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Francesco Bailo

CV

Updated: November 6, 2025

━━━━━ Academic positions

> I have **eight years of research experience**, **more than seven years of teaching and course coordination at undergraduate and postgraduate levels**, and **five years of governance experience**, including **one year in senior leadership roles**.

Australia

Jan 2025 - **Director of the Computational Social Science Lab**, *University of Sydney*, Sydney, Australia
Institutionalising computational methodologies across the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences; designing and leading a regular program of workshops on natural language processing, digital trace data analysis, and computational text analysis; fostering interdisciplinary collaborations between social scientists and computer scientists; mentoring early-career researchers in computational methods; establishing partnerships with national and international research centers; providing leadership in the development and application of digital research methodologies.

Oct 2024 - **Deputy director of the Centre for AI, Trust and Governance**, *Faculty of Arts*
Dec 2025 *and Social Sciences, University of Sydney*, Sydney, Australia
Leading the strategic development of interdisciplinary research on AI governance, trust, and policy; defining six core research themes and directing the Centre's official launch; establishing international partnerships with institutions including the Schwartz Reisman Institute at the University of Toronto; advancing collaborative grant applications; fostering productive dialogue between HASS and STEM traditions to strengthen institutional research capacity.

Jan 2023 - **Lecturer in Data Analytics in the Social Sciences**, *School of Social and Political*
Dec 2025 *Sciences, University of Sydney*, Sydney, Australia
Designing, coordinating and teaching undergraduate courses in Digital Politics and Data Analytics in the Social Sciences (with R) and postgraduate courses in Research Design and Data Analytics for Social Research; supervising Honours, Masters and PhD students; recruiting and managing teaching and research assistants; serving on the Human Research Ethics Committee Arts and Social Sciences Low-Risk Sub-Committee (2023-2024); providing academic advising to students as Faculty Student Advisor; engaging with internal and external stakeholders on computational social science partnerships; conducting research on digital political participation and computational methods while maintaining teaching excellence evidenced by highest year-on-year increase in student satisfaction in the School.

Mar 2019 - Jan 2023	**Lecturer in Digital and Social Media**, *School of Communication, University of Technology Sydney*, Sydney, Australia Designing, coordinating and teaching courses in the Bachelor of Communication Digital and Social Media program, including Digital Media Industries, Code as Literacy/Commodity/Infrastructure, Digital Media Marketing/Metrics/Data, and Working with Data and Code; supervising Masters and PhD students; recruiting and managing teaching assistant teams; developing innovative curriculum integrating programming, data analytics, and digital media studies; engaging with industry and government stakeholders on digital transformation projects; conducting research on platform politics, computational methods, and digital political communication; contributing to faculty governance and strategic planning in digital media education.
Jan 2018 - Mar 2019	**Postdoctoral Fellow in Digital Media Methods**, *Department of Media and Communications, the University of Sydney*, Sydney, Australia Conducting research on digital methods in political communication and public opinion for monograph development; designing and delivering interdisciplinary training workshops on computational methods and digital data collection for faculty and students across humanities and social sciences; establishing foundational infrastructure for digital methods research within the department; designing, coordinating and teaching the postgraduate course Public Opinion, Policy and the Public Sphere; contributing to the development of digital research capacity and methodological innovation across the university.

Non-academic positions

> I have **five years of applied research and program management experience in international development**, including **survey design** and **quantitative evaluation** for government organisations, **large-scale project management**, and **field experience** in fragile states.

Aug 2017 - Jan 2018	**Survey consultant**, *Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI)*, Phnom Penh, Cambodia Designing and implementing national survey research on communication technology adoption and digital media use among Cambodian population; developing sampling methodology and survey instruments for large-scale quantitative data collection; managing fieldwork coordination and data quality assurance; conducting statistical analysis of survey data; producing research reports on patterns of technology adoption and digital communication practices for policy stakeholders and development organizations.
Jun 2012 - Mar 2013	**Survey consultant**, *Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)*, Canberra, Australia Designing and conducting impact evaluation research for Australian government development aid program in Afghanistan; establishing evaluation methodology and developing survey instruments for program assessment; coordinating with local research partners and implementing agencies in challenging field environments; managing cross-cultural research collaboration and fieldwork logistics; conducting quantitative data analysis and interpreting evaluation findings; producing research reports on program effectiveness for government and international development stakeholders.

