

Andreas Küpfer

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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

Political Science Ph.D. Candidate and Research Associate

Technical University of Darmstadt

Supervisors: Christian Stecker (Technical University of Darmstadt) and Christian Arnold (University of Birmingham)

Thesis: *Multimodal Data and Methodological Transparency: 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, 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 (WEP)

2025

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

E. Koch, A. Küpfer

European Journal of Political Research (EJPR)

2024

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

A. Küpfer

Political Analysis (PA)

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 (PSRM)

Working Papers

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

A. Küpfer

Under Review

Structuring Quantitative Image Analysis with Object Prominence

C. Arnold, *A. Küpfer*

Under Review

Alignment Helps Make the Most of Multimodal Data

C. Arnold, *A. Küpfer*

Measuring Media Slant through Image Analysis

C. Arnold, *A. Küpfer*, O. Rittmann, M. Torres

A Pipeline for Extracting Data from Complex Political Events

M. Holman, *A. Küpfer*, T. Simko

**When Words Divide: A Causal Examination of Polarizing Language on Digital Civic Platform
abgeordnetenwatch.de**

C. Arnold, *A. Küpfer*, C. Sheldon

Research Visits and Summer Schools

11/2025-10/2026	Centre for Artificial Intelligence in Government (CAIG) (Christian Arnold) , University of Birmingham, UK
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 (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	Getting started with Python: A how-to guide for social scientists , Workshop with two sessions à 90 minutes, MZES Social Science Data Lab (with Ruben Bach)
2022, 2023	Introduction to Quantitative Methods in R , Postgraduate seminar, Technical University of Darmstadt
2022	Collection, Management, and Analysis of Twitter Data: Using the Twitter API for Academic Research and BERT , Workshop (90 minutes), MZES Social Science Data Lab
2017	IT Security and Operating Systems , Undergraduate tutorial, University of Applied Sciences Karlsruhe
2016	Programming II , Undergraduate tutorial, University of Applied Sciences Karlsruhe
2016	Introduction to Business Informatics , Undergraduate tutorial, University of Applied Sciences Karlsruhe

Research Dissemination

Invited Talks

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

Conferences

2025	APSA (Main Conference and Political Communication Pre-Conference)^P , Vancouver, Canada
2025	COMPTExT^{P,c,d} , Vienna, Austria
2025	PSA , Birmingham, UK
2024	APSAP^P , Philadelphia, US
2024	EPSAP^P , Cologne, Germany
2024	COMPTExT^P , Amsterdam, Netherlands
2024	IASGP Annual Conference^c , Darmstadt, Germany
2023	IASGP Annual Conference^P , Mannheim, Germany
2023	ECPR Standing Group on Parliaments^{P,d,c} , Vienna, Austria
2023	EPSAP^{P,d} , Glasgow, UK
2023	COMPTExT^{P,c} , Glasgow, UK
2022	DVPW Group Comparative Research on Parliaments^P , Bremen, Germany
2022	EPSAP^P , Prague, Czech Republic
2022	PolMeth Europe^P , Hamburg, Germany
2021	PolMeth Europe , 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 **Working Student Data Science/Finance**, SAP SE in Walldorf, Germany

02/2018-07/2018	Internship Custom Solution Development , Capgemini in Stuttgart, Germany
09/2012-07/2015	Traineeship Software Developer , KUMAVISION AG in Tiengen, Germany