

Cornelius Erfort

Witten/Herdecke University

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Current Positions

Witten/Herdecke University

Post-doctoral Researcher, Research Project

Election Forecasts for the German Federal Election 2025 – [zweitstimme.org](https://www.zweitstimme.org)

since Sep 2024

Previous Positions

Hertie School & Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Doctoral Researcher, Research Training Group DYNAMICS

Sep 2021 - Aug 2024

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Doctoral Researcher, Research Project MINISTERIALLOBBY

Oct 2023 - Aug 2024

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin & Freie Universität Berlin, Doctoral Researcher, Cluster of Excellence SCRIPTS

May 2021 - Jul 2022

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Student Assistant, Chair of Comparative Political Behavior

Dec 2016 - Apr 2021

Technische Universität Berlin

Student Assistant, Institute of Machine Tools and Production

May 2015 - Mar 2017

Education

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

PhD in Political Science (summa cum laude)

Title: *Political Parties' Voter Targeting and Campaign Communication Strategies*,
Committee: *Heike Klüver* (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), *Anselm Hager* (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), *Hanna Schwander* (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), *Mark A. Kayser* (Hertie School), *Sara B. Hobolt* (LSE)

Sep 2021 - Mar 2025

London School of Economics and Political Science

Research Visit, Department of Government, Supervisor: Prof. Sara B. Hobolt

Sep 2023 - Dec 2023

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Master's in Social Sciences, *Grade: 1.0*

Oct 2019 - May 2021

Northwestern University

Exchange Program, Chicago (declined due to pandemic)

Sep 2020 - Dec 2020

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Bachelor's in Social Sciences, *Grade: 1.6*

Oct 2015 - Mar 2019

Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE), Exchange Program, Mexico City

Aug 2017 - Dec 2017

Technische Universität Berlin

Bachelor's in Industrial Engineering and Management, *Grade: 2.3*

Oct 2011 - Jul 2015

Peer-Reviewed Publications	Gendered targeting: Do parties tailor their campaign ads to women? , <i>The Journal of Politics</i> <i>forthcoming</i>
	Buying Voter Support for Unpopular Policies: Evidence from German Nuclear Power Plants , <i>Electoral Studies</i> , with António Valentim and Heike Klüver <i>forthcoming</i>
	An Election Forecasting Model for Subnational Elections <i>forthcoming</i> <i>Electoral Studies</i> , with Lukas F. Stoetzer, Hannah Rajski, Thomas Gschwend, Simon Munzert, and Elias Koch
	The Zweitstimme Forecast for the German Federal Election 2025: Coalition Majorities and Vacant Districts , <i>2025</i> <i>PS: Political Science & Politics</i> , with Lukas F. Stoetzer, Thomas Gschwend, Elias Koch, Simon Munzert, and Hannah Rajski
	Targeting Voters Online: How Parties' Campaigns Differ , <i>2024</i> <i>Electoral Studies</i>
Under Review	The PARTYPRESS Database: A New Comparative Database of Parties' Press Releases <i>2023</i> <i>Research and Politics</i> , with Heike Klüver, and Lukas F. Stoetzer
	Parties' issue adaptation between elections , with Lukas F. Stoetzer, and Heike Klüver
	Who Becomes a Lobbyist? Comparative Evidence from the US and Germany , with Jan Stuckatz, Felix Hartmann, and Heike Klüver
Working Papers	Measuring protest through news articles: A validation approach for manual and semi-supervised methods using government data
	Election Dataset Germany 1953-2021 (GitHub) <i>2021</i> County-level results made comparable over time using areal weighted interpolation
	erststimme2017.de Prediction of the district vote at the German Elections <i>2017</i>
Conferences	EPSA <i>2022, 2023, 2024</i>
	DVPW <i>2024</i>
	Transformations of Democracy Junior Scholars Workshop, WZB Berlin <i>2024</i>
Service to the discipline	Reviewer for: <i>The Journal of Politics</i> (JOP), <i>Political Science Research and Methods</i> (PSRM), <i>Electoral Studies</i> , <i>European Journal of Political Research</i> (EJPR), <i>Political Research Exchange</i> (PRX), <i>Party Politics</i>
	Student Representative DYNAMICS Research Training Group 2022
Teaching experience	Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
	Automated Web Data Collection (PhD Workshop) <i>2025</i>
	Automated Web Data Collection and Text as Data (BA) <i>2023</i>
	Comparative Politics and International Relations (BA) <i>2022</i>
Invited Talks	MZES Social Science Data Lab <i>2025</i>
Funding	Fulbright Travel Grant (declined/pandemic) (EUR ~2,000) <i>2020</i>
	DAAD Promos Scholarship USA (declined/pandemic) (EUR ~3,000) <i>2020</i>
	DAAD Promos Scholarship Mexico (EUR ~3,000) <i>2017</i>

Additional training	Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis		<i>2022</i>
	<i>Causal Inference and Experiments in the Social Sciences,</i>		
	by Prof. Ryan T. Moore, PhD (American University)		
	DYNAMICS Graduate Program, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin		
	<i>New Directions in Causal Inference,</i>		
	by Prof. Ryan T. Moore, PhD (American University)		<i>2024</i>
	<i>Image Analysis,</i> by Prof. Michelle Torres (UCLA)		<i>2023</i>
	<i>Good Scientific Practice,</i> by Dr. Christian Dumpitak (iGrad)		<i>2023</i>
	<i>Data Protection in PhD Projects,</i> by Oliver Watteler (GESIS)		<i>2023</i>
	<i>Online Experiments,</i> by Dr. Amalia Alvarez-Benjumea (MPI)		<i>2021</i>
Languages	German	Native	
	English	Advanced (TOEFL iBT: 112/130)	
	Spanish	Fluent (UNIcert II)	
	Latin and Ancient Greek	9 and 6 years of classes	
Software skills	Programming	R, Python, Github, Stata	
	Text processing	LaTeX, MS Office	
	Other technical skills	Web scraping, Data Visualization, Quantitative Text Analysis, Automated Image Analysis	

Last updated June 19, 2025.