Mar 2011 - Mar 2012	**National Program Manager**, *Mission of Assistance for the Development of Rural Economies in Afghanistan (MADERA)*, Kabul, Afghanistan
	Managing implementation of the National Solidarity Program across four Afghan provinces; overseeing operational budget of US$2.1 million and supervising staff of 200; monitoring program delivery and community development initiatives in hundreds of rural communities; coordinating with government ministries, international donors, and local implementing partners; ensuring program compliance, accountability and reporting standards; managing complex logistics, stakeholder relationships and field operations in challenging security environment.
Feb 2009 - Feb 2010	**Specialist in Business Development**, *Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations*, San Marcos, Guatemala
Oct 2006 - Sep 2007	**Field Coordinator (volunteer of Italian Civil Service)**, *Fundación Proyecto Don Bosco*, Ambato, Ecuador

▬▬▬▬ Education

Aug 2017	**Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)**, *Department of Government and International Relations, the University of Sydney*, Sydney, Australia
	On 20 October 2023, the degree in Doctor of Philosophy was recognised in Italy by the University of Padova according to Article 38, paragraph 3.2 of Legislative Decree 165/2001.
Sep 2013	**Diploma in Data and Systems Analysis**, *University of Oxford*, Oxford, United Kingdom
Jan 2011	**Master of Science in Public Policy and Sustainable Development**, *Maastricht University*, Maastricht, the Netherlands
Apr 2008	**Master of Arts in Economics, Politics and International Institutions (2nd Cycle/Graduate Degree)**, *University of Pavia*, Pavia, Italy
Dec 2004	**Bachelor Degree in International Studies (1st Cycle)**, *University of Turin*, Turin, Italy

▬▬▬▬ Research

- I have **eight years of experience as an academic researcher** in **computational social science**, **digital political communication**, and **platform governance**, combining rigorous quantitative methods with substantive questions about how **digital technologies reshape democratic participation**.
- I have secured over **AU$672,000** in competitive research funding as Chief Investigator.
- My research integrates **computational methods** (**network analysis**, **natural language processing**, **spatial analysis**) with traditional social science approaches to examine how **digital platforms** and **AI technologies** reshape **political participation**, **misinformation dynamics**, and **democratic resilience** across diverse political contexts.
- My publication record includes **14 peer-reviewed journal articles** (predominantly in Q1 journals), **2 books**, and **11 news articles**, complemented by **41 invited presentations at academic conferences and research seminars** and **21 media appearances**, demonstrating both scholarly impact and commitment to public engagement and knowledge translation.
- I actively contribute to policy development through **government consultations** on **AI regulation**, expert participation in technology policy roundtables, and **media commentary** translating research into public discourse.

External grants

Jul 2023   *Commonwealth of Australia (through the Department of Defence) and the NSW government.* AU$500,000. Investigators: Marian-Andrei Rizoiu, Amelia Johns (University of Technology Sydney); Julian Droogan, Jennifer Hunt (Macquarie University); Charles Hawksley (University of Wollongong); Francesco Bailo (University of Sydney).

Sep 2019   *Facebook Content Policy Research Award.* US$60,000. Awarded by Facebook. Investigators: Dr Amelia Johns (University of Technology Sydney), Dr Francesco Bailo (University of Technology Sydney) and Dr Marian-Andrei Rizoiu (University of Technology Sydney).

Internal grants

March 2025   *Ignition grant.* AU$45,000. Awarded by the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre, the University of Sydney. Investigators: Jonathon Hutchinson, Micah Goldwater, Lê Triệu Thanh.

Apr 2025   *Partnership-Building Rapid Response Output Preparation Scheme 2025.* AU$3,000. Awarded by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, the University of Sydney. Lead Investigator: Francesco Bailo.

Jul 2024   *Research Funding Scheme - Project Funding.* AU$3,000. Awarded by the School of Social and Political Sciences, the University of Sydney. Lead Investigator: Francesco Bailo.

May 2021   *Cross-Faculty Collaboration Scheme.* AU$20,000. Awarded by the University of Technology Sydney. Chief Investigators: Marian-Andrei Rizoiu (University of Technology Sydney), Amelia Johns (University of Technology Sydney), Francesco Bailo (University of Technology Sydney), Anne Kruger (First Draft, University of Technology Sydney), Derek Wilding and Monica Attard (Centre for Media Transition, University of Technology Sydney).

Aug 2019   *Early Career Research Grant.* AU$15,000. Awarded by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (University of Technology Sydney).

Sep 2019   *Cross-faculty Collaboration Scheme.* AU$20,000. Awarded by the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology (University of Technology Sydney). Chief Investigators: Francesco Bailo (University of Technology Sydney), Amelia Johns (UTS) and Marian-Andrei Rizoiu (the University of Technology Sydney).

May 2018   *Research Support Scheme.* AU$2,500. Awarded by the School of Literature, Art and Media (the University of Sydney).

