Alberto Stefanelli

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Academic Appointment

2024 – Present   **Lecturer, Department of Political Science**, Yale University
2024 – Present   **Lecturer, Department of Statistics and Data Science**, Yale University
2024 – Present   **Visiting Fellow, Department of Political Science**, Université Libre de Bruxelles

Education

KU Leuven   *Belgium*
PH.D. IN SOCIAL SCIENCES (POLITICAL SCIENCE)   *2020 - 2024*
- Advisor: Prof. Bart Meuleman
- Co-Advisor: Prof. Koen Abts

Yale University & New York University   *United States*
FULBRIGHT VISITING RESEARCHER   *2022 - 2023*
- Host Yale: Prof. Milan Svolik
- Hosts NYU: Prof. Bart Bonikowski

Ku Leuven   *Belgium*
MS IN STATISTICS   *2020 - 2023*
- Advisor: Prof. Patrick Onghena

Central European University   *Hungary*
MA IN POLITICAL SCIENCE   *2016 - 2018*
- Advisor: Prof. Gabor Toka

University of Padua   *Italy*
BA IN POLITICAL SCIENCE   *2012 - 2015*
- Advisor: Prof. Marco Almagisti

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Stefanelli, A., Abts K., Meuleman B., Forthcoming, "Freedom for all? Populism and the Instrumental Support of Freedom of Speech," West European Politics, DOI: 10.1080/01402382.2024.2434798.

Stefanelli, A., Meuleman B., Abts K., 2023. The Ontological Core of Political Radicalism. Exploring the role of Antagonist, Dogmatic, and Populist Beliefs in Structuring Radical Ideologies. Contemporary Politics, DOI: 10.1080/13569775.2023.2269664.

Stefanelli, A., 2023. The Conditional Association Between Populism, Ideological Extremity, and Affective Polarization. International Journal of Public Opinion Research, 35(2), p.edad014. DOI: 10.1093/ijpor/edad014.

Musa, S., Cilovic-Lagarija, S., Kavazovic, A., Bosankic-Cmajcanin, N., **Stefanelli, A.**, Scott, N.A., Scherzer, M., Kiss, Z. and Bach Habersaat, K., 2022. COVID-19 Risk Perception, Trust in Institutions and Negative Affect Drive Positive COVID-19 Vaccine Intentions. International Journal of Public Health, 67, DOI: 10.3389/ijph.2022.1604231.

Almagisti M. and **Stefanelli, A.**, "Costi della Politica e Finanziamenti: il Livello Locale [The Costs of Politics and Political Finance Rules: the Local Level]," Il finanziamento alla politica in Italia, Piccio R. D, Eds., Carocci editore, 2018, ISSN: 8843086766.

Stefanelli, A., "The Electoral Consolidation of the Five Star Movement," Quaderni di Scienza Politica, vol. Il Movimento Cinque Stelle: Prospettive di Ricerca a Confronto, no. 3, Almagisti M. and Graziano P. R., Eds., 2017, ISSN: 1124-7959.

Almagisti M. and **Stefanelli, A.**, "Dove Soffia il Vento del Nord?[Where the Northern Wind Blows?]," in Cambiamento o Assestamento? Le Elezioni Amministrative Del 2016, Istituto Carlo Cattaneo, 2016, pp. 9–22, ISBN: 978-88-941126-2-7.

Almagisti M. and **Stefanelli, A.**, "Voto al Candidato Presidente e Liste Personali e Regionali. Il Veneto in Prospettiva Comparata. [Slipt-ticket Voting and Local Politics. Veneto in a Comparative Perspective]," Democrazia e Diritto, no. 3, pp. 44–62, 2015, ISSN: 1972-5590. DOI: 10/gmqn72.

UNDER REVIEW

Unaffected Polarisation? Populism and Affective Polarization in comparative perspective *(first author, with Bruno Castanho Silva)*

This paper provides the most encompassing comparative account of the relationship between populism and affective polarisation at the individual level. We show that both populist attitudes and populist vote choice are generally not related to higher levels of affective polarisation. We also find a substantial amount of heterogeneity across the selected country cases. This suggests that populist polarisation is conditional and by no means a generalised feature of advanced democracies.

