

LION BEHRENS

February 2020

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University of Mannheim, B6 30-32, Room 322, 68131 Mannheim, Germany

OCCUPATIONS

Research Associate

June 2018 - ongoing

Collaborative Research Center 884, University of Mannheim

Project C7 "*Political attention and the substance of legislative reform*"

Visiting Researcher

Jan 2020 - Feb 2020

Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), Quito, Ecuador

DISSERTATION

In my dissertation I combine strands of literature on democratization and 'election forensics' into a joint endeavor with a regional focus on Latin America. Methodologically, (i) I develop a novel approach to detect systematic election irregularities from numerical imbalances across multiple concurrent national elections (ii) and advance the employment of Machine Learning algorithms for the probabilistic detection of election fraud. Substantively, I use these tools for a systematic evaluation of the electoral integrity of Latin America's 21st century 'left turn' and investigate how to deter manipulation based on features of the electoral system.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Subfields: Comparative Politics, Political Methodology

Substantive: Electoral Integrity, Legislative Politics

Methodology: Bayesian Statistics, Monte Carlo Simulation, Machine Learning

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Political Science

Sep 2018 - ongoing

Graduate School of Economic and Social Sciences, University of Mannheim

M.Sc. Methodology and Statistics

Sep 2016 - May 2018

Utrecht University

B.A. Political Science (with distinction)

Sep 2013 - July 2016

University of Bremen

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Behrens, Lion and Ingo Rohlfing. 2018. "Not so different in present attitudes and behavior, but expected future membership - A technical replication of a study of party youth in six European democracies". *Research & Politics*, Online Only, 1-5.

WORKING PAPERS

Legislative Politics

Behrens, Lion, Dominic Nyhuis and Thomas Gschwend. "Opposition strategies in legislative review.

Tracing the strategic use of legislative amendments using syntax-aware automated text-analysis".

Political Methodology

Behrens, Lion and Rebecca M Kuiper. "Bayesian evaluation of informative hypotheses for synthesizing evidence from diverse statistical models".

Behrens, Lion and Ingo Rohlfing. "Bayesian nested analysis".

Buskens, Vincent, Werner Raub, Lion Behrens, Rebecca M. Kuiper and Irene Klugkist. "Embeddedness effects on trust in social and economic exchange: A Bayesian analysis of evidence from four studies".

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant

<i>Applied Bayesian Statistics</i> , Utrecht Summer School	May 2018
<i>Structural Equation Modeling with Mplus</i> , Utrecht Summer School	July 2017
<i>Business Statistics</i> , De Bijlspartner Amsterdam	March 2017 - May 2017

Tutor

<i>Instrumental Variables in Psychology</i> , B.A. Thesis, Utrecht University	January 2017 - May 2017
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CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (*INCLUDING SCHEDULED)

EPSA 2019	"Bayesian evaluation of informative hypotheses for synthesizing evidence from diverse models"
EPSA 2019	"Opposition strategies in legislative review"
ECPR Standing Group on Parliaments 2019	"Opposition strategies in legislative review"
PolMeth Europe 2020*	"A Bayesian Method for Evidence Synthesis in Political Science"
EPSA 2020*	"Beyond the party-lens: MPs strategic individual efforts in legislative review"

INVITED TALKS

"Probabilistic Detection of Electoral Fraud Using Machine Learning Methods" (in Spanish)
Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales FLACSO - Sede Ecuador, February 2020
"A Bayesian Method for Evidence Synthesis in Political Science"
Cologne Center for Comparative Politics, November 2019
"Teaching Bayesian Statistics - A Shiny Application"
First Expert Data Disagreement Working Group Meeting, Utrecht University, July 2017
"Political Trust and Political Participation - The Micro-Level Relationship and Its Macro-Level Dependencies"
Ecuadorian Political Science Association (AECIP), Quito, April 2016

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Internships

<i>GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences</i> , Mannheim	January - March 2018
Research assistance for Oshrat Hochman analyzing European Social Survey data	

<i>FLACSO - Latin American Social Science Institute</i> , Quito	February - April 2016
Research on political participation analyzing data from the Latin American Public Opinion Project	

Research Assistantships

<i>Department for Methods & Statistics</i> , Utrecht University, Prof. Rens van de Schoot, Ph.D.	Jan 17 - March 18
<i>Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences</i> , Prof. Ingo Rohlfing, Ph.D.	April - July 2016
<i>Research Center on Inequality and Social Policy</i> , Bremen, Prof. Michael Windzio	March - August 2015
<i>Collaborative Research Center 597</i> , Bremen University, Natascha Zaun, Ph.D.	July - December 2014

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Mathematics for Social Scientists, GESS, University of Mannheim	2019
Advanced Quantitative Methods, GESS, University of Mannheim	2019
Machine Learning for the Social Sciences, GESS, University of Mannheim	2019
Theory Building and Causal Inference, GESS, University of Mannheim	2018
Computational Text Analysis, GESS, University of Mannheim	2018
Hot Topics in Machine Learning, GESS, University of Mannheim	2018
Multilevel analysis using HLM, GESIS Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences	2015

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship grant, German Academic Exchange Service, Research stay in Ecuador	Jan - Feb 2020
Research grant (with Thomas Gschwend and Dominic Nyhuis), 21000 EUR,	
Collaborative Research Center 884, "Teaching machines the syntax of political text"	April 2019 - March 2020
Full scholarship grant, Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes	2016 - 2018
Full scholarship grant, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung	2013 - 2016

INVITED REFEREE

Research & Politics

SKILLS

Computing

R, Stata, Mplus, SPSS, HLM, JAGS, Shiny, L^AT_EX, Markdown

Languages

German: Native, English: Fluent, Spanish: Oral Fluency

REFERENCES

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Prof. Thomas Gschwend, PhD
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