Publications

Articles published in peer-review journals or peer-reviewed conference proceedings

1. Marolla, F., Miotto, M., Cassani, G., & Bailo, F. (2025). Affording fragmented audiences: Multi-platform deliberation within the Five Star Movement. *Political Communication.* https://doi.org/10.1080/10584609.2025.2548288 Ɔⅅ

2. Bailo, F. (2025a). Breaking out of legacy mobilization networks: How the Internet reaches and activates the politically disengaged. *Journal of Information Technology & Politics.* https://doi.org/10.1080/19331681.2025.2494116 Ɔⅅ

3. Stilinovic, M., Bailo, F., & Hutchinson, J. (2025a). Creative Underspheres and Democratic

Challenges: Exploring the Implications of Generative AI Misuse. *New Media & Society*. https://doi.org/10.1177/14614448251338511 ᔐ

4. Tian, L., Booth, E., Bailo, F., Droogan, J., & Rizoiu, M.-A. (2025). Before It's Too Late: A State Space Model for the Early Prediction of Misinformation and Disinformation Engagement. *WWW '25: Proceedings of the ACM Web Conference 2025*. https://doi.org/10.1145/3696410.3714527 ᔐ ⬡ [Dashboard]

5. Tronconi, F., & Bailo, F. (2025). The other side of platform politics. Law-making and online participatory democracy in the Five Star Movement. *Swiss Political Science Review*, *31*(1), 14–33. https://doi.org/10.1111/spsr.12613 ᔐ ⬡

6. Johns, A., Bailo, F., Booth, E., & Rizoiu, M.-A. (2024). Labelling, shadow bans and community resistance: Did Meta's strategy to suppress rather than remove COVID misinformation and conspiracy theory on Facebook slow the spread? *Media International Australia*, 1329878X241236984. https://doi.org/10.1177/1329878X241236984 ᔐ ⬡

7. Bailo, F., Johns, A., & Rizoiu, M.-A. (2024). Riding information crises: The performance of far-right twitter users in australia during the 2019–2020 bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic. *Information, Communication & Society*, *27*(2), 278–296. https://doi.org/10.1080/1369118X.2023.2205479 ᔐ ⬡

8. Kong, Q., Booth, E., Bailo, F., Johns, A., & Rizoiu, M.-A. (2022). Slipping to the extreme: A mixed method to explain how extreme opinions infiltrate online discussions. *Proceedings of the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media*, *16*(1), 524–535. https://doi.org/10.1609/icwsm.v16i1.19312 ᔐ

9. Bailo, F., & Goldsmith, B. E. (2021b). No paradox here? improving theory and testing of the nuclear stability–instability paradox with synthetic counterfactuals. *Journal of Peace Research*, *58*(6), 1178–1193. https://doi.org/10.1177/00223433211018501 ⬡

10. Bailo, F., Meese, J., & Hurcombe, E. (2021). The institutional impacts of algorithmic distribution: Facebook and the australian news media. *Social Media + Society*, *7*(2). https://doi.org/10.1177/20563051211024963 ᔐ ⬡

11. Abbondanza, G., & Bailo, F. (2018). The electoral payoff of immigration flows for anti-immigration parties: The case of italy's lega nord. *European Political Science*, *17*(3), 378–403. https://doi.org/10.1057/s41304-016-0097-0 ⬡

12. Bailo, F., & Vromen, A. (2017). Hybrid social and news media protest events: From #MarchinMarch to #BusttheBudget in australia. *Information, Communication & Society*, *20*(11), 1660–1679. https://doi.org/10.1080/1369118X.2016.1252410 ⬡

13. Vromen, A., Loader, B. D., Xenos, M. A., & Bailo, F. (2016). Everyday making through Facebook engagement: Young citizens' political interactions in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States. *Political Studies*, *64*(3), 513–533. https://doi.org/10.1177/0032321715614012 ⬡

14. Bailo, F. (2015). Mapping online political talks through network analysis: A case study of the website of italy's five star movement. *Policy Studies*, *36*(6), 550–572. https://doi.org/10.1080/01442872.2015.1095282

Pre-print

1. Ashani Amarasinghe, Sascha Nanlohy, Morgan, T., Hammond, D., Dahiya, Y., & Bailo, F. (2025). Mapping violence perceptions through YouTube comments: A new approach to real-time conflict monitoring. https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/FA493

Books

1. Bailo, F., Booth, E., & Williams, J. (forthcoming). *How to use Wikibase for mixed-methods research: An interdisciplinary and collaborative approach*. Edward Elgar Publishing

2. Bailo, F. (2020). *Online communities and crowds in the rise of the five star movement*. Palgrave Macmillan. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-45508-8

Book sections

1. Sengul, K., & Bailo, F. (2023, December 10). Twenty-first century populism in Australia and Italy: A comparative analysis. In G. Abbondanza & S. Battiston (Eds.), *Italy and Australia: Redefining Bilateral Relations for the Twenty-First Century*. Palgrave Macmillan. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-99-3216-0_9
2. Bailo, F. (2023b, December). Social media. In M. Grasso & M. Giugni (Eds.), *Elgar Encyclopedia of Political Sociology* (pp. 546–549). Edward Elgar Publishing. https://doi.org/10.4337/9781803921235.00146

