

# DR. OKE BAHNSEN

University of Mannheim, D-68159 Mannheim  
✉ [obahnsen@mail.uni-mannheim.de](mailto:obahnsen@mail.uni-mannheim.de) 🌐 [obahnsen.com](http://obahnsen.com)  
🐦 [twitter.com/okebahnsen](https://twitter.com/okebahnsen)

Last update: January 25, 2026

## RECENT POSITIONS

---

11/2022 - PRESENT	<b>Data Scientist</b> Civil Service
10/2020 - 10/2022	<b>PhD Scholarship Holder</b> Friedrich Ebert Foundation
01/2022 - 06/2022	<b>Research Associate</b> Collaborative Research Center, SFB 884 - Political Economy of Reforms, University of Mannheim <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Project "Measuring a common space and the dynamics of reform positions"</li><li>• Project directors: Prof. Thomas Gschwend, PhD, Prof. Dr. Simone Paolo Ponzetto, and Prof. Dr. Heiner Stuckenschmidt</li></ul>
10/2017 - 12/2021	<b>Research Associate</b> Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES), University of Mannheim <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Project "Pre-electoral coalition strategies" (funded by the German Research Foundation)</li><li>• Project directors: Prof. Thomas Gschwend, PhD, and Prof. Dr. Lukas F. Stoetzer</li></ul>

## EDUCATION

---

04/2024	<b>Dr. rer. soc. (PhD)</b> Center for Doctoral Studies in Social and Behavioral Sciences (CDSS) at the Graduate School of Economic and Social Sciences (GESS), University of Mannheim <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dissertation: "Signals for Democracy: Assessing the Impact of Pre-Electoral Coalition Signals and <i>Cordons Sanitaires</i> on Party Competition using Experimental, Quasi-Experimental, and Agent-Based Simulation Evidence"</li><li>• Supervisors: Prof. Thomas Gschwend, PhD and Prof. Dr. Lukas F. Stoetzer</li><li>• Examiners: Prof. Dr. Eric Linhart and Prof. Dr. Marc Debus</li><li>• Defense Date: February 16, 2024</li></ul>
08/2019	<b>M.Sc. Economics</b> (Grade: 1.3 - ECTS grade: A) University of Kiel
11/2017	<b>M.Ed. Mathematics and Economics/Politics</b> (Grade: 1.3 - ECTS grade: A) University of Kiel
03/2014	<b>B.A. Mathematics and Economics/Politics</b> (Grade: 1.5 - ECTS grade: A) University of Kiel
08/2013 - 01/2014	<b>Semester Abroad</b> University of Gothenburg and Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden
06/2010	<b>High-School Diploma</b> (Grade: 1.1) Friedrich-Paulsen-Schule Niebüll

## PUBLICATIONS

---

- [12] **Oke Bahnsen**, Lukas F. Stoetzer, Thomas Gschwend, 2025, "Coalition-directed voting under uncertainty." *The Journal of Politics*: Forthcoming. doi: 10.1086/736445
- [11] Anna Adendorf, **Oke Bahnsen**, Thomas Gschwend, Lena Maria Huber, Simone Paolo Ponzetto, Ines Rehbein, Lukas F. Stoetzer, 2025, "Measuring inter-party communication: A transfer-based approach." *Political Science Research and Methods*: Conditional Accept.

