

# carstenschwemmer

Postdoctoral Researcher

## about

22/02/1988

GESIS - Leibniz  
Institute for the Social  
Sciences

Department for  
Computational Social  
Science

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50667 Köln

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carstenschwemmer.com

## languages

first language: german  
fluent: english  
basics: french

## software

LimeSurvey  
Latex  
Microsoft Office  
SPSS  
Stata

## programming

Python  
R

## coding projects

github://cschwem2er

## interests

computational social science, digital media, political sociology, ethnic & gender studies, sociotechnical systems, natural language processing, images as data

## experience

since 2020	<b>Postdoctoral Researcher</b> GESIS, Department for Computational Social Science, Cologne	Postdoc
2019 - 2020	<b>Senior Research Associate</b> Center for Information Technology Policy, Princeton University	Postdoc
2019 - 2020	<b>Lecturer for Computational Social Science</b> Institute for Social Sciences, Stuttgart University	Postdoc
2019	<b>Research Fellow at Weizenbaum Internet Institute</b> Weizenbaum Institute, Berlin	Junior Fellow
2018 - 2019	<b>Assistant Professor for Social Science Data Collection and Analysis (fixed term)</b> Center for Data and Methods, University of Konstanz	Assistant Professor
2015 - 2019	<b>Lecturer for Methods of Political Sociology and Quantitative Text Analysis</b> Chair of Political Sociology, Bamberg	Research Associate
June 2018	<b>Academic Visitor at Nuffield College</b> University of Oxford	Visiting Scholar
2017-2018	<b>Teaching Assignment for Data Scraping</b> Humboldt University of Berlin	Associate Lecturer
2015-2018	<b>Teaching Assistant for Programming in the Social Sciences</b> ECPR Winter School, Bamberg	Teaching Assistant
2015-2017	<b>Project Pathways to Power: The Political Representation of Citizens of Immigrant Origin</b> Chair of Comparative Politics, Bamberg	Research Associate
2015	<b>Network Analysis, Programming</b> Chair of Business Informatics (Social Networks), Bamberg	Research Assistant
2015	<b>Tutor for Programming and Natural Language Processing</b> Chair of Sociology, Bamberg	Research Assistant
2015	<b>Tutor for Online Research Methods</b> Chair of Internet Sociology, Bamberg	Research Assistant

2014-2015	<b>Data Generation</b> DIW - German Institute for Economic Research, Berlin	Research Assistant
2011-2015	<b>Tutor for Data Analysis, Survey Administration</b> Chair of Empirical Social Research, Bamberg	Research Assistant
2011-2015	<b>Empirical Research, Questionnaire Design, Scientific Methods</b> Chair of Business Administration (HRM), Bamberg	Research Assistant
2010-2013	<b>Data Analysis, Cognitive Interviewing</b> Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories, Bamberg	Research Assistant & Internship

## education

2016-2019	<b>PhD (summa cum laude - with highest distinction)</b> Thesis: Computational Methods for the Social Sciences Applications to the Study of Ethnic Minorities	University of Bamberg
2013-2015	<b>Master of Arts (grade: 1.2 - with honors)</b> Majoring in Sociology Specialization in Empirical & Computational Methods	University of Bamberg
2009-2013	<b>Bachelor of Arts (grade: 1.8)</b> Majoring in Sociology	University of Bamberg
2003-2009	<b>German A-Levels</b>	Schiller Gymnasium Hof

## publications

### articles in peer-reviewed journals

#### Diagnosing Gender Bias in Image Recognition Algorithms

Carsten Schwemmer, Carly Knight, Emily Bello-Pardo, Stan Oklobdzija, Martijn Schoonvelde, and Jeffrey Lockhart  
Socius (2020 - forthcoming)

URL: [https://www.carstenschwemmer.com/files/image\\_genderbias\\_preprint.pdf](https://www.carstenschwemmer.com/files/image_genderbias_preprint.pdf)

#### The Methodological Divide of Sociology - Evidence From Two Decades of Journal Publications

Carsten Schwemmer and Oliver Wieczorek  
Sociology (Feb. 2020)

