

# Andreas Küpfer

Computational Social Scientist

✉ andreas.kuepfer@gmail.com

🌐 andreaskuepfer.github.io

🦋 @ankuepfer.bsky.social

---

My research focuses on (multimodal) political communication, combining computational with traditional methods to address substantial questions on party competition and political behaviour.

## Current Position

2022-present

### Research Associate

Technical University of Darmstadt

Institute for Political Science (Christian Stecker)

### Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science (Expected Defence in January 2026)

University of Mannheim

Supervisors: Thomas Gschwend (University of Mannheim), Christian Stecker (Technical University of Darmstadt), and Christian Arnold (University of Birmingham)

Thesis: *Multimodal Data and Open Science: Innovations in the Study of Political Communication and Behaviour*

## Education

2019-2022

**M.Sc. Data Science**, University of Mannheim

Supervisors: Thomas Gschwend and Denis Cohen

Thesis: *When local context trumps party unity: Using Twitter and NLP to explain geographical heterogeneity in legislators' policy communication*

2015-2019

**B.Sc. Business Information Systems**, University of Applied Sciences Karlsruhe

2017

**ERASMUS Student (Studies Abroad), B.Sc. Informatics**, Metropolia University of Applied Sciences in Helsinki, Finland

## Publications

2025

[The sound of party competition: how applause reflects unity, disagreement, and the electoral cycle in parliaments](#)

A. Küpfer, J. Müller, C. Stecker

West European Politics

2025

[The Politics of Seeking and Avoiding Discourse in Parliament](#)

E. Koch, A. Küpfer

European Journal of Political Research

2024

[Nonrandom Tweet Mortality and Data Access Restrictions: Compromising the Replication of Sensitive Twitter Studies](#)

A. Küpfer

Political Analysis

2024

[The Role of Hyperparameters in Machine Learning Models and How to Tune Them](#)

C. Arnold, L. Biedebach, A. Küpfer, M. Neunhoeffer

Political Science Research and Methods

## Working Papers

**Look Who's Confronting: Opposition Status, Gender, and the Far Right**

A. Küpfer

**Structuring Quantitative Image Analysis with Object Prominence**

with C. Arnold

**Alignment Helps Make the Most of Multimodal Data**

with C. Arnold

**Measuring Media Slant through Image Analysis**

with C. Arnold, O. Rittmann, M. Torres

**A Pipeline for Extracting Data from Videos of Complex Political Events**

with M. Holman, T. Simko

**When Words Divide: MPs as Polarisation Entrepreneurs on the Digital Civic Platform**

**abgeordnetenwatch.de**

with C. Sheldon, C. Arnold

## Research Visits and Summer Schools

10/2024–10/2025

**Data and Methods Unit**, Mannheim Centre for European Research (MZES), University of Mannheim, Germany

06/2024

**Video Research Institute, Center for C-SPAN Scholarship & Engagement (CCSE) (Bryce Dietrich)**, Purdue University, US

02/2024–03/2024

**Centre for Artificial Intelligence in Government (CAIG) (Slava Jankin)**, University of Birmingham, UK

## Grants, Certificates, and Awards

2025

**Grant: APSA Political Communication Travel Award, 600\$**

2025

**Certificate: TU Darmstadt Higher Education Teaching Certificates: Professional Competence Level (200 work units)**

2024

**Grant: German Research Foundation (DFG) Grant “Analysing Legislative Politics with Aligned Text, Audio, and Image Data” with Christian Arnold and Christian Stecker, 285'000€**

2024

**Grant: APSA Political Communication SPARK Travel Award, 750\$**

2023

**Award: Athene Award for Excellent Teaching “Promoting data literacy, strengthening critical thinking, taking individual needs into account, integrating modern tools” (TU Darmstadt), 2'000€**

## Teaching and Supervision

**Master Thesis Supervisions: 1**

**Student Assistant Supervisions: 5**

2024

**Machine Learning for Social Scientists**, PhD graduate school course, MZES (with Ruben Bach)

2024

**Introduction to Analysis and Comparison of Political Systems**, Undergraduate proseminar, Technical University of Darmstadt

2023

**Quantitative Text Analysis in R**, Postgraduate seminar, Technical University of Darmstadt

2023

**Data Analysis: From Data Crawling to Visualization**, Guest lecture (180 minutes), National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

2023	<b>Getting started with Python: A how-to guide for social scientists</b> , Workshop with two sessions à 90 minutes, MZES Social Science Data Lab (with Ruben Bach)
2022, 2023	<b>Introduction to Quantitative Methods in R</b> , Postgraduate seminar, Technical University of Darmstadt
2022	<b>Collection, Management, and Analysis of Twitter Data: Using the Twitter API for Academic Research and BERT</b> , Workshop (90 minutes), MZES Social Science Data Lab
2017	<b>IT Security and Operating Systems</b> , Undergraduate tutorial, University of Applied Sciences Karlsruhe
2016	<b>Programming II</b> , Undergraduate tutorial, University of Applied Sciences Karlsruhe
2016	<b>Introduction to Business Informatics</b> , Undergraduate tutorial, University of Applied Sciences Karlsruhe

