

# Natalia Umansky

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Department of Political Science · University of Zurich

✉ [umansky@ipz.uzh.ch](mailto:umansky@ipz.uzh.ch) 🌐 [nataliaumansky.github.io](https://nataliaumansky.github.io) | Updated: Jul. 5, 2023

## Academic Positions

- Postdoctoral Research Fellow - *University of Zurich* August 2022 - To date
- Lecturer - *University College Dublin* Spring 2022
- Lab Manager - *The Connected\_Politics Lab* September 2019 - July 2022
- Research Assistant - *University College Dublin* September 2018 - July 2022
- Teaching Assistant - *University College Dublin* September 2018 - December 2021

## Education

*University College Dublin*, PhD IN POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OCTOBER 2022

Project title: "Securitization and Social Media Networks: Who Tweets Security?"

Supervisor: Dr. James P. Cross

Committee: Prof. Dr. Mariken van der Velden & Dr. Stefan Müller

*Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals*, MA INTERNATIONAL SECURITY 2015 - 2016

*Universidad Torcuato Di Tella*, BA INTERNATIONAL STUDIES 2010 - 2014

## Research

### PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Umansky, N. (2022). Who gets a say in this? Speaking security on social media. *New Media & Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14614448221111009>

### UNDER REVIEW

- Networks of Security
- Spreading like wildfire: The securitization of the Amazon rainforest fires on Twitter
- Speaking in unison? Explaining the role of agenda-setter constellations in the ECB policy agenda using a network-based approach (with Silvia Caló, James P. Cross, and Derek Greene)

## WORKING PAPERS

- “Now you are speaking my language” Language-specific transparency and legislative negotiations in the Council of Ministers of the European Union (with James P. Cross).
- Political dance-off: A multimodal approach to study political communication on TikTok (with Christian Pipal).
- The blackbox of social media content moderation: A first look into a novel Twitter dataset (with Emma Hoes and Maël Kubli).
- Detecting Online Hate Speech: Comparison of Annotation Approaches and Their Impact on Classifier Performance (with Maël Kubli, Karsten Donnay, Fabrizio Gilardi, Dominik Hangartner, and Philip Grech).
- Sentiment Analysis. In *Encyclopedia of Political Communication* (with Mariken van der Velden and Christian Pipal).
- Algorithmic Curation. In *Encyclopedia of Political Communication* (with Cornelius Puschmann).

## WORK IN PROGRESS

- Dancing to the partisan beat: A comparative analysis of political parties’ TikTok use across Europe (with Johannes Gruber, Aleksandra Urman, and Christian Pipal)
- Multimodal approaches for social media studies: A methodological recap (with Andreu Casas and Christian Pipal)
- Content moderation on TikTok (with Andreu Casas, Christian Pipal, and Kevin Aslett).
- Up to the challenge: Visual political queues on TikTok (with Mariken van der Velden and Christian Pipal)
- Alternative sites of securitization: Women and the #NiUnaMenos movement (with Emma Murphy).

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- What is the Effect of Terrorist Attacks on the Securitization of Migration? Case Studies from the UK and Spain. Institut Barcelona d’Estudis Internacionals, Student Paper Series, 2015-2016.
- Elena Reinaga. If I were born again I would still be a sex worker. P. Purdy and N. Umansky. OpenDemocracy. 2016, October.

## Funding and Awards

---

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

*Total amount of funding attracted:  $\approx$  € 102000*

- *University College Dublin* Iseult Honohan Scholarship: € 58000 2020 - 2022
- *University College Dublin* SPIRe Graduate Scholarship: € 24000 2018 - 2020
- *Universidad Torcuato Di Tella* Merit Scholarship: € 15000 2010 - 2014
- Travel and other smaller grants from University College Dublin, the Political Studies Association of Ireland, University of Zurich, and the European Consortium for Political Research: ≈ € 5000 2018-

## AWARDS

- *Political Science Association of Ireland* Nominated for Basil Chubb prize 2023
- *International Communication Association* Nominated for Political Communication Division PhD Dissertation Award 2023
- *University College Dublin* Nominated for the Teaching and Learning Award - Award for Exceptional Contribution to Learning 2022
- *Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals* Best Dissertation Award 2016

## Teaching

---

### GRADUATE LEVEL

- Platform Governance: Regulating Social Media (University of Zurich: Spring 2023)

### UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL

- Internet and the Global South (University of Zurich: Spring 2023)
- Critical Security Policy (University of Zurich: Autumn 2022)
- Critical Security Studies (University College Dublin: Spring 2022)