DOI: [10.1177/0038038519853146](https://doi.org/10.1177/0038038519853146), URL: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0038038519853146>

#### Die Vernetzung von Influencern – eine Analyse der deutschen YouTube-Szene [in German language]

Sandra Ziewiecki and Carsten Schwemmer  
Merz Wissenschaft (Dec. 2019)

URL: <https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/hj8d4/>

#### Collective Sense-Making in Times of Crisis: Connecting Terror Management Theory with Twitter Reactions to the Berlin Terrorist Attack

Diana Fischer-Preßler, Carsten Schwemmer, and Kai Fischbach  
Computers in Human Behavior (Nov. 2019)

DOI: [10.1016/j.chb.2019.05.012](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chb.2019.05.012), URL: <https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/p47b6/>

#### Whose ideas are worth spreading? The representation of women and ethnic groups in TED talks

Carsten Schwemmer and Sebastian Jungkunz  
Political Research Exchange (Sept. 2019)

DOI: [10.1080/2474736X.2019.1646102](https://doi.org/10.1080/2474736X.2019.1646102), URL: <https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/d69vw/>

#### Xenophobia before and after the Paris 2015 Attacks. Evidence from a Natural Experiment

Sebastian Jungkunz, Marc Helbling, and Carsten Schwemmer  
Ethnicities (Apr. 2019)

DOI: [10.1177/1468796818757264](https://doi.org/10.1177/1468796818757264), URL: <https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/eykw2>

## The Impact of Candidate Selection Rules and Electoral Vulnerability on Legislative Behavior in Comparative Perspective

Jorge M. Fernandes, Lucas Geese, and Carsten Schwemmer

European Journal of Political Research (Feb. 2019)

DOI: [10.1111/1475-6765.12281](https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-6765.12281), URL: <https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/ujgt7>

## MPs' Principals and the Substantive Representation of Disadvantaged Immigrant Groups

Lucas Geese and Carsten Schwemmer

West European Politics (Jan. 2019)

DOI: [10.1080/01402382.2018.1560196](https://doi.org/10.1080/01402382.2018.1560196), URL: [https://www.carstenschwemmer.com/files/geese\\_schwemmer\\_wep\\_preprint.pdf](https://www.carstenschwemmer.com/files/geese_schwemmer_wep_preprint.pdf)

## Election proximity and representation focus in party-constrained environments

Jorge M. Fernandes, Cristina Leston-Bandeira, and Carsten Schwemmer

Party Politics (Nov. 2018)

DOI: [10.1177/1354068817689955](https://doi.org/10.1177/1354068817689955), URL: <https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/usfbd>

## Ride with Me - Ethnic Discrimination, Social Markets and the Sharing Economy

Jasper Dag Tjaden, Carsten Schwemmer, and Menusch Khadjavi

European Sociological Review (Aug. 2018)

DOI: [10.1093/esr/jcy024](https://doi.org/10.1093/esr/jcy024), URL: <https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/gefsx>

## Social Media Sellout - The Increasing Role of Product Promotion on YouTube

Carsten Schwemmer and Sandra Ziewiecki

Social Media and Society (Aug. 2018)

DOI: [10.1177/2056305118786720](https://doi.org/10.1177/2056305118786720), URL: <https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/tskjb>

## articles in peer-reviewed conference proceedings

### Media Bias Towards African-Americans Before and After the Charlottesville Rally

Julia Leschke and Carsten Schwemmer

The 2nd Weizenbaum Conference - Challenges of Digital Inequality - Digital Education, Digital Work, Digital Life, May 2019

DOI: [10.34669/wi.cp/2.25](https://doi.org/10.34669/wi.cp/2.25)

### Terror Management and Twitter: The Case of the 2016 Berlin Terrorist Attack

Diana Fischer, Carsten Schwemmer, and Kai Fischbach

15th International Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management, May 2018

URL: <https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/964dc>

### Content Reconstruction of Parliamentary Questions. Combining Metadata with an OCR Process

Fotios Fitsilis, Thomas Saalfeld, and Carsten Schwemmer

The 5th International Virtual Conference on Advanced Scientific Results, June 2017

