Natalia Umansky

Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Digital Democracy Lab · University of Zurich
✉ umansky@ipz.uzh.ch 🌐 nataliaumansky.github.io | *Updated:* Feb. 16, 2024

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.

- Cross, J. P., Greene, **Umansky**, & Calò. (2023). Speaking in unison? Explaining the role of agenda-setter constellations in the ECB policy agenda using a network-based approach. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 1-27. https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2023.2242891.

- **Umansky, N.** (2023). Spreading Like Wildfire: The Securitization of the Amazon Rainforest Fires on Twitter. *International Journal Of Communication, 18*, 21. Retrieved from https://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/view/20420/4419

Under Review

- Networks of Security. *International Relations Journal*.

- Dances, Duets, and Debates: Analysing political communication and viewer engagement on TikTok (with Christian Pipal). *Political Communication*.

- The Blackbox of Social Media Content Moderation: A first look into a novel Twitter dataset (with Emma Hoes and Maël Kubli). *New Media & Society*.

- Enhancing Hate Speech Detection with Fine-Tuned Large Language Models Requires High-Quality Data (with Maël Kubli, Karsten Donnay, Fabrizio Gilardi, Dominik Hangartner, Ana Kotarcic, Laura Bronner, Selina Kurerand, and Philip Grech). *Political Analysis*.

Chapters

- van der Velden, M.A.C.G., **Umansky**, & Pipal. (forthcoming). "Sentiment Analysis", in Nai, Grömping, and Wirz (eds) *Encyclopedia of Political Communication*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

- **Umansky, N.**, & Puschmann, C. (forthcoming). "Algorithmic Curation", in Nai, Grömping, and Wirz (eds) *Encyclopedia of Political Communication*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

- **Umansky, N.** (forthcoming). "Speaking Security on Social Media Networks", in Reuss and Stetter (eds) *Social Media and Conflict*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Working Papers

- Dancing to the partisan beat: A multimodal analysis of political parties' TikTok use across Europe (with Christian Pipal, Johannes Gruber, Jason Greenfield, and Aleksandra Urman).

- Multimodal approaches for social media studies: A methodological recap (with Andreu Casas and Christian Pipal).

Work in Progress

- #gay: Analysing LGBTQ+ content on TikTok (with Alberto López and Christian Pipal).

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: ≈ € 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-

- *University of Zurich* Nominated for the IPZ Impact Award   2023

- *University College Dublin* Nominated for Dr. Máire de Paor Best PhD Thesis   2023

- *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   (University of Zurich: Spring 2023, Autumn 2024)

UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL

- Digital Communication and Politics   (University of Zurich: Autumn 2024)

- Internet and the Global South   (University of Zurich: Spring 2023)

- Critical Security Policy   (University of Zurich: Autumn 2022, Autumn 2023)

- Critical Security Studies   (University College Dublin: Spring 2022)

WORKSHOP INSTRUCTOR

- *Data Wrangling and Visualization with Tidyverse*   April 2024

  University of Lucerne

- *Automated Image and Video Data Analysis*   January 2024

  University of Lucerne

- *Introduction to R*   2023 - 2024

  GESIS Fall Seminar in Computational Social Science (with Christian Pipal)

- *Collecting and Analyzing Twitter Data*   2022

  COMPTEXT Conference

- *Creating and Hosting an Academic Personal Website Using Hugo and GitHub*   2020

  The Connected_Politics Lab (with Stefan Müller)

SUPERVISION

BA/BSc students: supervision of 1 undergraduate thesis.

MA/MSc students: supervisor of 4 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 COMPTEXT Conference.

- 2021 - 2022 - 2023 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

- Centre for Media, Communication and Information Research (ZeMKI)   17 January, 2024

  University of Bremen

- Connected_Politics Lab Speaker Series   27 September, 2023

  University College Dublin

- SODAS Data Discussion   10 February, 2023

  University of Copenhagen

- Guest Lecture - Research Design   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/DEPARTAMENTAL SERVICE

- **University of Zurich**
  - ECR Forum Founder and Co-Convenor   2022 - 2023
  - Member of Hiring Committee Postdoctoral Research Fellow, *DigDem Lab*   2022 - 2023
- **University College Dublin**
  - SPIRe PhD Forum Co-Founder and Co-Convenor   2021 - 2022
  - Connected_Politics Lab Seminar Series Co-Convenor   2021 - 2022
  - PhD Representative   January 2020 - February 2022

DISCIPLINE SERVICE

- Co-organizer, **ICA Pre-Conference Hackathon** 2024.
- 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 (x2); International Journal of Media & Culture Politics; Journal of the Association for Information Systems

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
- *Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals*, Data Analysis   April - June 2018

Skills

Computer Knowledge

- R, R Markdown, Python, Git, GitHub, Linux, web scraping (browser automation and APIs), LaTeX.

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

Prof. Mariken van der Velden
Associate Professor
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
m.a.c.g.vander.velden@vu.nl

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