

# Gaetano Scaduto

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Ph.D Candidate. Born Feb 25th, 1999

 [github.com/gaetanoscaduto](https://github.com/gaetanoscaduto)  [gaetanoscaduto.quarto.pub/home/](https://gaetanoscaduto.quarto.pub/home/) | Updated: Apr. 18, 2025

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## Education

PH.D STUDENT IN ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROCESSES NOV 2022-JAN 2026  
(DISSERTATION READY FOR SUBMISSION IN FEB 2025)

*University of Milan-Bicocca*, Milan, Italy

Supervisors: Fedra Negri, Delia Baldassarri (Co-supervisor).

Thesis title (provisional): "Political Inferences from Apolitical Cues and their Consequences on Interpersonal Interactions in Italy"

VISITING PH.D STUDENT FEB 2024-PRESENT

*University of Antwerp*, Antwerp, Belgium

Supervisor: Stefaan Walgrave

Collaborating in the activities of the "Media, Movement and Politics" (M2P) research group and the NOTLIKEUS project

MASTER'S DEGREE IN POLITICAL AND PUBLIC COMMUNICATION SEP 2020-JULY 2022

*University of Turin*, Turin, Italy

Thesis supervisor: Moreno Mancosu

Thesis title: "A country of upbeat songs while there is death outside? Analysis of Italian politicians' visual communication on Instagram during the Covid-19 pandemic"

Final grade: 110/110 with honors, special mention, and rights of publication

BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN MATHEMATICS FOR ENGINEERING SEP 2017-JUL 2020

*Polytechnic University of Turin*, Turin, Italy

Thesis supervisor: Giacomo Como

Thesis title: "Social Choice Theory"

Final grade: 110/110

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA SEP 2012-JUL 2017

*Liceo Classico "Empedocle"*, Agrigento, Italy

Final Grade: 100/100 with honors

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## Summer Schools, Winter Schools, and Short Courses

THE SUMMER INSTITUTES IN COMPUTATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA JUNE 2024  
2-weeks summer school on computational methods, with competitive selection process.  
Various teachers.

ESSEX SUMMER SCHOOL IN SOCIAL SCIENCE DATA ANALYSIS, UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX JUL-AUG 2023  
*Confirmatory Factor Analysis and Structural Equation Modeling* Essex, UK  
Teachers: Prof. Peter Schmidt (University of Giessen), & Dr. Daniel Seddig (University of Cologne)

ESSEX SUMMER SCHOOL IN SOCIAL SCIENCE DATA ANALYSIS, UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX JUL-AUG 2023  
*Causal Inference and Experiments in Social Sciences* Essex, UK  
Teachers: Dr. Ryan T. Moore (American University)

## Publications

### PAPERS PUBLISHED / ACCEPTED IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

#### 2025

1. **Scaduto, G.** Politicultural Linking: Inferences between Political and Apolitical Traits. Accepted for publication in *Public Opinion Quarterly*.  
Preprint available [here](#).
2. Decadri, S., Mancosu, M., Negri, F., **Scaduto, G.** Aligning Emotions: A Comparative Analysis of Text and Imagery by European Party Leaders on Instagram. Accepted for publication in *The International Journal of Press/Politics*.

#### 2024

3. **Scaduto, G.**, Negri, F. The Pundit Paradox: Exploring the Mismatch between Supply and Demand in Italian Political Talk Show Guests. *Comunicazione Politica*. <https://www.rivisteweb.it/doi/10.3270/115244>
4. **Scaduto, G.**, & Negri, F. Food for (political) thought: political inferences from apolitical cues and their social consequences in Italy. *South European Society and Politics*. 29(1), 79-108. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13608746.2024.2411539>
5. Mancosu, M., **Scaduto, G.** Crowds and Smiles: Visual Opportunity Structures and the Communication of European Political Leaders During the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Mass Communication and Society*: 1-26. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15205436.2024.2351980>

#### 2023

6. Bertero, A., **Scaduto, G.** A midsummer night's dream: political communication during the Italian 2022 electoral campaign. *Italian Journal of Electoral Studies QOE-IJES*, 86(1), 13-28. <https://doi.org/10.36253/qoe-14224>