DOI: [10.18638/scieconf.2017.5.1.448](https://doi.org/10.18638/scieconf.2017.5.1.448), URL: <http://scieconf.com/archive/?vid=1&aid=2&kid=90501-448>

## open source software

### pathways: A Package for Exploring the Pathways Corpus

Carsten Schwemmer, 2019

URL: <https://cschwem2er.github.io/pathways>

### imgrec: Image Recognition with R

Carsten Schwemmer, 2019

URL: <https://cschwem2er.github.io/imgrec>

### stminsights: A Shiny Application for Inspecting Structural Topic Models

Carsten Schwemmer, 2019

URL: <https://cschwem2er.github.io/stminsights>

### sjPlot: Data Visualization for Statistics in Social Science

Daniel Lüdtke (Creator / Maintainer) and Carsten Schwemmer (Contributor), 2017

URL: <https://strengedjacke.github.io/sjPlot/>

## articles under review

Social Media Strategies of Right-Wing Movements [Revise & Resubmit]

Carsten Schwemmer

Self-Selection, Duty or Reward for Loyalty? The Politics of Select Committee Assignments in the British House of Commons

Jorge Fernandes, Thomas Saalfeld, and Carsten Schwemmer

## current working papers

Manipulative practices are the norm in political emails: evidence from 100K emails from the 2020 U.S. election cycle

Arunesh Mathur, Angelina Wang, Carsten Schwemmer, Maya Hamin, Brandon Stewart, and Arvind Narayanan

URL: <https://electionemails2020.org/>

Computational Social Science and Image Analysis for Studying Online Behavior (book chapter)

Carsten Schwemmer

Contesting the Mainstream: Understanding Alternative News Media

Carsten Schwemmer, Annett Heft, and Curd Knüpfer

Immigrants, Immigration and Integration as Topics in Parliamentary Questions – Similarities and Differences in the Discursive Environment of Representation (book chapter)

Lucas Geese, Thomas Saalfeld, Carsten Schwemmer, and Daphne Van der Pas

Immigrant Integration Policies and Descriptive Political Representation (book chapter)

Daniela Vintila, Simona Guerra, Angeliki Konstantinidou, and Carsten Schwemmer

## conferences, talks & workshops

Image Recognition for Social Science Research

Sektion: aktuelle Themen der empirischen Sozialforschung, Sept. 2020, Kongress der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Soziologie

Whose ideas are worth spreading? The representation of women and ethnic groups in TED talks

Observe Seminar Digital Humanities, June 2020, University of Passau

Creating open source software as part of an academic career

Panel Speaker, June 2020, SICSS Festival. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FpNEBQua0FA>

Big Data und die Rolle der Sozialwissenschaften

Chair for Political Sociology - Guest Lecture, May 2020, University of Bamberg

Diagnosing Gender Stereotypes and Other Cultural Biases in Image Recognition

Center for Information Technology Policy - Lunch Seminar, Feb. 2020, Princeton University

Mapping and Accounting for Gender Stereotypes in Commercial Image Recognition Systems

Computer Science Group for Biases in Artificial Intelligence, Nov. 2019, Princeton University

Social Media Strategies of Right-Wing Movements – The Radicalization of Pegida

European Symposium on Societal Challenges in Computational Social Science - Polarization and Radicalization, Sept. 2019, Zurich

Whose Ideas are Worth Spreading? The Representation of Women and Ethnic Groups in TED Talks

Digital Societies - Academy of Sociology 2nd Conference, Sept. 2019, Constance

Organizer of SICSS 2019 Bamberg Partner Institute

Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, Aug. 2019, Bamberg

Potentials and Biases of Image Recognition Algorithms

IC2S2 - 5th International Conference on Computational Social Science, July 2019, Amsterdam

Tutorial - Structural topic models for enriching quantitative text analysis

IC2S2 - 5th International Conference on Computational Social Science, July 2019, Amsterdam