Research reports and public submissions

1. Weatherall, K., Flew, T., Bailo, F., Gulson, K., & Bello-Villarino, J.-M. (2025). Submission to the Productivity Commission: Harnessing Data and Digital Technology & Building a Skilled and Adaptable Workforce. https://ses.library.usyd.edu.au/handle/2123/34422
2. Flew, T., Chesher, C., Hutchinson, J., Stilinovic, M., Bailo, F., Gray, J., Lumby, C., Stepnik, A., Goggin, G., & Humphry, J. (2023). Safe and responsible AI in Australia: Submission paper. https://ses.library.usyd.edu.au/handle/2123/31527
3. Goggin, G., Vromen, A., Weatherall, K., Martin, F., Adele, W., Sunman, L., & Bailo, F. (2017, November 22). *Digital rights in australia*. The University of Sydney. Retrieved September 6, 2018, from https://ses.library.usyd.edu.au/handle/2123/17587
4. Jilani, A., Pearce, D., & Bailo, F. (2013). *ACIAR wheat and maize projects in afghanistan*. ACIAR. http://aciar.gov.au/files/ias85-afghanistan-web-final.pdf

News articles

1. Bailo, F. (2025c). Digital platforms are now the ultimate political power brokers, with consequences for democracy. *The Conversation*. http://theconversation.com/digital-platforms-are-now-the-ultimate-political-power-brokers-with-consequences-for-democracy-263537. https://doi.org/10.64628/AA.ys64qnw7v
2. Stilinovic, M., Bailo, F., & Hutchinson, J. (2025b). AI is moving fast. Climate policy provides valuable lessons for how to keep it in check. *The Conversation*. http://theconversation.com/ai-is-moving-fast-climate-policy-provides-valuable-lessons-for-how-to-keep-it-in-check-255624
3. Bailo, F. (2025b). Concerns over DeepSeek should prompt us to reconsider the data we leave behind on other platforms. *ABC Religion & Ethics*. https://www.abc.net.au/religion/francesco-bailo-deepseek-data-collection-digital-companies/104934882
4. Johns, A., Bailo, F., & Rizoiu, M.-A. (2024). Meta just closed a vital online research tool. It's bad news for the fight against misinformation. *The Conversation*. http://theconversation.com/meta-just-closed-a-vital-online-research-tool-its-bad-news-for-the-fight-against-misinformation-236785
5. Johns, A., Booth, E., Bailo, F., & Rizoiu, M.-A. (2024). Conspiracy theorist tactics show it's too easy to get around Facebook's content policies. *The Conversation*. http://theconversation.com/conspiracy-theorist-tactics-show-its-too-easy-to-get-around-facebooks-content-policies-226118
6. Bailo, F. (2023a). Social media and political engagement in the world today. *Australian Outlook*. https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/social-media-and-political-engagement-in-the-world-today/
7. Bailo, F., & Goldsmith, B. E. (2022, June 12). *Ignore the paradox: Russia, ukraine, and nuclear deterrence* [E-international relations]. https://www.e-ir.info/2022/06/12/ignore-the-paradox-russia-ukraine-and-nuclear-deterrence/
8. Meese, J., Hurcombe, E., & Bailo, F. (2021). It's complicated: Australian media firms were breaking up with facebook long before the infamous 2021 news blackout. *The Conversation*. http://theconversation.com/its-complicated-australian-media-firms-were-breaking-up-with-facebook-long-before-the-infamous-2021-news-blackout-162500

9. Bailo, F., & Goldsmith, B. E. (2021a). Would denuclearization make north korea less dangerous? *Political Violence at a Glance*. Retrieved December 10, 2021, from https://politicalviolenceataglance. org/2021/05/12/would-denuclearization-make-north-korea-less-dangerous/

10. Bailo, F. (2019, June 11). *Il voto nelle città: le Europee a Milano* [YouTrend] [Section: Elezioni Europee 2019]. Retrieved May 19, 2022, from https://www.youtrend.it/2019/06/11/il-voto-nelle-citta-le-europee-a-milano/

11. Bailo, F. (2019, June 11). *Il voto nelle città: le Europee a Milano* [YouTrend] [Section: Elezioni Europee 2019]. Retrieved May 19, 2022, from https://www.youtrend.it/2019/06/11/il-voto-nelle-citta-le-europee-a-milano/

Presentations

9 October 2025 — **Panel discussion with Fiona White and Micah Goldwater**, University of Sydney
- Panel title: 'Psychology of Polarisation'. 🔗

10 October 2025 — **Panel discussion with and Martin Jolly and Mark Ledbury**, *2025 Research Events Series*, University of Sydney
- Event Title: 'Believing what you see: Trust and vision from the French Revolution to Generative AI'.

4 August 2025 — **Panel Discussion with Glenn Geers and Palvi Bothra and McGinn Eamon**, *Institute of Transport and Logistics Studies, NSW Transport*, Sydney, Australia
- Event Title: 'AI for Transport Planners: An Introduction'.