Subjects, Trials, and Levels: Statistical Power in Conjoint Experiments *(first author, with Martin Lukac)* OFS Working Paper

Based on a large simulation study, we explore the statistical properties of conjoint designs and develop a web application that can be used by researchers to achieve adequate power for a wide range of conjoint designs. Contrary to the assumption that conjoint experiments "free us from power constraints", we show that they are not well suited to draw inferences for designs with large numbers of experimental conditions.

IN PREPARATION (SELECTED)

Populist Authoritarianism: Left, Right, and Center *(shared first author, with Milan Svolik – early draft)*

The goal of this study is to examine heterogeneity in citizens' commitment to democratic principles by their (i) left, centre, or right political orientation; and (ii) populist or mainstream political tendencies. We use a candidate-choice survey experiment fielded in seven different Latin American countries. The results show that individuals trade off democracy for different policy preferences and priorities (i.e., the left for leftist policies, the right for rightist policies, and the centre for centrist policies).

The Entrance in Parliament of PRRP on Attitudes towards Immigration and European Integration *(first author, with Bart Bonikowski – early draft)*

We test whether the entrance of populist parties into parliament changes the way citizens think about immigration and European integration. By making use of exogenous variation created through differences in electoral thresholds, we causally assess that the representation of populist parties is associated with changes in attitudes. The results suggest the presence of attitude polarisation across the L-R ideological spectrum: left-wing individuals move towards more progressive positions, while right-wing voters become more conservative.

Corruption and Partisan Feelings: A Valence Perspective on Explaining Affective Polarization *(with Andres Reijan – advanced draft)*

In this paper, we propose that corruption is a crucial—hitherto overlooked—factor that could help better explain which structural conditions create a more fertile ground for partisan affective polarization to emerge and increase. We combine observational and experimental data from six different European countries to examine the extent to which perceptions of corruption amplify negative emotions toward political opponents. Our findings suggest that corruption intensifies citizens' animosity and mistrust toward out-parties. Crucially, this effect is most pronounced among those with strong populist leanings, who are more likely to see the out-party as a self-serving political elite.

Trading Off Green Costs: How Voter Priorities Influence Support for Climate Policies Amidst the Green Transition *(with Théodore Tallent – IRB stage)*

Citizens are generally worried about climate change. Yet, environmental concern rarely translates into electoral support. In this paper, we argue that voters' environmental choices depend both on the type of climate policy and the monetary or non-monetary grievances generated by the green transition. To test this, we rely on an adaptive conjoint experiment that tests four types of climate policies, each generating either (1) direct material costs on individuals (e.g., imposing building renovations), (2) broader costs for people's communities (e.g., a carbon tax on industries), (3) no material costs but high behavioral costs (e.g., the reduction of speed limits), or (4) no direct material costs but potential

cultural grievances (e.g., the development of vegetarian menus in schools).

Costly Choices: Examining the Hidden Costs of Supporting Corrupted Politicians in Survey Experiments *(IRB stage)*

This study seeks to improve the external validity of survey experiments by exploring how they can better reflect real-world voting behavior. It develops a typology of costs that help explain why citizens may discount corrupt behavior in experimental settings: (1) cognitive costs associated with updating beliefs about a real and familiar candidate; (2) personal and ideological costs stemming from the risk of increasing the out-party's chances of winning; (3) social desirability costs related to revealing support for corrupt politicians to survey researchers; and (4) the absence of social pressure that typically accompanies voting in real-world contexts.