Media Bias Towards African-Americans Before and After the Charlottesville Rally

The 2nd Weizenbaum Conference - Challenges of Digital Inequality, May 2019, Berlin

The Politics of Social Media Images: Potentials and Biases of Image Recognition Algorithms for Studying Congressional Behavior

European Symposium Series on Societal Challenges in Computational Social Science, Dec. 2018, GESIS, Cologne

Ride with Me - Ethnic Discrimination, Social Markets and the Sharing Economy

ECSR Conference on Causes and Consequences of Inequalities in Europe, Oct. 2018, Sciences Po, Paris

Parliamentary Careers, Electoral Vulnerability and Constituency Focus in the British House of Commons, 2001-2015

ECPR General Conference in Panel "Non-Legislative Activity in Legislatures", Aug. 2018, University of Hamburg

Participant of workshop for Text as Data in the Social Sciences

Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences, Brandon Stewart, July 2018

Participant of CSS 2018

GESIS Summer School Series on Methods for Computational Social Science, July 2018, University of Southern California

Participant of SICSS 2018

Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, June 2018, Duke University

Social Media Sellout – The Increasing Role of Product Promotion on YouTube

Weizenbaum Symposium 2018 - The Future of Work and Innovation in a Networked Society, May 2018, Technische Universität, Berlin

The Representation of Disadvantaged Groups in the Digital Sphere - TED Talks and their Public Perception on YouTube

European Symposium Series on Societal Challenges in Computational Social Science, Nov. 2017, Alan Turing Institute, London

Communication Dynamics of Populist Movements: An Analysis of the German Protest Group Pegida

Annual BAGSS Conference in Panel "Xenophobia", Sept. 2017, University of Bamberg

Ride with me. Ethnic Discrimination in Online Car-Pooling Markets

International Conference on Computational Social Science, July 2017, Cologne

Participant of workshop for Structure Equation Modeling

Leibniz-Institut für Bildungsverläufe, Ulrich Schroeders, Feb. 2017

We are the people. Communication dynamics of the right-wing movement PEGIDA

GESIS Computational Social Science Wintersymposium, Dec. 2016, Cologne

Substantive Representation and CIO MPs: Topic Models and Sentiment Analysis of Legislative Speech

ECPR General Conference in Panel "Assessing the Inclusion of Citizens of Immigrant Origin in National Parliaments in Europe", Sept. 2016, University of Prague

Institutions and Legislative Speech: When Do MPs of Immigrant Origin Get To Speak on the Floor of the Chamber - and What Do They Get to Speak About?

ECPR General Conference in Panel "Parliamentary Rules and the Representation of Minority Preferences", Sept. 2016, University of Prague

We are the people. Dynamics of the right-wing movement PEGIDA

KOSMOS Workshop "Migrants, Refugees and Global Justice: Comparative Perspectives in Societies of Migration" in Plenary Session "Immigration and Racism", Sept. 2016, Humboldt University of Berlin

Xenophobia before and after the Paris 2015 Attacks. Evidence from a Natural Experiment

KOSMOS Workshop "Migrants, Refugees and Global Justice: Comparative Perspectives in Societies of Migration" in Plenary Session "Immigration and Racism", Sept. 2016, Humboldt University of Berlin

The Substantive Representation of Immigrant-Origin Citizens in Germany's Mixed-Member System

Annual BAGSS Conference in Panel "Migration", July 2016, University of Bamberg

Participant of workshop for Bayesian Statistics

Bamberg Graduate School of Social Science, David Kaplan, May 2016

Substantive Representation and CIO MPs: A First Approach in Four European Democracies

ECPR Joint Session Workshop "The Representation of Citizens of Immigrant Origin in Established Democracies", Apr. 2016, University of Pisa

Substantive Representation and immigrant-origin MPs: First content analysis of legislative floor activities

PATHWAYS workshop "Presentation of preliminary findings event", Feb. 2016, London Institute for Government

Anwendungen von Topic Models auf einen Text-Corpus mit parlamentarischen Fragen in Großbritannien