17 January 2025 — **Presenter (book)**, *CS2Italy2025 1st Conference on Computational Social Science*, University of Trento, Italy
- Presentation title: 'Collaborative Use of Wikibase for Interdisciplinary Mixed-Methods Research'. 🔗

16 January 2025 — **Presenter (paper)**, *CS2Italy2025 1st Conference on Computational Social Science*, University of Trento, Italy
- Presentation title: 'Quantifying Perceptions of Violence on YouTube for Near Real-Time Sensing of Vulnerable Communities and Mitigating Misinformation'. 🔗

24 October 2024 — **Presenter (paper)**, *Institute for Culture and Society Seminar*, Western Sydney University, Australia
- Presentation title: 'Breaking out of Legacy Mobilization Networks: How the Internet Reaches and Activates the Politically Disengaged'. 🔗

8 Aug 2024 — **Presenter (project)**, *DIN Industry Forum - Information Warfare*, University of Technology Sydney, Australia
- Presentation title: 'Using YouTube Comments to Measure the Geographic Spread of Violence'. 🔗

23 June 2024 — **Presenter with Francesco Marolla, Marilù Miotto and Giovanni Cassani (paper)**, *74th Annual ICA Conference*, Gold Coast, Australia
- Presentation title: 'Affording fragmented audiences: Multi-platform deliberation within the Five Star Movement'. 🔗 🔗

7 December 2023 — **Presenter with Giulia Sandri and Anontella Seddone (paper)**, *2023 Australian Society for Quantitative Political Science Conference*, Brisbane, Australia
- Presentation title: 'Levelling at the margin: Personal networks, social capital and the Internet in the mobilisation of the Five Star Movement'. 🔗 🔗

30 November 2023 — **Presenter with Giulia Sandri and Anontella Seddone (paper)**, *2023 Australian Political Studies (APSA) Conference*, Sydney, Australia
- Presentation title: 'Online and offline social capital as catalyst for political mobilisation: The case of digital native political parties'. 🔗 🔗

27 November 2023	**Presenter (paper)**, *Australian Social Network Analysis Conference (ASNAC) 2023*, Sydney, Australia
	○ Presentation title: 'Measuring information disorder'. 🔗 🔗
6 September 2023	**Presenter with Giulia Sandri and Anontella Seddone (paper)**, *ECPR General Conference*, Prague, Czech Republic
	○ Presentation title: 'Online and offline social capital as catalyst for political mobilisation: the case of digital native political parties'. 🔗 🔗 🔗
1 June 2023	**Presenter**, *Big Data and Textual Analysis in Economics, Finance, and Politics Workshop*, Sydney, Australia
	○ Presentation title: 'Ideology and the collective construction of knowledge of unfolding events on Wikipedia'.
11 May 2023	**Presenter**, *Wiki Workshop 2023*, Virtual
	○ Presentation title: 'Ideology and the collective construction of knowledge of unfolding events on Wikipedia'.
19 July 2022	**Presenter with Amelia Johns**, *ADM+S (Automated Decision-Making and Society) Misinformation Workshop*, Melbourne, Australia
	○ Presentation title: 'Controlling authentically spread misinformation: Practical and Ethical Challenges for platform moderation, Mapping and Countering the Diffusion of Hate Speech Across Social Media'.
14 July 2022	**Presenter with Amelia Johns and Marian-Andrei Rizoiu (paper)**, *International Network for Social Network Analysis (INSNA) Sunbelt 2022 Conference*, Cairns, Australia
	○ Presentation title: 'Riding Information Crises: The Australian Far-right community in the Twittersphere'.
28 June 2022	**Panelist**, *Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia Workshop*, Sydney, Australia
	○ Panel title: 'Teaching computational social science'.
6-9 June 2022	**Author with Quyu Kong, Emily Booth, Amelia Johns, Marian-Andrei Rizoiu (paper)**, *16th International Conference on Web and Social Media*, Atlanta, Georgia
	○ Paper title: 'Slipping to the Extreme: A Mixed Method to Explain How Extreme Opinions Infiltrate Online Discussions'.
13-16 Oct 2021	**Presenter with James Meese and Edward Hurcombe (paper)**, *The 22nd Annual Conference of the Association of Internet Researchers (AOIR)*, Melbourne, Australia
	○ Presentation title: 'The institutional impacts of algorithmic distribution: Facebook and the Australian news media'.
20-22 September 2021	**Presenter with Kurt Sengul (paper)**, *2021 Australian Political Studies Association (APSA) Conference: Politics in the Age of Uncertainty*, Virtual conference
	○ Presentation title: '21st century populism in Australia and in Italy: A comparative analysis'.
8-11 September 2021	**Presenter with Gabriele Abbondanza (paper)**, *Società Italiana di Scienza Politica (SISP) Conference 2021*, Virtual conference
	○ Presentation title: 'COVID-19 and human security: environmental, social, and medical risk factors'.
9 July 2021	**Presenter with Amelia Johns (paper)**, *Australian and New Zealand Communication Association (ANZCA) Conference*, Melbourne, Australia
	○ Presentation title: 'Have Facebook's policy changes addressed the circulation of health misinformation on its platform during COVID-19? Findings from a study monitoring anti-vax and far-right public pages (2019-2021)'.