#### 2022

7. **Scaduto, G.**, Mancosu, M. Lacrime di coccodrillo? Variazioni nel contenuto visuale su Instagram dei politici populistici e mainstream durante la pandemia. *Comunicazione politica*, 23(2), 255-276. <https://www.rivisteweb.it/doi/10.3270/104851>
8. **Scaduto, G.** Gli algoritmi di computer vision: una guida all'uso per le scienze politiche e sociali. *Polis*, 36(2), 315-332. <https://www.rivisteweb.it/doi/10.1424/104525>

### BOOK CHAPTERS

#### 2024

- Negri, F., **Scaduto, G.** Le «politologhe» e i «politologi» tra scienza e dibattito pubblico. In Verzichelli, L. *La Scienza Politica Italiana, 50 anni dopo*. Il Mulino.

## R&Rs/UNDER REVIEW

Respi, C., Gui, M., Legnante, G., **Scaduto, G.**, Serini, M., Pizzul, D., & Gerosa, T. Privacy protection as an exception in the digital inequality framework (and why this is not good news). Revised and resubmitted to *Social Science Computer Review*.

Tsoulou-Malakoudi, A., Goovaerts, I., **Scaduto, G.**, Van Erkel, P., Walgrave, S. Political others are perceived as non-politically different. Under review in *European Journal of Political Research*

**Scaduto, G.**, Negri, F., Decadri, S. It's the Homophily, Stupid: How Apolitical Similarities Affect Political Conversations. A Cross-Country Dynamic Parallel Experiment. Submitted to *Political Behavior*.

Preprint available [here](#).

## WORK-IN-PROGRESS

Decadri, S, Negri, F., **Scaduto, G.** Visual Conjoint Experiments in Social-Scientific Research: A Semi-Systematic Review and a Protocol Blueprint for Cross-Country Applications

Final draft stage. Expected submission to *Political Science Research and Methods* in April 2025.

Decadri, S., Negri, F., **Scaduto, G.** A Visual Conjoint Experiment on Ideological Inferences from Politicians' Instagram Profiles.

First draft stage. Expected submission: June/July 2025

Feitosa, F., Goovaerts, I., Lefevere, J., **Scaduto, G.**, Tsoulou-Malakoudi, A. The apolitical side of affective polarization: Examining the role of perceived non-political differences and similarities among voters

Second draft stage. Expected submission: May/June 2025

**Scaduto, G.**, Negri, F., Decadri, S. What is Left of What is Right: Exploring Ideological perceptions engendered by Sociodemographic, Psychological, and Lifestyle Cues in 4 European Countries.

First draft stage. Expected submission: June/July 2025

**Scaduto, G.**, Valeriani, A. How Perceived External News Efficacy Affects Trusts in Journalists: A Visual Experimental Approach.

Design phase

Faleide, I., **Scaduto, G.** Exploring Second-Order Beliefs around EU Membership in Norway.

Design phase

## DATASETS

**Scaduto, Gaetano.** (2023) Political inferences from apolitical cues: food-based political inferences in Italy.

**Scaduto, Gaetano [Producer].** Negri, Fedra [Producer]. Mancosu, Moreno [Producer]. UniData - Bicocca Data Archive, Milan. Study Number SN248. Data file version 1.0 doi: [10.20366/unimib/unidata/SN248-1.0](https://doi.org/10.20366/unimib/unidata/SN248-1.0)

Respi, Chiara; Legnante, Guido. (2022-2023) *Citizens and value of digital data*.