DARIAH-DE Methodenworkshop "Quantitative Vorauswahl und Validierung für ein qualitatives Arbeiten in den Geisteswissenschaften:  
Ein iterativer Prozess", Nov. 2015, University of Bamberg

## peer reviews

I reviewed manuscripts for journals such as European Sociological Review, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies and Information, Communication & Society. A complete list of reviews is available at my Publons profile:

<https://publons.com/researcher/1727119/carsten-schwemmer/peer-review/>

## media mentions

- 2019 **Article about my research on the representation of women and ethnic groups in TED talks.** Economic Times  
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/magazines/panache/ted-talks-get-a-spike-in-10-years-influential-speeches-become-new-career-option-for-women/articleshow/71007077.cms>
- 2019 **Radio interview about the use of algorithms for social science research. [in German]** NDR  
<https://www.ndr.de/info/Algorithmen-decken-Diskriminierung-auf,audio555760.html>
- 2019 **Press release about my research related to studying inequalities with computational methods and digital trace data. [in German]** University of Bamberg  
<https://www.uni-bamberg.de/presse/pm/artikel/soziale-ungleichheiten-internet/>
- 2018 **Radio interview about the Facebook data affair and potential consequences for Social Science Research. [in German]** detektor.fm  
<https://detektor.fm/digital/datenskandal-und-wissenschaft>
- 2018 **Focus Online article about my paper "Ride with Me - Ethnic Discrimination, Social Markets and the Sharing Economy". [in German]** Focus Online  
[https://www.focus.de/auto/ratgeber/unterwegs/araber-und-tuerken-im-nachteil-studie-behauptet-mitfahr-dienste-in-deutschland-haben-rassismus-problem\\_id\\_9580399.html](https://www.focus.de/auto/ratgeber/unterwegs/araber-und-tuerken-im-nachteil-studie-behauptet-mitfahr-dienste-in-deutschland-haben-rassismus-problem_id_9580399.html)
- 2018 **Article in the Bild newspaper about my paper "Ride with Me - Ethnic Discrimination, Social Markets and the Sharing Economy". [in German, paywalled]** BILD  
<https://www.bild.de/bild-plus/geld/wirtschaft/wirtschaft/mitfahrgelegenheiten-deutsche-wollen-nicht-mit-auslaendern-fahren-57034484>

## research grants and & external funding

- 2020 **Funding for SICSS Partner Institute by Russel Sage Foundation, Sloan Foundation, Academy of Sociology, University of Konstanz and Center for Data and Methods Konstanz** 50,000 Euro  
in collaboration with Prof. Karsten Donnay, Prof. Peter Selb and Prof. Susumu Shikano  
<https://compsocialscience.github.io/summer-institute/2020/konstanz/>
- 2019 **Funding for SICSS Partner Institute by Russel Sage Foundation, Sloan Foundation and Bamberg Graduate School of Social Science** 30,000 Euro  
in collaboration with Prof. Thomas Saalfeld and Julian Hohner  
<https://compsocialscience.github.io/summer-institute/2019/bamberg/>
- in preparation **KID - Künstliche Intelligenz im Diskurs**  
research proposal in preparation for submission to Federal Ministry of Education & Research (BMBF) in collaboration with Prof. Raphael Heiko Heiberger
- in preparation **Political Influencers in Germany - An Evaluation of Mobilization Strategies and Digital Media Policies for Political Advertisement**  
research proposal in preparation for submission to the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)

## awards, scholarships & list positions

- 2020 **Number 2 on list for Junior Professorship "Computational Social Science"**  
University of Konstanz
- 2018 **Best Poster Award** 250 Euro  
European Symposium Series on Societal Challenges in Computational Social Science, Cologne
- 2018 **Best Project Award (Runner Up)**  
GESIS Summer School Series on Methods for Computational Social Science, Los Angeles
- 2018 **Support Scholarship for GESIS Summer School** 3,000 Euro  
Bamberg Graduate School of Social Science
- 2018 **Russell Sage Foundation: Support Scholarship for Summer Institute in Computational Social Science**  
Duke University
- 2016 **Bamberg Graduate School of Social Science: One Year PhD Starter Scholarship (declined)** 15,000 Euro  
University of Bamberg



