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FRIEDOLIN MERHOUT

appointments Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Copenhagen, 2019–present.
Affiliate, Copenhagen Center for Social Data Science (SODAS), 2019–present.

education Ph.D., Sociology, Duke University, 2019.
M.A., Sociology, Duke University, 2017.
B.A., North American Studies, Freie Universität Berlin, 2014.
Visiting Graduate Student, Sociology, Duke University, 2012–2013.

publications *Journal Articles*
Christopher A. Bail, Aidan Combs, Deen Freelon, Bryan Guay, D. Sunshine Hillygus, Emily Maloney, **Friedolin Merhout**, and Alexander Volfovsky. 2020. “Assessing the Impact of the Russian Internet Research Agency on the Political Attitudes and Behaviors of American Twitter Users.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. [10.1073/pnas.1906420116](https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1906420116)
Selected media coverage: [Forbes](#), [The Seattle Times](#), [Medium](#).
Friedolin Merhout and Joshua F. Doyle. 2019 “Does Socioeconomic Status Determine Diet Quality if Food Access, Resources, and Nutrition Education are Equalized? An Exploration of College Student Diets.” *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior*. [10.1016/j.jneb.2019.06.021](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jneb.2019.06.021)
Christopher A. Bail, Lisa P. Argyle, Taylor W. Brown, John P. Bumpus, Haohan Chen, M. B. Fallin Hunzaker, Jaemin Lee, Marcus Mann, **Friedolin Merhout**, and Alexander Volfovsky. 2018. “Exposure to opposing views on social media can increase political polarization.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. [10.1073/pnas.1804840115](https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1804840115)
Winner, 2019 APSA Political Communication Section, Paul Lazarsfeld Best Paper Award.
Selected media coverage: [The New York Times](#), [The Washington Post](#), [BBC](#), [Financial Times](#).
Christopher A. Bail, **Friedolin Merhout**, Peng Ding. 2018. “Examining the Relationship between Ethnic Discrimination and Violent Radicalization in 3,143 U.S. Counties using Internet Search Data.” *Science Advances* 4(6): eaao5948. [10.1126/sciadv.aao5948](https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.aao5948)
Selected media coverage: [NBC News](#), [The Atlantic](#), [Le Soleil](#).

Under Review

Friedolin Merhout. “Imagined Threats. How misperceptions about the motives of immigrants shape opposition to immigration.”

work in progress “Investigating the Effect of Control and Elaboration to Identify When and How Corrections of Partisan Misperceptions Succeed.”

“Reducing Belief Polarization through Exposure to a Common Outgroup.” (with C. Bail, N. Cavalli, N. Gallagher, D. Guilbeault, E. Jahani, and Y. Leng)

“Airsent. A sentiment dictionary for social science research.” (with J. Migozzi and I. de Vries)

“Reassessing the link between immigration and support for social policy. The role of immigrant population demographics.” (with A. Bostic and A. Edelmann)

“The Crowdsourced Replication Initiative: Investigating Immigration and Social Policy Preferences.” (with N. Breznau, E. M. Rinke, A. Wuttke, and others)
[10.31235/osf.io/6j9qb](https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/6j9qb)

presentations

* “Assessing the Mechanism and Scope Conditions of Backfire Effects using Experiments and Quantitative Text Analysis.” Linköpings Universitet, Institute for Analytical Sociology. Norrköping, Sweden. January 2020.

* “Assessing the Mechanism and Scope Conditions of Backfire Effects.” Università di Trento Dipartimento di Sociologia e Ricerca Sociale. Trento, Italy. November 2019.

“Airsent: A Sentiment Dictionary for the Social Sciences.” (with I. de Vries and J. Migozzi) SODAS Data Discussion. Copenhagen, Denmark. October 2019.

“Examining the Relationship between Ethnic Discrimination and Violent Radicalization in 3,143 U.S. Counties using Internet Search Data.” (with C. Bail and P. Ding) Københavns Universitet Sociologisk Forskningskollektivet. Copenhagen, Denmark. October 2019.

* “Can exposure to opposing views help us find common ground? Outlining the scope conditions of opinion polarization and moderation.” Københavns Universitet Sociologisk Institut. Copenhagen, Denmark. January 2019.

“Tutorial: textnets. An R package for automated text analysis using network techniques” (with T. Brown and M. Mann) European Symposium on Societal Challenges in Computational Social Science. Cologne, Germany. December 2018.

“Examining the Relationship between Ethnic Discrimination and Violent Radicalization in 3,143 U.S. Counties using Internet Search Data.” (with C. Bail and P. Ding) European Symposium on Societal Challenges in Computational Social Science. Cologne, Germany. December 2018.

“Investigating the Effect of Control and Elaboration to Identify When and How Corrections of Partisan Misperceptions Succeed.” Social Psychology Workshop. Duke University, Department of Sociology, Durham, NC. October 2018.