### WORKSHOP INSTRUCTOR

- *Introduction to R* 2023  
GESIS Fall Seminar in Computational Social Science (with Christian Pipal)
- *Collecting and Analyzing Twitter Data* 2022  
COMPTTEXT Conference
- *Creating and Hosting an Academic Personal Website Using Hugo and GitHub* 2020  
The Connected\_Politics Lab (with Stefan Müller)

### SUPERVISION

MA/MSc students: supervisor of 3 master's theses

## TEACHING ASSISTANT

- *University College Dublin* September 2018 - December 2021
  - EU Politics
  - Foundations of Political Theory and International Relations
  - Foundations of Contemporary Politics
  - Research Methods in Political Science

## Visiting Research Positions

---

- *Center for Social Media and Politics, New York University* May 2023
- *University of Copenhagen.* January - February 2023
- *Università degli Studi di Milano.* July 2022
- *Digital Democracy Lab, University of Zurich.* November 2021
- *Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals.* June - September 2019

## Conference and Workshop Presentations

---

### CONFERENCES

- 2023 American Political Science Association (APSA) General Conference.
- 2023 International Communication Association (ICA) Annual Conference.
- 2022 - 2023 COMPTTEXT Conference.
- 2021 - 2022 Digital Democracy Workshop (University of Zurich).
- 2020 - 2021 - 2022 - 2023 European Political Science Association (EPSA) General Conference.
- 2021 European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) General Conference.
- 2020 Young Scholars in Computational Social Science workshop (University of Zurich).
- 2019 - 2020 - 2021 Political Science Association of Ireland (PSAI) General Conference.
- 2019 ECPR Joint Sessions.

### INVITED TALKS

- "Spreading Like Wildfire" - SODAS Data Discussion (University of Copenhagen) 10 February, 2023
- Guest Lecture - Research Design (Graduate level) 16 November, 2021  
*School of Politics and International Relations, University College Dublin*
- "Women in Political Methodology" Speaker Series. 20 October, 2021

Summer School for Women in Political Methodology

- The Connected\_Politics Lab Spring Seminar Series.

15 April, 2020

University College Dublin

## Service

---

### UNIVERSITY/DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

- **University of Zurich, Department of Political Science**  
ECR Forum Founder and Co-Convenor 2022 - 2023
- **University College Dublin, School of Politics and International Relations**  
SPIRe PhD Forum Co-Founder and Co-Convenor 2021 - 2022
- **University College Dublin, College of Social Sciences and Law**  
Connected\_Politics Lab Seminar Series Co-Convenor 2021 - 2022
- **University College Dublin, School of Politics and International Relations**  
PhD Representative January 2020 - February 2022

### DISCIPLINE SERVICE

- Co-organizer, **Digital Democracy Workshop** 2023.
- Co-organizer, **Political Studies Association of Ireland Annual Conference** 2021.
- Co-organizer, **Quantitative Text Analysis Dublin (QTA-DUB) Workshop** 2019.

### REVIEWER

Journal of International Relations & Development; Computational Communication Research; Media, War and Conflict; International Journal of Media & Culture Politics

## Continuing Professional Development

---

- *GESIS Fall Seminar*, Automated Image and Video Data Analysis September 2022
- *ResPos Summer School*, Causality in Policy Studies July 2022
- *University College Dublin*, University Teaching & Learning January - May 2021
- *ECPR Winter School in Methods and Techniques*, Social Network Analysis March 2021
- *University of Exeter*, Longitudinal Network Analysis Workshop August 2020
- *ECPR Summer School*, Quantitative Text Analysis July - August 2019
- *Barcelona Summer School of Demography*, R Programming June - July 2018

## **Skills**

---

### **Computer Knowledge**

- R, R Markdown, Python, Git, GitHub, web scraping (browser automation and APIs), L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X.

### **Languages**

- Spanish Native speaker.
- English Fluent (TOEFL iBT: 109).
- Catalan Upper intermediate (CEFR: B2).
- German Basic comprehension, reading, speaking and writing (CEFR: B1).

## **References**

---

Prof. Fabrizio Gilardi  
Professor of Policy Analysis  
University of Zurich  
gilardi@ipz.uzh.ch

Dr. James P. Cross  
Associate Professor  
Jean Monnet Chair  
University College Dublin  
james.cross@ucd.ie

Dr. Stefan Müller  
Assistant Professor and Ad  
Astra Fellow  
University College Dublin  
stefan.mueller@ucd.ie