverage	Media	<p>August 4th, 2024, Der Bund (leading Swiss German daily newspaper), Frontpage, “Viele Extremisten kannten sich schon vor der Radikalisierung”.</p> <p>June 2024, University of Bern Media Relations, “Ehrung: Anina Schwarzenbach wird Mitglied der Global Young Academy”.</p> <p>June 2024, University of Bern Media Press Release, “How Islamist Extremists Forge Relationships with Accomplices”.</p> <p>September 2020, The Economist, “A new global ranking of cyber-power throws up some surprises. America rules digital national security, China is not far behind”.</p> <p>September 2020, Vavra, S., Cyberscoop, “Chinese cyber power is neck-and-neck with the US, Harvard research finds”.</p> <p>Summer 2020, Gibbons, C., Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs Newsletter, “Anina Schwarzenbach: Linking Discrimination, State Institutions and Violent Extremism”.</p>
Invited Speaker and Expert		<p>March 2025, invited speaker to the Spring Symposium Envisioning Democratic Futures: How will artificial intelligence shape democracy? Boston College, Newton, US.</p>

June 2024, invited speaker to the ETH Center For Security Studies. ETH, Zurich, Switzerland.

March 2024, invited speaker to the Spring Symposium Digital Spaces. Symposium on Attachment to Places in a World of Nations. Boston College, Newton, US.

June 2022, invited academic expert to the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) Workshop on Integrating Gender Perspectives into National Cyber Policies.

February 2022, invited academic expert to the World Economic Forum (WEF) Cyber Resilience Index Workshop.

March 2021, invited academic expert to the Microsoft and IEP Symposium on Measuring Cyber Peace.

November 2020, invited speaker to the Webinar on Ethics, Values and Tech, Indiana University, Indiana, US (with Simon Jones).

October 2020, briefing of the Harvard Belfer National Power Index 2020 for the NATO, (together with Julia Voo, Simon Jones, Irfan Hemani, and Winnona de Sombre).

November 2019, invited expert to the annual Global Cybersecurity Day Symposium for 2019, Harvard University, Cambridge MA, US.

April 2018, invited speaker to the conference on "Regards croisés sur la prévention de la radicalisation violente", Science Po, Paris, France.

July 2018; Invited expert to Countering Violent Extremism and De-Radicalization Measures in Europe and the MENA Region; Mediterranean Dialogues; Italian Institute for International Political Studies and Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Rabat, Morocco.

January 2016, organizer of the Open Access in Legal Research Conference at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law, Freiburg, Germany.

February 2015, Invited speaker to the Congreso Internacional de Seguridad, Justicia Y Systema Penal at the University of Valencia, Valencia, Spain .

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Sept. - Dec. 2024	Management and Entrepreneurship Training, Innosuisse Bern, five-day workshop.
March 2022	Agent-based Modelisng in the Social Sciences, GESIS Cologne, five-day workshop.
October 2020	Data Wrangling with R, Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Harvard University, one-day workshop.
September 2020	Python Web Scraping, Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Harvard University, one-day workshop.
November 2018	Structured Data, Databases, and SQL, Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Harvard University, one-day workshop.
March 2018	Longitudinal Network Analysis Using R Siena, GESIS Cologne, two-day workshop.

February 2018	Spatial Analysis and Spatial Econometrics, GESIS Cologne, five-day workshop.
March 2017	Causal Analysis with Panel Data: Potentials and Limitations, GESIS Cologne, five-day workshop.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND AFFILIATIONS

Professional Service	<p>Board member of the Academy of Sociology (AS) (since January 2024). The AS is a professional scientific association promoting analytical-empirical social science. As board member, I promote the interdisciplinarity and internationality in the social sciences through cooperation with external partners, and representation of the organization nationally and internationally.</p> <p>Elected Global Young Academy (GYA) member (appointed for a 5-year term, since May 2024). The GYA is an international society of young scientists that aims to promote inclusivity and science for the future. Membership is capped at 200 and is offered competitively based on scientific excellence and commitment to engage with society. I represent Switzerland at the GYA.</p> <p>Member of the Digital Society Initiative (DSI); University of Zurich (since January 2023). I am part of the DSI Community Democracy which focuses on research related to the impact of digitalisation on the political system, on democracy, and on related topics.</p> <p>Associate Member of the Swiss Center of Expertise for Life Course Research (LIVES); University of Lausanne (since June 2024). LIVES manages interdisciplinary research projects co-directed by professors from the Universities of Lausanne, Geneva, Fribourg and Zurich.</p>
Professional Memberships	<p>Academy of Sociology / Akademie Soziologie (AS); Global Young Academy (GYA); Digital Society Initiative (DSI); Swiss Center of Expertise for Life Course Research (LIVES); Swiss Association for Natural Language Processing (SwissNLP); Modelling and Simulation Section of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Soziologie (DGS); Political Sociology Section of the DGS; Social Networks Research Section of the DGS; European Sociological Association (ESA); Wolfson College, University of Cambridge, UK; Harvard International Security Program Alumnus; Harvard Cyber Power Project Alumnus; Max Planck Society Alumnus.</p>
Ad Hoc Journal Reviewer	<p>Oxford Research Encyclopedia of International Studies; International Security; Justice Quarterly; Political Violence; Cyber Policy Journal; Monatsschrift für Kriminologie.</p>

SKILLS

Technical Skills	
Data and Statistical Analyses:	R, Stata, and Python
Version Control:	Git

Document Preparation: LaTeX

Languages

German:	native speaker
Italian:	native speaker
English:	highly proficient
French:	highly proficient in reading and speaking, moderate writing skills
Spanish:	basic reading and speaking skills
Arabic:	basic reading skills

REFERENCES

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