9 July 2021	**Presenter with James Meese and Edward Hurcombe (paper)**, *Australian and New Zealand Communication Association (ANZCA) Conference*, Melbourne, Australia
	○ Presentation title:'The institutional impacts of algorithmic distribution: Facebook and the Australian news media'.
17-18 September 2020	**Presenter with Amelia Johns and Marian-Andrei Rizoiu**, *Facebook's 2019 Content Policy Research Initiative Conference*, Virtual conference
	○ Presentation title:'Mapping and countering the diffusion of hate speech across social media'.
1-2 July 2019	**Presenter (paper)**, *Social Movements and Parties in a Fractured Media Landscape*, Florence, Italy
	○ Presentation title: 'Bridging the Void. Distress, Participation and the Electoral Success of the Five Star Movement (2005-2018)'.
1-2 July 2019	**Presenter (paper)**, *Social Movements and Parties in a Fractured Media Landscape*, Florence, Italy
	○ Presentation title: 'Bridging the Void. Distress, Participation and the Electoral Success of the Five Star Movement (2005-2018)'.
23 November 2018	**Presenter (paper)**, *Data and politics seminar (United States Studies Centre)*, Sydney, Australia
	○ Presentation title: 'Social capital, Internet capital and the recruitment networks of political movements: A theoretical and empirical approach'.
3 October 2018	**Invited speaker**, *Gale Digital Scholar Lab Roadshow*, Sydney, Australia
	○ Presentation title: 'Racism in online interactions: Comparing survey data and social media data'.
25-28 September 2018	**Presenter (paper)**, *Digital Humanities Australasia 2018*, Adelaide, Australia
	○ Paper title: 'Local participation and the Five Star Movement's results in the 2018 General Election'.
20-21 September 2018	**Presenter (paper)**, *The Internet, Policy & Politics academic conference*, Oxford, UK
	○ Paper title: 'Internet-mediated recruitment networks of political movements: Empirical and theoretical approach'.
18 July 2018	**Presenter (paper)**, *Information for Digital Participation Symposium*, Canberra, Australia
	○ Paper title: 'Local participation and the Five Star Movement's results in the 2018 General Election'.
16-17 November 2016	**Presenter (poster)**, *1st Australian Social Network Analysis Conference*, Hawthorn, Australia
	○ Poster title: 'Political stability and the fragmentation of online publics in multilingual states'.
22-23 September 2016	**Presenter (paper)**, *Internet, Politics, and Policy Academic Conference*, Oxford, UK
	○ Paper title: 'Political stability and the fragmentation of online publics in multilingual states'.
15-18 June 2016	**Presenter (paper)**, *The 8th Pan-European Conference on the European Union*, Trento, Italy
	○ Paper title: 'From Five Stars to ground: A quantitative content analysis of Beppe Grillo's blogposts'.

28-30 September 2015	**Presenter (papers)**, *Australian Political Studies Association Annual Conference*, Canberra, Australia ○ Paper title: 'Networks in the online mobilisation enterprise of Italy's Five Star Movement'. ○ Paper title: 'Between anti-elite populism and policy: A textual analysis of the relation between Beppe Grillo's posts and his commenters'.
11-8 June 2015	**Presenter (poster)**, *International Conference on Computational Social Science*, Helsinki, Finland ○ Poster title: 'Networks in the online mobilisation enterprise of Italy's Five Star Movement'.
12-13 February 2015	**Presenter (paper)**, *Australasian Aid Conference*, Canberra, Australia ○ Paper title: 'Official development assistance vs People2People microlending: the case of Australia' (with Guglielmo Briscese).
5-6 December 2014	**Presenter (paper)**, *Third Annual Conference of the Australian Society for Quantitative Political Science*, Sydney, Australia ○ Paper title: 'Heterogeneity and fragmentation in online political discussion: A comparative and within-case study analysis of the forums of Italy's Five Star Movement and Germany's Pirate Party'.
9-10 October 2014	**Presenter (papers)**, *New forms of Digital Communication and Political Organisation*, Canberra, Australia ○ Paper title: 'Heterogeneity and fragmentation in online political discussion : A comparative and within-case study analysis of the forums of Italy's Five Star Movement and Germany's Pirate Party'. ○ Paper title: 'From #MarchinMarch to #BustTheBudget: Comparing social media ecologies of Australian protest events' (with Professor Ariadne Vromen).
28 September-1 October 2014	**Presenter (paper)**, *Australian Political Studies Association Annual Conference*, Sydney, Australia ○ Paper title: 'Prestige in online political talks: A case study of users' behaviour within the media system of the Five Star Movement'.
25-26 September 2014	**Presenter (paper)**, *Internet, Politics, and Policy Academic Conference*, Oxford, UK ○ Paper title: 'Mapping online political talks through network analysis: A case study of the website of Italy's Five Star Movement'.
2-3 December 2013	**Presenter (paper)**, *Citizen Engagement and New Forms of Political Participation Workshop*, Canberra, Australia ○ Paper title: 'Mapping online political forums through network analysis: A case study of the website of Italy's Five Star Movement'.

