

Natalia Umansky

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Department of Political Science · University of Zurich

✉ umansky@ipz.uzh.ch 🌐 nataliaumansky.github.io | Updated: Oct. 18, 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>.
- 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>.

UNDER REVIEW

- Networks of Security.
- Spreading like wildfire: The securitization of the Amazon rainforest fires on Twitter.
- Dances, Duets, and Debates: Analysing political communication and viewer engagement 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).

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

WORKING PAPERS

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

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Multimodal approaches for social media studies: A methodological recap (with Andreu Casas and Christian Pipal).
- Content moderation on TikTok (with Andreu Casas, Christian Pipal, Johannes Gruber, and Kevin Aslett).
- Up to the challenge: Visual political queues on TikTok (with Mariken van der Velden and Christian Pipal).
- #gay: Analysing LGBTQ+ content on TikTok (with Alberto López 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: 2018-
 \approx € 5000

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, Autumn 2023)
- Critical Security Studies (University College Dublin: Spring 2022)

WORKSHOP INSTRUCTOR

- *Introduction to R* 2023 - 2024
 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 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 December, 2023
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/DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

- **University of Zurich**
 - ECR Forum Founder and Co-Convenor 2022 - 2023
 - Hiring Committee for Postdoctoral Researcher, *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; 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
- *Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals*, Data Analysis April - June 2018

Skills

Computer Knowledge

- R, R Markdown, Python, Git, GitHub, 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