## Research Dissemination

### Invited Talks

2025	<b>Data Science Brown Bag Series</b> , Hertie School, Berlin, Germany
2025	<b>Social Data Science Seminar</b> , University of Mannheim, Germany
2024	<b>Mittelbau Colloquium</b> , MZES, University of Mannheim, Germany
2024	<b>Text-as-Data (TADA) Speaker Series</b> , Virtual

### Conferences

2025	<b>APSA (Main Conference and Political Communication Pre-Conference)<sup>P</sup></b> , Vancouver, Canada
2025	<b>COMPTXT<sup>P,c,d</sup></b> , Vienna, Austria
2025	<b>PSA</b> , Birmingham, UK
2024	<b>APSAP<sup>P</sup></b> , Philadelphia, US
2024	<b>EPSAP<sup>P</sup></b> , Cologne, Germany
2024	<b>COMPTXT<sup>P</sup></b> , Amsterdam, Netherlands
2024	<b>IASGP Annual Conference<sup>c</sup></b> , Darmstadt, Germany
2023	<b>IASGP Annual Conference<sup>P</sup></b> , Mannheim, Germany
2023	<b>ECPR Standing Group on Parliaments<sup>P,d,c</sup></b> , Vienna, Austria
2023	<b>EPSA<sup>P,d</sup></b> , Glasgow, UK
2023	<b>COMPTXT<sup>P,c</sup></b> , Glasgow, UK
2022	<b>DVPW Group Comparative Research on Parliaments<sup>P</sup></b> , Bremen, Germany
2022	<b>EPSAP<sup>P</sup></b> , Prague, Czech Republic
2022	<b>PolMeth Europe<sup>P</sup></b> , Hamburg, Germany
2021	<b>PolMeth Europe</b> , Virtual

p = Presenter, d = Discussant, c = Panel Chair/Roundtable

## Press

- 2025 [Applaus-O-Meter: Zwei Fraktionen applaudieren vor allem sich selbst](#), Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung (FAS) (with Jochen Müller and Christian Stecker)
- 2025 [When do politicians engage in discourse – and when do they avoid it?](#), LSE EUROPP – European Politics and Policy Blog (with Elias Koch)
- 2023 [Der Frankfurter Wahlkompass VOTO zur OB-Wahl 2023](#), [FAZ](#) (with Thilo Dieing and Christian Stecker)
- 2023 [Wahlrecht ab 16, mehr autofreie Zonen und gebührenfreie Kinderbetreuung? Die Positionen der Kandidierenden zur Oberbürgermeisterwahl in Darmstadt in der Online-Wahlhilfe VOTO](#), [Darmstädter Echo](#) (with Christian Stecker)
- 2023 [Wahlkompass bietet Orientierung im Kandidatenschwungel](#) ([FAZ](#)), (with Christian Stecker)
- 2023 [Viele Köpfe und ein breites Angebot. Die Positionen der Kandidierenden zur Frankfurter Oberbürgermeisterwahl](#), [FAZ](#) (with Christian Stecker)

## Web Publications

- 2023 [BERT and Explainable AI](#), Methods Bites, Blog of the Mannheim Centre for European Research (MZES) Social Science Data Lab
- 2022 [Collection, Management, and Analysis of Twitter Data](#), Methods Bites, Blog of the Mannheim Centre for European Research (MZES) Social Science Data Lab

## Software

- 2022 **triviz**, Triangular visualizations for the significance of pairwise differences from multigroup comparisons (Denis Cohen and *Andreas Küpfer*)

## Referee

Computational Communication Research • Computational Linguistics for the Political and Social Sciences at KONVENS (Workshop), 2024 & 2025 • Nature Scientific Data • Political Analysis • ZPol

## Service

Co-Organizer/Contributor of the [Social Science Data Lab \(SSDL\)](#) at MZES (since 03/2021) • Co-Organizer of the 2024 [ECPR Summer School on Parliaments](#) (08/2024) • Member of the decision committee for the German public-private scholarship (Deutschlandstipendium) (since 11/2023) • Data infrastructure representative (since 11/2023)

## Selected Work Experience (Academia)

- 03/2021-09/2024 **Student Research Assistant at Social Science Data Lab**, Mannheim Centre for European Research (MZES) (Denis Cohen)
- 10/2020-12/2021 **Student Research Assistant at Chair of Political Science, Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences**, University of Mannheim (Thomas Gschwend)
- 09/2021-12/2021 **Student Research Assistant at Project Data Science and Big Data at Schools** [Prodabi](#), Paderborn University (Rolf Biehler)

## **Selected Work Experience (Industry)**

07/2018-02/2020	<b>Working Student Data Science/Finance</b> , SAP SE in Walldorf, Germany
02/2018-07/2018	<b>Internship Custom Solution Development</b> , Capgemini in Stuttgart, Germany
09/2012-07/2015	<b>Traineeship Software Developer</b> , KUMAVISION AG in Tiengen, Germany