- [10] Nate Breznau, Eike Mark Rinke, Alexander Wuttke, Muna Adem, Jule Adriaans, Esra Akdeniz, Amalia Alvarez-Benjumea, Henrik K. Andersen, Daniel Auer, Flavio Azevedo, **Oke Bahnsen** et al., 2025, "The reliability of replications: A study in computational reproductions." *Royal Society Open Science* 12(3): 1–23. doi: 10.1098/rsos.241038
- [09] Roni Lehrer, **Oke Bahnsen**, Klara Müller, Marcel Neunhoeffer, Thomas Gschwend, Sebastian Juhl, 2025, "Rallying around the leader in times of crises: The opposing effects of perceived threat and anxiety." *European Journal of Political Research (EJPR)* 64(2): 697–718. doi: 10.1111/1475-6765.12717
- [08] **Oke Bahnsen**, 2024, "Signals for democracy: Assessing the impact of pre-electoral coalition signals and *cordons sanitaires* on party competition using experimental, quasi-experimental, and agent-based simulation evidence." *Dissertation*, University of Mannheim.
- [07] Ulrich W. D. Müller, **Oke Bahnsen**, Georg W. Alpers, 2022, "State anxiety by itself does not change political attitudes: A threat of shock experiment." *Frontiers in Psychology* 13: 1–13. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2022.1006757 (shared first authorship)
- [06] Nate Breznau, Eike Mark Rinke, Alexander Wuttke, Hung H. V. Nguyen, Muna Adem, Jule Adriaans, Amalia Alvarez-Benjumea, Henrik K. Andersen, Daniel Auer, Flavio Azevedo, **Oke Bahnsen** et al., 2022, "Observing many researchers using the same data and hypothesis reveals a hidden universe of uncertainty." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS)* 119(44): 1–8. doi: 10.1073/pnas.2203150119
- [05] Ines Rehbein, Simone Paolo Ponzetto, Anna Adendorf, **Oke Bahnsen**, Lukas Stoetzer, Heiner Stuckenschmidt, 2021, "Come hither or go away? Recognising pre-electoral coalition signals in the news." *Proceedings of the 2021 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*: 7798–7810. doi: 10.18653/v1/2021.emnlp-main.615
- [04] **Oke Bahnsen**, Thomas Gschwend, Lukas F. Stoetzer, 2020. "How do coalition signals shape voting behavior? Revealing the mediating role of coalition expectations." *Electoral Studies* 66: 1–23. doi: 10.1016/j.electstud.2020.102166
- [03] Eric Linhart, **Oke Bahnsen**, 2020. "Die Reformen des Wahlrechts zum Deutschen Bundestag 2011 und 2013 im öffentlichen Diskurs." ["The public discourse on the German federal electoral law reforms 2011 and 2013"] *Zeitschrift für Parlamentsfragen* 51(4): 844–864. doi: 10.5771/0340-1758-2020-4-844
- [02] **Oke Bahnsen**, Eric Linhart, 2018. "Politische Diskurse in Print- und Online-Medien: Eine empirische Analyse am Beispiel der Novelle des Erneuerbare-Energien-Gesetzes 2014." ["Comparing political discourses in print and online media: An empirical analysis of the German Renewable Energy Act Amendment 2014."] *Zeitschrift für Diskursforschung* 6(3): 277–305.
- [01] **Oke Bahnsen**, Eric Linhart, Jale Tosun, 2016. "Wer mit wem in der Energiepolitik? Eine Analyse des öffentlichen Diskurses über die Novelle des Erneuerbare-Energien-Gesetzes 2014." ["Advocacy coalitions in the German energy policy: A discourse analysis of the German Renewable Energy Act Amendment 2014."] *der moderne staat* 9(1): 109–134. doi: 10.3224/dms.v9i1.23645

## WORKING PAPERS

---

**Oke Bahnsen**. "Unintended Effects of *Cordons Sanitaires* on the Electoral Success of Isolated Parties: Counterfactual Agent-Based Simulations in an Artificial Weimar Republic with Coalition-Directed Voters." *Working Paper*.

**Oke Bahnsen**. "How Voters React to Parties Breaking their Pre-Electoral Coalition Promises: Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Evidence from Ireland and New Zealand." *Working Paper*.

**Oke Bahnsen**. "Government Survival in Presence of Pre-Electoral Coalitions." *Working Paper*.

**Oke Bahnsen**. "An Agent-Based Approach to Estimate Social Interaction Effects on Government Satisfaction in Germany." *Working Paper*.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

---

Annual meeting of Arbeitskreis Handlungs- und Entscheidungstheorie (Working Group for Decision Theory and Behavioral Decision Making) of the German Political Science Association (DVPW), 2022, Oldenburg. "Coalition-directed voting as a lottery" (together with Lukas F. Stoetzer and Thomas Gschwend).

1st Conference of the Centre for Analysis and Research in the German Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz) on the topic of Extremism and Socialisation, 2021, Berlin, Germany. "Anxiety does not Change Political Attitudes. A Threat of Shock Experiment" (together with Ulrich W. D. Müller and Georg W. Alpers).

28th Academic Convention of the German Political Science Association (DVPW), 2021, Online. "Who Wants to Go With Whom? Identifying Coalition Signals in Newspaper Articles using Supervised Machine Learning" (together with Anna Adendorf, Ines Rehbein, Thomas Gschwend, and Simone Paolo Ponzetto).

11th European Political Science Association General Conference, 2021, Online. "Who Wants to Go With Whom? Identifying Coalition Signals in Newspaper Articles using Supervised Machine Learning" (together with Anna Adendorf, Ines Rehbein, Thomas Gschwend, and Simone Paolo Ponzetto).

14th European Consortium for Political Research General Conference, 2020, online. "How Voters React to Parties Breaking their Pre-Electoral Coalition Promises. Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Evidence from Ireland and New Zealand".

43rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology, 2020, Berlin, Germany. "Anxiety Politics - Evidence from a Pre-Registered Experiment on the Impact of Threat of Shock on Political Attitudes" (together with Ulrich W. D. Müller and Georg W. Alpers).

26th International Political Science Association World Congress, 2020, Lisbon, Portugal. "An Agent-Based Model of Pre-Electoral Coalition Politics" (Cancelled due to COVID-19 Pandemic).

