Dr. Fabio Votta

Postdoctoral Researcher
AlgoSoc - Public Values in the Algorithmic Society
Amsterdam School of Communication Research (ASCoR) - University of Amsterdam

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Education

- **B.A. in Social Sciences**
  University of Stuttgart, Germany   2013–2017

- **M.A. in Empirical Political and Social Science Research**
  University of Stuttgart, Germany   2017–2020

- **Ph.D. in Political Communication**
  University of Amsterdam, Netherlands   2020–2024

Job Experiences

- **Postdoctoral Researcher** - AlgoSoc: Public Values in the Algorithmic Society
  Amsterdam School of Communication Research (ASCoR)   2024–Present

- **Data Scientist** - Volunteer Work
  Who Targets Me, London, UK   2021–Present

- **Data Scientist**
  OpenMind Platform, New York, USA   2019–2021

- **Junior Data Scientist**
  Paraboost, Germany   2018–2019

Selected Publications

- **Votta, F.**, Dobber, T., Guinaudeau, B., de Vreese, C., & Helberger, N. (2024). *The Cost of Reach: Testing the Role of Ad Delivery Algorithms in Online Political Campaigns. Political Communication.*
  🔗 *doi: 10.1080/10584609.2024.2439317*

- Minihold, S., **Votta, F.** (2024). *Accepting Exclusion: Examining the (Un)Intended Consequences of Data-Driven Campaigns. Media and Communication.*
  🔗 *doi: 10.17645/mac.8685*

- **Votta, F.**, Kruschinski, S., Hove, M., Helberger, N., Dobber, T., & de Vreese, C. (2024). *Who Does(n't) Target You? Mapping the Worldwide Usage of Online Political Microtargeting. Journal of Quantitative Description.*
  🔗 *doi: 10.51685/jqd.2024.010*

- **Votta, F.**, Noroozian, A., Dobber, T., Helberger, N., & de Vreese, C. (2023). *Going Micro to Go Negative? Targeting Toxicity using Facebook and Instagram Ads. Computational Communication Research*, 5(1), 1–50.
  🔗 *doi: 10.5117/CCR2023.1.001.VOTT*

- Afonso, A., & **Votta, F.** (2022). *Electoral and Religious Correlations: Mapping Ideological Shifts in European Democracies. West European Politics*, 45(2), 245-267.
  🔗 *doi: 10.1080/01402382.2022.2078856*

Honorable Mentions & Awards

- **De Loep Award for Investigative Journalism** (2023): Longlisted for the piece "The Ignored Citizen" on microtargeting during the 2023 Dutch parliamentary elections. *Read more*
- **Information Technology & Politics (ITP) Best Journal Article Award** (APSA, 2023): Awarded for the article "Fifteen Seconds of Fame: TikTok and the Supply Side of Social Video." *Read more*
- **Best Paper Award in Political Communication** (ICA, 2023): Recognized for the paper "Algorithmic Microtargeting? Testing the Influence of the Meta Ad Delivery Algorithm." *Read more*
- **Naomi C. Turner Prize** (WAPOR, 2018): Honored for the best paper presented by a graduate student at the WAPOR annual conference in Marrakesh 2018. *Read more*

Software Development

- **peRspective** – Google's Perspective API for content moderation.
  ○ *github.com/favstats/peRspective*
- **metatargetr** – Meta Ad Targeting & Ad Library data parsing.
  ○ *github.com/favstats/metatargetr*

Selected Media Mentions

- **ZDF Magazin Royale (Germany):** Research on political microtargeting during the 2021 German election in collaboration with Who Targets Me. *Watch the segment*
- **Volkskrant (Netherlands):** "Politieke online advertenties in campagnetijd: wie houdt van André Hazes, is interessant voor BBB" – Analysis of online political advertisements during the campaign period. *Read the article*
- **De Groene Amsterdammer (Netherlands):** "De genegeerde burger" – Research coverage during the 2023 Dutch election. *Read the article*
- **Het Financieele Dagblad (Netherlands):** "Inperking Facebook en Instagram donkere wolk boven verkiezingscampagnes" – Covered the implications of restricting Facebook and Instagram on election campaigns. *Read the article*
- **Quotidiano Nazionale (Italy):** "I rischi della profilazione elettorale sul web: 'Si può usare per manipolare le persone'" – Discussed the risks of electoral profiling on the web. *Read the article*
- **De Tijd (Belgium):** "Vlaamse partijen guller dan ooit met Facebook-reclame, ondanks alle kritiek" – Analyzed the increase in Facebook advertising by Flemish parties. *Read the article*
- **Apache (Belgium):** "Vlaams Belang betaalt 90 keer meer voor 1.000 Facebookgebruikers dan CD&V" – Investigated the advertising spending disparities among Belgian political parties. *Read the article*

Additional Experiences

- **Master Class Instructor:** Political Tech Summit 2025 — January 25, 2025
- **Exchange Student (Government Major)**, California State University Sacramento — 2015–2016
- **Youth Delegate**, New York Model United Nations — Spring 2016
- **Founder & Administrator**, R User Group Stuttgart — 2016–2020
- **Treasurer**, Funding Organization for Political and Social Sciences (FOEPS e.V.) — 2017–2020

Technical Skills

- **Advanced:**
  - R (Tidyverse, Shiny, RMarkdown, highcharter)
  - Python (Pandas, Scikit-learn)
  - LaTeX
  - SQL
  - Web Scraping (RSelenium, BeautifulSoup)
- **Intermediate:**
  - HTML / CSS / JavaScript
  - API Development