Media appearances

1. Gugole, M. (2025b). Tutti contro tutti: Davvero la società di oggi è così divisa? Retrieved November 6, 2025, from https://www.sbs.com.au/language/italian/it/podcast-episode/tutti-contro-tutti-davvero-la-societa-di-oggi-e-cosi-divisa/eenqekwy9
2. Czelene Villanueva. (2025). Should celebs and influencers speak their mind on social issues? *7NEWS*. retrieved June 25, 2025, from https://7news.com.au/news/should-celebrities-and-influencers-speak-out-on-social-issues-c-19149907
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Teaching

- I have **11 years of university teaching experience** in Australia, with proven expertise in making **computational social science methods** accessible to diverse audiences across undergraduate, postgraduate, PhD, and professional development contexts.
- My teaching portfolio encompasses the full spectrum of **quantitative and computational method**s: **statistical and data analysis**, **research design**, **digital methods**, **data visualisation** (R but also JASP and Tableau), **network analysis**, **natural language processing**, and programming (**Python** and **R**), delivered through innovative pedagogical approaches including **Jupyter Notebooks** and active **learning strategies**.
- I have extensive experience **coordinating large courses** (up to 300 students), **recruiting and training teaching assistants**, and implementing technology-enhanced learning that has resulted in recognition through the **2023 Teaching Innovation Award** and the highest year-on-year increase in student satisfaction within my School.
- I hold the Italian scientific qualification ("**Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale**") as Associate Professor for the disciplinary fields of **14/A2 - Political Science** and **14/C2 - Sociology of Culture and Communication** (valid until 03/10/2033), demonstrating readiness for Associate Professor responsibilities in the Italian higher education system and commitment to European academic integration.

Undergraduate course coordinator

2023, 2024, 2025 — **SSPS4102 Data Analytics in the Social Sciences (with R)** 🔗, *Discipline of Government and International Relations, School of Social and Political Sciences*, The University of Sydney
Undergraduate course teaching statistical concepts, quantitative methods, and R programming for social science research, covering data visualisation, pattern discovery, data analysis techniques, and practical coding skills for working with diverse data types.

2025 — **GOVT3901 Digital Politics** 🔗, *Discipline of Government and International Relations, School of Social and Political Sciences*, The University of Sydney
Undergraduate course examining how digital platforms and information and communications technologies reshape political power, with focus on platform politics, digital activism, state surveillance, online mobilisation, and the democratising versus authoritarian potentials of digital technologies across different political regimes through global and local case studies.

2021, 2022 — **52685 Working with Data and Code**, *School of Communication*, University of Technology Sydney

2022 — **52682 Digital Media Metrics**, *School of Communication*, University of Technology Sydney

2021 — **54061 Digital Media: Marketing, Metrics and Data**, *School of Communication*, University of Technology Sydney

2019, 2020 — **54005 Digital Media Industries**, *School of Communication*, University of Technology Sydney

Postgraduate course coordinator

2024, 2025 **SSPS6006 Data Analytics for Social Research** 🔗, *School of Social and Political Sciences*, The University of Sydney

Postgraduate course developing advanced R programming skills for social science data analysis, covering data manipulation and cleaning, data visualisation, exploratory data analysis, pattern discovery, statistical inference, linear regression, and causal analysis fundamentals through hands-on coding exercises with diverse social science datasets.

2023, 2024, 2025 **GOVT6139 Research Design** 🔗, *Discipline of Government and International Relations, School of Social and Political Sciences*, The University of Sydney.

Postgraduate methodology and methods course integrating quantitative and qualitative approaches, covering survey design, interviews, statistical analysis, content analysis, and research ethics through practical project-based assessment.

2022 **570002 Application Implementation with Microsoft Dynamics**, *School of Communication*, University of Technology Sydney

2018 **MECO6913 Public Opinion, Policy and the Public Sphere**, *Department of Media and Communications, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences*, The University of Sydney

Workshops

Jul 2022 **(The Art of) Text Mining and Analysis** 🔗, *Winter School Training Session - ANZCA*, University of Canberra

Professional development workshop for academic and industry researchers covering data visualization with Tableau (including JSON data import and text analysis functions), introduction to R programming and the tidyverse ecosystem, text mining workflows (data import, tidying, modeling, and presentation), document-term matrices, and topic modeling using Structural Topic Models (STM), with hands-on exercises analyzing literary texts and social media data.

Jul 2021 **How to do Social Media Data Analysis Using Tableau (Honours)**, *School of Communication*

University of Technology Sydney

Dec 2018 **Topic Models in R** 🔗, *DH Downunder 2018 Summer School*, The University of Sydney

Professional development workshop on computational text analysis using R, covering data import from multiple sources (PDFs, HTML, XML, APIs), text data tidying with tidyverse and tidytext packages, document-term matrices, and implementation of Structural Topic Models (STM) for discovering latent thematic patterns in textual data, with hands-on exercises analyzing literary texts and web-scraped content.

