Christopher Gandrud, Ph.D

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Work Experiences

Zalando SE (from July 2017)

Head of Economics and Experimentation (Economics Team Lead prior to January 2019)

- **Measuring the right things**: I lead a team of economists, data scientists, and product managers redeveloping the company's KPI framework and how we evaluate product investments.
- **Measuring incremental impact**: I lead the development of Zalando's A/B testing platform and broader program to enable teams throughout the company to measure their incremental impact with causal and Bayesian inference methods. I guide research into new statistical methods and their application in the Zalando business context.
- Previously, I led the development of Zalando's **real-time ad auction and machine learned content recommendation system**. We created a platform that dramatically expanded Zalando's on-site advertising business.

Harvard University Institute for Quantitative Social Science (2017)

Research Fellow

I led a team developing statistical software for academic and industry applications.

City, University of London (2015-2018)

Lecturer in Statistics and International Political Economy

I was a Lecturer in international political economy (quantitative methods) in the Department of International Politics and the Q-Step Centre for quantitative social science education.

Hertie School of Governance (August 2013-June 2017)

Post-Doctoral Fellow

I coauthored with Prof. Mark Hallerberg a project examining the political economy of responses to financial crises. We were generously funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German National Research Foundation).

I designed and taught a graduate-level course on collaborative data science and supervised masters theses.

Yonsei University (2012-2013)

Lecturer in Statistics and International Political Economy

Eduction

London School of Economics (2008-2012)

MRes/PhD Political Science (Quantitative Research Methodology)

Awarded MRes with Distinction

My thesis used signalling games, event history analysis, and case studies to examine how economic policies are made in times of crisis.

London School of Economics (2005-2006)

MSc Comparative Politics (Research Methodology)

Graduated with Distinction

McGill University (2003-2005)

BA (Honours) Political Science & Geography

Graduated with First Class Honours, in the top 10% of the class

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Publications

Published Peer Reviewed Articles

- Taking Time (and Space) Seriously: How Scholars Falsely Infer Policy Diffusion from Model Misspecification. With Cody A. Drolc and Laron K. Williams. 2021 *Policy Studies Journal.* 49(2): 484-515.

- The Measurement of Real-Time Perceptions of Financial Stress: Implications for Political Science. With Mark Hallerberg. 2019. *British Journal of Political Science.* 49(4): 1577-1589.

- The Reproducibility of Governance Indicators: Assessing Current Practices and Looking Forward. In *Governance Indicators: Approaches, Progress, Promises.* 5th edition. 2018. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

- Explaining Variation and Change in Supervisory Confidentiality in the European Union. With Mark Hallerberg. 2018. *West European Politics.* 41(4): 1025-1048.

- Financial Regulatory Transparency, International Institutions, and Sovereign Borrowing Costs. With Mark Copelovitch and Mark Hallerberg. 2018. *International Studies Quarterly.* 62(1): 23-41.

- Simulating Probabilistic Long-Term Effects in Models with Temporal Dependence. With Laron K. Williams. 2017. *R Journal.* 9(2): 401-408.

- Interpreting Fiscal Accounting Rules in the European Union. With Mark Hallerberg. 2017. *Journal of European Public Policy.* 24(6): 832-851.

- Information and Financial Crisis Policy Making. With Míchéal O'Keeffe. 2017. *Journal of European Public Policy.* 24(3): 386-405.

