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Advisor Information

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Office Hours	Thursdays, 12-14

Research & Advising Profile:**General Academic Field:** What is your academic field, and what are your areas of supervision?

I am a political scientist by training and data scientist by practice. Areas I have worked in include:

- comparative politics
- political behavior and voting
- (digital) political communication
- public opinion
- election forecasting
- experimental methods
- measuring human behavior with online data

Specific Expertise: What is your specific area of expertise, and what topics are you supervising?

My current research agenda is mainly driven by two questions:

1. How do online media change political communication, preference formation, and participation in democratic systems?
2. How can new digital data sources (such as social media data, data on online behavior, and user-generated meta data) be used to study political and social phenomena?

Projects I am currently working on tackle the following questions:

- How are citizens' preferences for online hate speech regulation shaped?
- What are the consequences of hate speech regulation for self-censorship?
- What is the effect of online partisan media exposure on political preferences?
- What is the causal effect of voting advice applications on political engagement and voting preferences?
- How can we forecast turnout at future elections?
- How engaged is the public in consequences of global warming for human health?
- How can we measure the prominence and influence of political elites?

Methodology: What methodologies and methods are you able to supervise?

Given my own research agenda, I prefer to supervise empirical work that uses quantitative methods. In terms of methods and research design strategies, I feel comfortable with giving advice and support on the following topics: survey design, experiments, measurement, causal inference, regression analysis, multilevel modeling, panel data, web and social media data collection, and quantitative meta-analysis.

Supervision Style: Please include information on what your advisees can expect from you in terms of supervision format.

- (1) You are encouraged to **propose your own research topic**. It should be somewhat connected to my areas of research. Some **example topics**, which **are also available for your thesis**, are listed below.
- (2) Your project should focus on a **well-defined question** and be empirical in nature. 90% of the research I consume is quantitative, so I see my own expertise in advising quantitative work.
- (3) My goal is (and your goal should be) that your results will ultimately be made available for the scientific community (and probably even communicated to the broader public). Therefore, the thesis should result in a **publishable research paper** that (a) motivates the subject of research, (b) gives a thorough overview of the literature, (c) precisely outlines your research design and (d) presents a rigorously conducted empirical analysis that gives meaningful answers to the research question. I will give detailed feedback on the structure of your work (but will not revise text drafts in advance).
- (4) I will strongly encourage you during the sessions to **collaborate in extending your set of statistical and programming skills**. I accept single as well as co-written theses. Please indicate whether you prefer to work on your own or to collaborate. In the latter case, you do not have to have someone particular in mind when submitting the proposal.
- (5) I will provide detailed **feedback** on your ideas and work as soon as possible. If you are interested in working with web-based data, I'll be happy to help with setting up automated data collection procedures. However, the actual data collection should be conducted by you. For tough R-related problems, my door will be open to you.
- (6) Outside the regular sessions, I will be available for additional advice during my **office hours**. If you want to visit, please drop me an email with bullet points summarizing the agenda of our meeting. If you cannot make it to the regular office hours, we will find an alternative date.

Examples of Previously Supervised Thesis Topics:

- Privacy and Democracy in a Cambridge Analytica World: Predicting Party Choice from Browsing History
- YouTube News and Politics Media Diets: A User-based Analysis of Filter Bubbles and the Recommendation Algorithm
- How Do Haters Hate? An Analysis of Hate and Offensive Speech against Greta Thunberg on Twitter
- Between Deliberation and Polarization: Analyzing Patterns of Germans' Online Media Diets
- The distant impact of nuclear disasters: Consequences of the Fukushima accident on German political preferences
- Predicting Voting Behavior from Search Engine Queries

Recommended General Readings: (if applicable)

The following texts are general readings material relevant for all advisees:

Kellstedt, P., & Whitten, G. (2018). *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Gelman, A., Hill, J., & Vehtari, A. (2020): *Regression and Other Stories*. Cambridge University Press.

Salganik, M. J. (2019). *Bit by Bit: Social Research in the Digital Age*. Princeton University Press.

King, G., Keohane, R. O., & Verba, S. (1994). *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton University Press.