Jun 2018 **Digital Methods Workshop: Social Network Analysis, Twitter Data Collection, Text Analysis and the R Software** 🔗, *Department of Media and Communications, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences*, The University of Sydney

Nov - Dec 2016 **Digital Media Methods: Applications of R Software and RStudio to Social Research** 🔗, *Department of Media and Communications, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences*, The University of Sydney

Two-day professional development workshop introducing R programming fundamentals and social media data collection: Day 1 covered R/RStudio basics, data manipulation with dplyr, data visualization with ggplot2, and text mining with tm package using Twitter data from the #smachedavo protest; Day 2 focused on API authentication, live Twitter data collection using twitteR package, for-loops and control flow structures, and automated data scraping workflows.

Guest lecturer

2025   **GOVT2901 Contemporary Issues in Politics and International Relations II**, *Discipline of Government and International Relations, School of Social and Political Sciences*, University of Sydney

2025   **GOVT6150 Challenges of Democratic Politics**, *Discipline of Government and International Relations, School of Social and Political Sciences*, University of Sydney

2025   **SSPS4402 Philosophy of Social Science Research**, *School of Social and Political Sciences*, University of Sydney

2023, 2024, 2025   **ARIN3620 Researching Digital Cultures**, *Discipline of Media and Communications, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences*, The University of Sydney

2023, 2024, 2025   **MECO4114 Research Methods**, *Discipline of Media and Communications, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences*, The University of Sydney

2024   **GOVT2901 Contemporary Issues in Political and International Relations II**, *Discipline of Government and International Relations, School of Social and Political Sciences*, The University of Sydney

2022   **52673 Political Ideas and Change**, *School of Communication*, University of Technology Sydney

2021   **52673 Political Ideas and Change**, *School of Communication*, University of Technology Sydney

2018   **LNGS2628 Digital Tools for the Humanities**, *Department of Linguistics, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences*, University of Sydney

2017   **GOVT2991 Political analysis**, *Department of Government and International Relations, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences*, The University of Sydney

2017   **GOVT1104 Introduction to Political Science**, Department of Government and International Relations, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, The University of Sydney

Sep 2017   **GOVT3901 Digital Politics**, *Department of Government and International Relations, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences*, The University of Sydney

Supervision of research students

I successfully completed the supervision of **one PhD student**, **four Honours students** and **three Capstone students**. I am currently supervising **six PhD students**, **two Honours students**, and **two Capstone students**.

Workshops facilitated as director of the *Computational Social Science Lab*

Sep 2025   **Introduction to NVivo: 90-Minute Hands-On Workshop**, *Workshop session run by Kate Scott (University of Sydney)*

Aug 2025   **Explore, Analyse, Discover: Harness LDaCa Tools for Text Analysis**, *Workshop Session run by Chao Sun and Senhui Guo (Sydney Informatics Hub)*

Aug 2025   **Using YouTube Data to Measure Online Harassment in Canadian Politics**, *Workshop Session run by Inessa De Angelis (University of Toronto)*

Aug 2025   **Life Beyond Twitter: Non-Traditional Data for Computational Social Sciences**, *Workshop Session run by Ingmar Weber (Saarland University)*

Jun 2025   **Getting started with Natural Language Processing**, *Workshop Session run by Rohan Alexander (University of Toronto)*

Teaching assistant

2019, 2020, 2021	**54060 Understanding Digital Audiences**, *School of Communication*, University of Technology Sydney
2017	**GOVT2991 Political Analysis**, *Department of Government and International Relations, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences*, University of Sydney
2017	**GOVT1104 Introduction to Political Science**, *Department of Government and International Relations, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences*, University of Sydney
2014	**GOVT2111 Human Rights and Australian Politics**, *Department of Government and International Relations, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences*, The University of Sydney

Awards and prizes

Jul 2024	**Commendations for Teaching Excellence**. Awarded by the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Sydney.
Nov 2023	**Teaching Award (Teaching Innovation)**. Awarded by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Sydney.
Sep 2018	**The Internet, Policy & Politics Conference Best Paper Prize**. Awarded by the Oxford Internet Institute of the University of Oxford.
Mar 2015	**Berlin Doctoral Fellowship**. Awarded by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Sydney
May 2013	**Full PhD Scholarship** - **Australian Postgraduate Award**. Awarded in by the University of Sydney.
2011	**Top 3% Award**. Awarded by Maastricht University
2005	**SEN Coimbra Group Grant**. Awarded by the University of Pavia
2003	**Erasmus Scholarship**. Awarded by the University of Turin

Skills

Languages	English (fluent), Spanish (working knowledge), French (basic knowledge), Italian (native).
Programming languages	R, Python, LaTeX, Php, Stata.
Teaching applications	Canvas, Blackboard, Student Relationship Engagement System (SRES), Menti, Padlet.
Software	RStudio, JASP, NVivo, Tableau, QGis, Linux, OpenStack (for cloud computing), Spss, OpenRefine, protégé.
Database	SQLite, MySQL, PostgreSQL, PostGIS, Sparql.
Web	MediaWiki, Wikibase, WordPress, R Shiny.