9th European Political Science Association General Conference, 2019, Belfast, United Kingdom. "How Voters React to Parties Breaking their Pre-Electoral Coalition Promises. Quasi-Experimental Evidence from New Zealand".

Swiss Political Science Association Annual Conference and Dreiländertagung, 2019, Zurich, Switzerland. "Government Survival in Presence of Pre-Electoral Coalitions".

## INVITED TALKS

---

University of Mannheim, 2022, Event series "Social Science Data Lab of the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES)", Talk on "Agent-based modeling for social scientists" (together with Malte Grönemann). [\[Video\]](#)

Trinity College Dublin, 2020, Seminar "Party Competition and Government Formation in Germany and in European Comparison" (Course Instructor: Dr. Jan Berz), Talk on "How Voters React to Parties Breaking their Pre-Electoral Coalition Promises. Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Evidence from Ireland and New Zealand".

University of Kiel, 2014, Research Colloquium "Comparative Politics, Interdependence, and Globalization", Talk on "Public Resources and Electoral Turnout - Analysis of German Local Elections in 2013".

## HONORS AND AWARDS

---

10/2020 - 10/2022 | **PhD Scholarship Grant of Friedrich Ebert Foundation** (€17,400 per year)

07/2020 | **Research Grant of Karin Islinger Foundation** (€2,000)

09/2018 | **2018 CDSS Young Scholar Award** (€2,000)  
Awarded by the CDSS and GESS at the University of Mannheim to "honor exceptional ideas and achievements in doctoral research" (together with Ulrich W. D. Müller)

02/2017 | **PhD Scholarship Grant for 6-year PhD program at Washington University in St. Louis** (\$22,830 per year, given back)

02/2015 | **2015 Holstein Award** (€500)  
Awarded by the University of Kiel for academic merit

07/2012 - 08/2017 | **Scholarship Grant of Friedrich Ebert Foundation** (≈ €16,200)

10/2012 - 09/2013 | **Germany's National Scholarship** (€3,600, given back)

## ADDITIONAL TRAINING

---

SPRING 2022	<b>Agent-based Modelling in the Social Sciences</b> , GESIS Spring Seminar
SPRING 2019	<b>Machine Learning for the Social Sciences</b> , GESS, University of Mannheim
FALL 2018	<b>Bayesian Statistics for Social Scientists</b> , GESS, University of Mannheim
SPRING 2018	<b>Python Programming for Social Sciences</b> , GESS, University of Mannheim
SPRING 2018	<b>Advanced Quantitative Methods</b> , GESS, University of Mannheim
FALL 2017	<b>Multivariate Analyses</b> , GESS, University of Mannheim
FALL 2017	<b>Theory Building and Causal Inference</b> , GESS, University of Mannheim
FALL 2016	<b>Agent-Based Models of Financial Markets</b> , Kiel Institute for the World Economy

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

---

11/2016 - 07/2017	<b>Research Assistant</b> University of Chemnitz, Institute of Political Science, Chair for Political Systems, Prof. Dr. Eric Linhart
10/2014 - 10/2016	<b>Research Assistant</b> University of Kiel, Department of Agricultural Economics, Junior Professor for Applied Political Economy, Prof. Dr. Eric Linhart <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project "The Comparison of Electoral Systems' Functions with a Special Focus on Mixed Systems" (funded by the German Research Foundation)</li> </ul>
05/2014 - 08/2014	<b>Intern</b> infas - Institute for Applied Social Sciences, Bonn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project "2014 German Survey of Volunteers"</li> </ul>

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

04/2022	<b>Course Instructor</b> GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, Mannheim and Köln <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshop "Introduction into R"</li> <li>• Co-teaching together with Dr. Guido Ropers</li> </ul>
04/2015 - 08/2015	<b>Tutor</b> Institute for Social Sciences, University of Kiel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course "Methods of Empirical Social Science Research" (Undergraduate)</li> <li>• Course instructor: Prof. Dr. Christian Martin</li> </ul>

## PUBLIC OUTREACH

---

05/2023	<b>Do anxious voters lean conservative?</b> FORUM – The Magazine of the University of Mannheim, Edition 1/2023
09/2018	<b>Sweden to face political uncertainty as far-right makes electoral gains</b> The National

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

---

04/2021 - 12/2021	<b>Staff Representative</b> Department AB-B, MZES, University of Mannheim
07/2015 - 06/2017	<b>Member of Parliament</b> Students' Parliament of Kiel University

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

---

MEMBERSHIPS | German Political Science Association (DVPW)

REVIEWER | Journal of Politics, Political Science Research and Methods, European Journal of Political Research, Electoral Studies, Party Politics, West European Politics, Government & Opposition [[Web of Science Profile](#)]

## FURTHER QUALIFICATIONS

---

LANGUAGE | German (native), English (business fluent)

SOFTWARE | R, SQL, Maple, MATLAB, Stata, SPSS, PHP