- Statistical Agencies and Responses to Financial Crises: Eurostat, Bad Banks, and the ESM. With Mark Hallerberg. 2016. *West European Politics*. 39(3): 545-564.
- Two Sword Lengths Apart: Credible commitment problems and physical violence in democratic national legislatures. 2016. *Journal of Peace Research*. 53(1): 130-145.
  - Interviewed about research on CBC Radio 1.
  - Applied to understanding violence in the Turkish Parliament in Political Violence @ a Glance.
  - Applied to understanding violence in the Ukrainian Parliament in VoxUkraine.
  - Write up on the Monkey Cage with Emily Beaulieu.
- Does Banking Union Worsen the EU's Democratic Deficit? The need for greater supervisory data transparency. With Mark Hallerberg. 2015. *Journal of Common Market Studies*. 53(4):769-785.
  - Data set updated through 2015 at Bruegel.
- When All is Said and Done: Updating 'Elections, Special Interests, and Financial Crisis'. With Mark Hallerberg. 2015. *Research and Politics*. 2(3):1-9.
- Inflated Expectations: How Government Partisanship Shapes Bureaucrats' Inflation Forecasts. With Cassandra Grafström. 2015. *Political Science Research and Methods*. 3(2):253-380.
  - Write up on the Monkey Cage.
- simPH: An R Package for Illustrating Estimates from Cox Proportional Hazard Models Including for Interactive and Nonlinear Effects. 2015. *Journal of Statistical Software*. 65(3):1-20.
- Letting German Banks Fail: Federalism and decisions to save troubled banks. With Sahil Deo, Christian Franz, and Mark Hallerberg. 2015 *Politische Vierteljahresschrift* (PVS). 56(2): 159-181.
  - Application of the theoretical framework to Austria published on the World Economic Forum.
- Competing Risks and the Mechanisms of Deposit Insurance Governance Convergence. 2014. *International Political Science Review*. 35(2):197-217.
- The Diffusion of Financial Supervisory Governance Ideas. 2013. *Review of International Political Economy*. 20(4):881-916.

Peer Reviewed Book

- Reproducible Research with R and RStudio. 2020. Third Edition. *Chapman & Hall/CRC Press division of the Taylor & Francis Group*.
  - First edition reviewed in *The American Statistician*. 2014. 68(4):313–314.

Other Published Academic/Policy Articles

- How Not to Create Zombie Banks: lessons for Italy from Japan. with Mark Hallerberg. *Bruegel Policy Contribution*. March 2017.
- Visualize Dynamic Simulations of Autoregressive Relationships in R. With Laron K Williams and Guy D Whitten. *The Political Methodologist*. 23(2): 6-10.
- Financial Regulatory Transparency: New data and implications for EU policy. With Mark Copelovitch and Mark Hallerberg. *Bruegel Policy Contribution*. December 2015.
- Corrections and Refinements to the Database of Political Institutions' **yrcurnt** Election Timing Variable. 2015. *The Political Methodologist*. 22(2): 2-4.

- Bad Banks in the EU: The impact of Eurostat rules. With Mark Hallerberg. *Bruegel Working Paper*. 2014/15.
- Supervisory Transparency in the European Banking Union. With Mark Hallerberg. *Bruegel Policy Contribution*. January 2014.
- Who Decides?: Resolving Failed Banks in a European Framework. With Mark Hallerberg. *Bruegel Policy Contribution*. November 2013.
  - Published in Polish as "Kto decyduje? Mechanizm Restrukturyzacji i uporzadkowanej likwidacji banków w eropejskich ramach". 2014. *Nowa Europa*. 1(17): 114-141.
- GitHub: A tool for Social Data Set Development and Verification in the Cloud. 2013. *The Political Methodologist*. 20(2):2-7.

Other Professional Activities

Open Source Software

- spatialWeights: Calculate spatial weights for time-series cross-sectional data and report spatial clustering test statistics
- coreSim: Core functionality for simulating quantities of interest from generalised linear models.
- DataCombine: R tools for making it easier to combine and clean data sets.
- dpmr: Data package manager for R (with the Open Knowledge Foundation).
- dynsim: An R implementation of dynamic simulations of autoregressive relationships (with Laron K Williams and Guy D Whitten).
- imfr: R package for interacting with the International Monetary Fund's RESTful JSON API.
- networkD3: Tools for creating D3 JavaScript network graphs from R. With JJ Allaire and RStudio.
- plotMElm: Plot interaction marginal effects, including with false discovery rate confidence intervals, from linear models.
- pltesim: Simulate probabilistic long-term effects in models with temporal dependence (with Laron K Williams).
- repmis: A collection of miscellaneous tools for reproducible research with R.
- simPH: Tools for simulating and graphing quantities of interest estimated using Cox Proportional Hazards models.

Other Skills

Programming and Machine Learning

I am a highly skilled user of AWS, Bash, CSS, Git/GitHub, HTML, JavaScript, Julia, Jupyter, RMarkdown, LaTeX, Linux, SQL, Python, R, Shiny web apps, SPSS, Stan, and Stata.

Languages

B1 German proficiency. I have also studied Korean, Spanish, and French.