

# Dr. Cornelius Erfort

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## Witten/Herdecke University

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## Current Positions

### Witten/Herdecke University

*since Sep 2024*

Post-doctoral Researcher, Research Project

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

## Previous Positions

### Hertie School & Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

*Sep 2021 - Aug 2024*

Doctoral Researcher, Research Training Group DYNAMICS

### Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

*Oct 2023 - Aug 2024*

Doctoral Researcher, Research Project MINISTERIALLOBBY

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

*May 2021 - Jul 2022*

### Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

*Dec 2016 - Apr 2021*

Student Assistant, Chair of Comparative Political Behavior

### Technische Universität Berlin

*May 2015 - Mar 2017*

Student Assistant, Institute of Machine Tools and Production

## Education

### Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

*Sep 2021 - Mar 2025*

PhD in Political Science (summa cum laude)

"Political Parties' Voter Targeting and Campaign Communication Strategies"

Committee: Heike Klöver, Anselm Hager, Hanna Schwander (all Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), Mark A. Kayser (Hertie School), Sara B. Hobolt (LSE)

### London School of Economics and Political Science

*Sep 2023 - Dec 2023*

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

### Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

*Oct 2019 - May 2021*

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

### Northwestern University

*Sep 2020 - Dec 2020*

Exchange Program, Chicago (declined due to pandemic)

### Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

*Oct 2015 - Mar 2019*

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

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

*Aug 2017 - Dec 2017*

### Technische Universität Berlin

*Oct 2011 - Jul 2015*

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

Peer-Reviewed Publications	<b>Gendered Targeting: Do Parties Tailor Their Campaign Ads to women?</b> <i>forthcoming</i> <i>The Journal of Politics</i>
	<b>Parties' issue responsiveness between elections</b> <i>forthcoming</i> with Lukas F. Stoetzer, and Heike Klüver <i>West European Politics</i>
	<b>Buying Voter Support for Unpopular Policies: Evidence from German Nuclear Power Plants</b> <i>2025</i> with António Valentim and Heike Klüver <i>Electoral Studies</i>
	<b>An Election Forecasting Model for Subnational Elections</b> <i>2025</i> with Lukas F. Stoetzer, Hannah Rajski, Thomas Gschwend, Simon Munzert, and Elias Koch <i>Electoral Studies</i>
	<b>The Zweitstimme Forecast for the German Federal Election 2025: Coalition Majorities and Vacant Districts</b> <i>2025</i> with Lukas F. Stoetzer, Thomas Gschwend, Elias Koch, Simon Munzert, and Hannah Rajski <i>PS: Political Science &amp; Politics</i>
	<b>Targeting Voters Online: How Parties' Campaigns Differ</b> <i>2024</i> <i>Electoral Studies</i>
Work in Progress	<b>The PARTYPRESS Database: A New Comparative Database of Parties' Press Releases</b> <i>2023</i> with Heike Klüver, and Lukas F. Stoetzer <i>Research and Politics</i>
	<b>Who Becomes a Lobbyist? Comparative Evidence from the US and Germany</b> , with Jan Stuckatz, Felix Hartmann, and Heike Klüver
	<b>Do Politicians Respond to Hostility? Evidence from Germany</b> with Elias Koch
	<b>Measuring Protest through News Articles: Validating Manual and Semi-Supervised Methods Using Government Data</b>
Other Projects	<b>Election Dataset Germany 1953-2021</b> (GitHub) <i>2021</i> County-level results made comparable over time using areal weighted interpolation
	<b>erststimme2017.de</b> Prediction of the district vote at the German Elections <i>2017</i>
Presentations	LSE Climate and Political Behaviour Workshop <i>2026</i>
	MZES Social Science Data Lab <i>2025</i>
	Lunchtalk – Arbeitskreis "Wahlen und politische Einstellungen", DVPW <i>2025</i>
	APSA <i>2025</i>
	EPSA <i>2022, 2023, 2024, 2025</i>
	MPSA <i>2025</i>
	DVPW <i>2024</i>
Service to the discipline	Transformations of Democracy Junior Scholars Workshop, WZB Berlin <i>2024</i>
	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> , <i>Environmental Politics</i> , <i>Comparative European Politics</i> , <i>PVS</i>
	Student Representative DYNAMICS Research Training Group <i>2022</i>

<b>Teaching experience</b>	Automated Web Data Collection (PhD)	2025
	Automated Web Data Collection and Text as Data (BA)	2023
	Comparative Politics and International Relations (BA)	2022
<b>Funding</b>	LSE Seed Research Fund (with Zach Dickson) (GBP 9,600)	2025
	Fulbright Travel Grant (declined/pandemic) (EUR ~2,000)	2020
	DAAD Promos Scholarship USA (declined/pandemic) (EUR ~3,000)	2020
	DAAD Promos Scholarship Mexico (EUR ~3,000)	2017
<b>Additional training</b>	<b>Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis</b>	2022
	<i>Causal Inference and Experiments in the Social Sciences</i> , by Prof. Ryan T. Moore, PhD (American University)	
	<b>DYNAMICS Graduate Program, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin</b>	
	<i>New Directions in Causal Inference</i> , by Prof. Ryan T. Moore, PhD (American University)	2024
	<i>Image Analysis</i> , by Prof. Michelle Torres (UCLA)	2023
	<i>Good Scientific Practice</i> , by Dr. Christian Dumpitak (iGrad)	2023
	<i>Data Protection in PhD Projects</i> , by Oliver Watteler (GESIS)	2023
	<i>Online Experiments</i> , by Dr. Amalia Alvarez-Benjumea (MPI)	2021
	<i>Survey Experiments</i> , by Sofia Breitenstein (UAB)	2021
	<i>Spatial Data Analysis</i> , by Prof. Dr. Karsten Donnay (UZH)	2021
	<i>Beyond Counting Words: Working with Word Embeddings</i> , by Prof. Dr. Damian Trilling (UvA)	2021
<b>Languages</b>	<b>German</b> Native	
	<b>English</b> Advanced (TOEFL iBT: 112/130)	
	<b>Spanish</b> Fluent (UNiCert II)	
<b>Software skills</b>	<b>Programming</b>	R, Python, Github, Stata
	<b>Text processing</b>	LaTeX, MS Office
	<b>Other technical skills</b>	Webscraping, Data Visualization, Quantitative Text Analysis, Automated Image Analysis

Last updated February 15, 2026.