“Examining the Relationship between Ethnic Discrimination and Violent Radicalization in 3,143 U.S. Counties using Internet Search Data.” (with C. Bail and P. Ding) Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Philadelphia, PA. August 2018.

“Exposure to Opposing Views on Social Media can Increase Political Polarization: Evidence from a Large Field Experiment on Twitter.” (with C. Bail, L. Argyle, T. Brown, J. Bumpus, H. Chen, M.B. Fallin Hunzaker, J. Lee, M. Mann,

and A. Volfovsky) Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Philadelphia, PA. August 2018.

“Imagined Threats. How immigration motive misperception shapes perceived group threat.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Montreal, Canada. August 2017.

“Nein zum Heim? How Meaning Structures Inform Immigration Attitudes.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Seattle, WA. August 2016.

Migration and Diversity Colloquium, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung, Berlin. Berlin, Germany. June 2016.

Free University of Berlin, Graduate School of North American Studies International Graduate Conference. Berlin, Germany. May 2016.

Duke University, Department of Sociology Jensen Lecture. Durham, NC. April 2016.

“Familiarity and Moderation as Taste Markers: Tracing the blasé attitude in musical taste.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Chicago, IL. August 2015.

“Equal Access, Equal Consumption? Breaking the link between low SES and unhealthy diets.” (with J. Doyle and M. Mann) Duke University, Department of Sociology Jensen Lecture. Durham, NC. April 2015.

“What is race? A bottom-up approach to race conceptualizations.” (with F. Arriaga and G. Rygh) Duke University, Department of Sociology Jensen Lecture. Durham, NC. April 2013.

* Invited presentation

grants and fellowships

Jess & Minnie Brady Jaffrey Summer Research Fellowship, 2019, \$5,500.

European Symposium on Societal Challenges in CSS Travel Grant, 2018, €800.

Summer Institute in Computational Social Science Project Grant, 2018, \$1,800.

ABBY Cloud OCR SDK 5,000 Page Credit for Students, 2018, \$200.

Duke Sociology Department Research Grant, 2017, \$550 & 2019, \$1,000.

Duke Graduate School Summer Research Fellowship, 2015, 2016, & 2017, \$5,500 per summer.

Graduate School of North American Studies Travel Award, 2016, €300.

Duke Graduate School Research Fellowship, 2014–2015.

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Visiting Scholarship Duke University Graduate School, 2012–2013.

Free University of Berlin, Visiting Scholarship University of California, Santa Barbara, 2012–2013. (declined)

teaching and research

Instructor

“Knowledge, Organizations, and Politics.” BA. (co-instructor Mathias W. Nielsen). Spring 2020.

“Digital Methods: From Facebook Ethnography to Computational Social Science.” BA (co-instructors Samantha D. Breslin, Ulf Aslak, Kristofer Albris, and Hjalmar B. A. Carlsen). Spring 2020.

Research Assistantships

Christopher Bail. Duke University. 2018–2019.

Marcos Rangel. Duke University. 2018.

Harald Wenzel. Freie Universität Berlin. 2012–2014.

Paula Diehl. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. 2013–2014.

Teaching Assistantships

“Summer Institute in Computational Social Science.” Christopher Bail and Matthew Salganik. June 2018.

“Organizations and Global Competitiveness.” Gary Gereffi. Spring 2017.

“Theory and Society.” Gilbert Merkx. Fall 2016.

“Data Matters Series.” Christopher Bail. August 2016.

“Social Research Methods.” Jenifer Hamil-Luker. Spring 2016.

“Designing Social Research.” Mark Chaves. Fall 2015 & Fall 2017.

Grading Positions

“Designing Social Research.” Mark Chaves. Fall 2016.

Other

Co-Organizer, “Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, University of Copenhagen Partner Site.” June 2020.

Co-Organizer, “Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, UCLA Partner Site.” June 2019.

software

textnets (contributor)

textnets is an R package providing functionality to conduct automated text analysis using network techniques.

service

Academic

UCPH Department of Sociology Julefrokost Organizer. 2019.

Duke Polarization Lab Organizer. 2018–2019.

Duke Sociology Faculty Committee Representative. 2017–2019.

Duke Sociology Graduate Student Forum Co-Coordinator. 2016–2017.

Student Health Advisory Committee Member. 2016–Present.

Graduate and Professional Student Council Representative. 2014–2016.

Student Health Insurance Advisory Committee Member. 2014–2016.

Professional

Ad-Hoc Reviewer: *American Journal of Cultural Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *Behavioural Public Policy*, *European Sociological Review*, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, *Sociological Focus*

Program Committee Member: *European Symposium on Societal Challenges in Computational Social Science 2019*

skills and languages

German (native), English (fluent), Danish (basic), French (basic), R, Python, Stata, Qualtrics, Amazon Mechanical Turk, CloudResearch (TurkPrime), Adobe Creative Suite (Ai, Ps, Acrobat), \LaTeX .

Last updated: January 31, 2020