Awards, Fellowships, & Grants

2024	**Research grant for an experiment on climate attitudes** Institution for Social and Policy Studies, Yale University	*$ 5,000*
2024	**Research grant for a study on corruption** Institution for Social and Policy Studies, Yale University	*$ 6,000*
2024	**Research grant for a study on resentment** Institution for Social and Policy Studies, Yale University	*$ 6,000*
2022	**Scholarship to visit Yale University and New York University** Fulbright-Schuman Association	*€20,000*
2021	**Best Poster Award for Innovations in Causal Inference and Experimental Research (w Martin Lukac)** Centre for Experimental Social Science (CESS), Oxford	*€500*
	Award for outstanding pedagogy (Dirk Berg-Schlosser Award) European Consortium for Political Research	*€500*
2020	**PhD fellowship for fundamental research** Flemish Research Foundation (FWO), Belgium	*€150.000*
2019	**Best MA thesis in electoral studies** Celso Ghini Award, Italian Electoral Studies Association, Rome	*€1.500*
2018	**Research Grant for a candidate-choice conjoint experiment** Central European University, Budapest, Hungary	*€500*
	Tuition waiver for methods training European Consortium for Political Research	*€800*
	Full tuition MA Scholarship Central European University, Budapest, Hungary	*€35.000*

Teaching Experience

INSTRUCTOR

2024	**YData: Data Science for Political Campaigns (w Josh Kalla)**	*Yale University*
	Election Fundamentals and Forecasting (w Kevin Deluca)	*Yale University*
	Data Exploration and Analysis (w Jonathan Reuning-Scherer)	*Yale University*
2020 - 2023	**Introduction to Conjoint Experiments (graduate-level)[Course Materials]**	*ECPR, Innsbruck University*
2019	**Workshop on Propensity Matching (graduate-level)**	*Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

TEACHING ASSISTANT

2020 - 2023	**Lab sessions for Structural Equations [Course Materials]**	*KU Leuven*
	Machine Learning for Social Sciences	*ECPR, MethodsNet*
	Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) & Multilevel SEM	*ECPR*
	Advanced Multilevel Regression Modelling	*ECPR*
	Automated Collection of Web and Social Data	*ECPR*
	Logistic Regression and Generalised Linear Models	*ECPR*
	Intro to R	*ECPR*

Software

cjsimPWR

R-PACKAGE

Simulate conjoint data, calculate power, Type S and Type M error for forced-choice conjoint experiments that use the Hainmueller, J., Hopkins, D., & Yamamoto, T. (2014) framework.

Outreach & Professional Development

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

2022 - Present	**Founding member of Methods Excellence Network (MethodsNet)**
	Global network dedicated to inclusive methods training.
2021 - Present	**President of Meth-Lab**
	An initiative to encourage methodological pluralism and learning.
2019 - Present	**Member of the Team Surveys of Team Populism**
	A project that brings together renowned scholars from Europe and the Americas to study the causes and consequences of populism.

PEER REVIEW

Comparative Political Studies
European Political Science Review
International Journal of Public Opinion Research
East European Politics
Methodology
Law & Economics
Evaluation and Program Planning

Relevant Work Experience

ZK Analytics, Oxford Centre for Innovation *United Kingdom*

SENIOR DATA SCIENTIST *2018 - Present*

- World Health Organization (External Expert)
- Education Endowment Foundation
- In2Science
- World Organization of the Scout Movement
- Ministry of Transportation of the United Kingdom

Institute for Social and Political Opinion Research (KU Leuven) *Belgium*

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE *2018 - 2020*

Questionnaire design, sampling & data collection, and quality control for the 2019 Belgian National Elections Study.

European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) *United Kingdom*

CONSULTANT AND DATA ANALYST *2018 – 2021*

Survey analysis and consulting for the ECPR Methods School.

Other

Language Skills

Italian: Native speaker
English: Professional
French: Independent
Dutch: Basic

Programming Skills

Advanced: R, R Markdown, Qualtrics, Shiny App, Mplus, Doker, Github, LaTeX
Intermediate: Phyton, HTML, CSS, QGIS
Basic: STATA, MySQL, PHP, SPSS

Academic References

Milan Svolik (Yale)
Josh Kalla (Yale)
Bart Bonikowski (NYU)
Bart Meuleman (KU Leuven, PhD supervisor)
Koen Abts (KU Leuven, co-supervisor)
Fredrik Sävje (Uppsala University)
Zsolt Kiss (ZK Analytics, Director)