## teaching

SS 2020	<b>Hands-On Introduction to Data Scraping</b> University of Stuttgart. Online seminar with YouTube content. <a href="https://github.com/cschwem2er/python_data_scraping">https://github.com/cschwem2er/python_data_scraping</a>	avg. evaluation: 1.17 / 5 (1 = best)
SS 2019	<b>Summer Institute: Automated Text Analysis</b> SICSS 2019 Bamberg. <a href="https://github.com/compsocialscience/summer-institute/tree/master/2019/bamberg/materials/day4-text-analysis">https://github.com/compsocialscience/summer-institute/tree/master/2019/bamberg/materials/day4-text-analysis</a>	-
SS 2019	<b>Summer Institute: Collecting Digital Trace Data</b> SICSS 2019 Bamberg. <a href="https://github.com/compsocialscience/summer-institute/tree/master/2019/bamberg/materials/day2-digital-trace-data">https://github.com/compsocialscience/summer-institute/tree/master/2019/bamberg/materials/day2-digital-trace-data</a>	-
SS 2019	<b>Summer Institute: Research Ethics</b> SICSS 2019 Bamberg. <a href="https://github.com/compsocialscience/summer-institute/raw/master/2019/bamberg/materials/day1-ethics/">https://github.com/compsocialscience/summer-institute/raw/master/2019/bamberg/materials/day1-ethics/</a>	-
SS 2019	<b>Tutorial: Structural topic models for enriching quantitative text analysis</b> IC2S2 Conference. <a href="https://github.com/cschwem2er/stm_ic2s2">https://github.com/cschwem2er/stm_ic2s2</a>	-
SS 2019	<b>Workshop: Introduction to Structural Topic Modeling</b> Weizenbaum Institute for the Networked Society	-
SS 2019	<b>Hands-On Introduction to Data Scraping</b> University of Bamberg	avg. evaluation: 6.17 / 7 (7 = best)
WS 2018/19	<b>Introduction to Quantitative Text Analysis</b> University of Konstanz	avg. evaluation: 1.33 / 5 (1 = best)
WS 2018/19	<b>Hands-On Introduction to Data Scraping</b> University of Konstanz	avg. evaluation: 1.86 / 5 (1 = best)
SS 2018	<b>Hands-On Introduction to Data Scraping</b> Skills Camp for Berlin Network of Labor Market Research	avg. evaluation: 6.35 / 7 (7 = best)
SS 2018	<b>Hands-On Introduction to Data Scraping</b> Skills Camp for Berlin Network of Labor Market Research	avg. evaluation: 6.35 / 7 (7 = best)
SS 2018	<b>Methods of Political Sociology</b> University of Bamberg	avg. evaluation: 5.83 / 7 (7 = best)
WS 2017/18	<b>Collecting Digital Trace Data</b> Humboldt University Berlin	avg. evaluation: 6.06 / 7 (7 = best)
WS 2017/18	<b>Introduction to Quantitative Text Analysis</b> University of Bamberg	avg. evaluation: 5.91 / 7 (7 = best)
SS 2017	<b>Introduction to Data Scraping</b> Humboldt University Berlin	avg. evaluation: 6.33 / 7 (7 = best)
SS 2017	<b>Methods of Political Sociology</b> University of Bamberg	avg. evaluation: 6.28 / 7 (7 = best)
WS 2016/17	<b>Methods of Political Sociology</b> University of Bamberg	avg. evaluation: 6.75 / 7 (7 = best)
SS 2016	<b>Methods of Political Sociology</b> University of Bamberg	avg. evaluation: 6.50 / 7 (7 = best)
WS 2015/16	<b>Methods of Political Sociology</b> University of Bamberg	avg. evaluation: 6.50 / 7 (7 = best)
WS 2015/16	<b>Introduction to Quantitative Text Analysis</b> University of Bamberg	avg. evaluation: 5.27 / 7 (7 = best)