Proposed Projects: (if applicable)

Project Title
Online media use and preferences for hate speech regulation (https://bit.ly/2ZfT5pT , https://bit.ly/2Zmb79Q)
The politics of eating: food choice, food literacy, and political preferences (https://bit.ly/2GSoB61)
What drives enduring shifts in party support? (https://goo.gl/QfxBNp)
Hidden communication on the Wikipedia by political elites (https://shorturl.at/oDP27)
Measuring citizens' issue attention using Wikipedia data (https://goo.gl/f4HBmE)
Assessing gender bias in political content on Wikipedia (https://bit.ly/2ZhWJzG , https://bit.ly/2LMtotX)

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is an infringement of § 11 Good Academic Conduct, 2a: "Infringements of the standards of good academic conduct include for instance to use wordings, ideas or other intellectual work of others in an academic work without clearly indicating the author. The obligation to indicate the authorship of others shall apply irrespective of whether or not the sources used are protected by copyright" (See: Exam Rules, § 11 Good Academic Conduct for more information).

It is vital to keep track of your sources and to cite all material properly.

The Library will offer a session available to all students on resource management and proper citation.

Extra (individual) note on plagiarism**Attendance:**

Students receive 8 ECTS for the Master's thesis colloquium. Attendance for supervision—whether in the form of a colloquium or an individual meeting—is compulsory. Students are expected to be present, prepared, and engaged in each session, and to adhere to deadlines set for assignments.

In case of an excused absence, students must notify their supervisor. Absence must be compensated with an additional assignment.

Students on an academic exchange programme in the Fall Semester should be given the opportunity of remote supervision.

Participation & Milestones:

There are three main assignments to be delivered at some point over the course of the colloquium:

- Fully developed thesis proposal
- Pre-analysis plan
- Project presentation

Colloquium & Meeting Information:

Colloquium Dates	Session Title
Session 1: November 5, 2020	How to find and refine your thesis topic
Session 2: November 26, 2020	Presentation and discussion of thesis proposals
Session 3: December 10, 2020	Workshop on data management and workflow
Session 4: February 11, 2021	Workshop on project management and workflow
Session 5: March 11, 2021	Reports from the frontline
Session 6: April 1, 2021	Open Q&A session

Colloquium Sessions:

Session 1: November 5, 2020 How to find and refine your thesis topic	
Aim	We will start with talking about strategies that help you identify an interesting, relevant, and feasible topic for your thesis. I will provide you with some inspirations from my areas of research. Finally, we will discuss the first steps to take in your thesis endeavor.
Assignment (e.g. thesis proposal)	Thesis proposal (3-5 pages). The proposal should include (1) a three-sentence summary of your project, (2) a more elaborate motivation, including a testable hypothesis, (3) a brief summary of the state of research, and (4) an overview of the research design, and (5) a checklist listing all the tasks you plan to work on until submission. (Due: November 19, 2020, to be uploaded on Moodle). Also, present a short presentation of your proposal (no more than 5 slides!) for the next meeting.
Session 2: November 26, 2020 Presentation and discussion of thesis proposals	

Aim	In this session, we will look more closely into the individual thesis proposals. Each participant will have 15 minutes to present her/his idea. Afterwards, we will have plenty of room for discussion and feedback.
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Session 3: December 10, 2020

Workshop on data management and workflow

Aim	Just before the winter break, we will prepare you to dive into the data and to run analyses. The goal is to establish an efficient coding workflow that prevents you from getting lost in too many results, models, and side shows.
No assignment	Spend your time during the winter break with focus on becoming an expert in the narrow area around your thesis, collecting data and working on your research design. Then, write your Pre-analysis plan (3-5 pages). The plan should include (1) a brief abstract summarizing your project, (2) a clear formulation of the research question together with a set of testable hypotheses, (3) a summary research design, and (5) preliminary summary of your empirical approach. (Due: February 4, 2021, to be uploaded on Moodle).

Session 4: February 11, 2021

Workshop on project management and workflow

Aim	Just after the winter break, we will prepare you to bring down to paper what you've found (and not found). The goal is to establish an efficient writing workflow that helps you focus on the
Assignment	Prepare presentation of the current state of the project until the next session.

Session 5: March 11, 2021

Reports from the frontline

Aim	This session will give you room to present your preliminary results and collect detailed feedback on urgent questions and problems you have been facing while working on your thesis.
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Session 6: April 1, 2021

Open Q&A session

Aim

In the last session, we will talk cover last-minute questions, such as how to polish your thesis, how to document your empirical analysis and data, and what to do with null findings.