Respi, Chiara [Producer]. Legnante, Guido [Producer]. Gui, Marco [Producer]. Pizzul, Dario [Producer]. Gaia, Alessandra [Producer]. Sala, Emanuela [Producer]. **Scaduto, Gaetano [Producer].** UniData - Bicocca Data Archive, Milan. Study Number SN247. Data file version 1.0 doi: [10.20366/unimib/unidata/SN247-1.0](https://doi.org/10.20366/unimib/unidata/SN247-1.0)

## Conferences, Workshops, and Seminars<sup>1</sup>

1. European Consortium of Political Research (ECPR) Conference 2025, Thessaloniki, Greece, 26-29 Aug 2025 [ACCEPTED, participation pending on funding]  
**Scaduto, G.\***, Negri, F., Decadri, S. Decoding Politicians' Instagram Profiles: How Visual and Textual Cues Shape Perceptions of Left-Right Alignment and Populist Traits. A Visual Conjoint Experiment  
**Scaduto, G.\***, Negri, F., Decadri, S. Do Apolitical Similarities Drive Political Engagement? Insights from Multi-Country Dynamic Parallel Conjoint Survey Experiment
2. European Political Science Association (EPSA) Conference 2025, Madrid, Spain, 26-28 June 2025 [ACCEPTED, Registered]  
Decadri, S., Negri, F., **Scaduto, G.\***. Decoding Politicians' Instagram Profiles: How Visual and Textual Cues Shape Left-Right Alignment and Populist Traits Perceptions. A Visual Conjoint Experiment.
3. European Survey Research Association (ESRA) Conference 2025, Utrecht, The Netherlands, 14-18 July 2025 [ACCEPTED, Waiting to register]  
**Scaduto, G.\***, Negri, F., Decadri, S. Visual Conjoint Experiments in Social Research: A Comprehensive Review and a Guide for Cross-National Applications.  
**Scaduto, G.\***, Negri, F., Decadri, S. Do Apolitical Similarities Drive Political Engagement? Insight from a Multi-Country Dynamic Parallel Conjoint Experiment
4. PolMeth Europe 2025, London, UK, 7-9 Apr 2025  
**Scaduto, G.\***, Negri, F., Decadri, S. Political Inferences in the Wild: Inferring Politicians' Ideology from Apolitical Cues with Explicit Political Information. A Visual Conjoint Approach.
5. First MethodsNET Conference. Louvain-La-Neuve, Belgium, 31 Oct-1 Nov 2024.  
**Scaduto, G.\***, Negri, F., Decadri, S. A Visual Conjoint Experiment on Ideological Inferences from Politicians' Instagram Profiles.
6. 2024 Workshop Survey Experiments in the Social Sciences. Amsterdam Center for Inequality Studies (AMCIS). Amsterdam. 24 October 2024.  
**Scaduto, G.\*** Negri, F., Decadri, S.: Political Inferences in the Wild: Inferring Politicians' Ideology from Apolitical Cues with Explicit Political Information. A visual conjoint approach.
7. 10th conference of the International Journal of Press/Politics. Edinburgh, 17-18 October 2024.  
**Scaduto, G.\***, Negri, F., Mancosu, M., Decardi, S. Emotional Inconsistency in Online Political Communication: A Comparative Study of Text and Imagery by European Party Leaders on Instagram.
8. 2024 Conference of the Italian Political Science Society (SISP). Trieste, 12-14 September.  
**Scaduto, G.\***. Policultural Linking: Inferences between Political and Apolitical Traits. Decadri, S., Mancosu, M., Negri, F., **Scaduto G.\***. A Comparative Study of Populist and Mainstream Politicians' visual and textual communication on Instagram.  
Chaired and organized the following panels:  
Survey Experiments in Political Science (I)  
Survey Experiments in Political Science (II).
9. 2024 Conference of the Italian Political Communication Association (ASSOCOMPOL). Catania, 30 May-1 June.

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<sup>1</sup>Asterisks signal the paper presenter

Negri, F., **Scaduto, G.\***. The Pundit Paradox: Exploring the Mismatch between Supply and Demand in Italian Political Talk Show Guests.

10. 2024 CompText Conference (COMPTXT), Amsterdam, 2-4 May.

**Scaduto, G.\***, Decadri, S., Mancosu, M., Negri, F. Analyzing Visual Communication Strategies: A Comparative Study of Populist and Mainstream Political Parties on Instagram Across 28 European Countries (2019-2021).

11. SPS Seminar: "Picturing Politics? Exploring the mental images of partisans and ideologues shaped by cultural consumption choices", University of Milan, 17 January 2024.

**Scaduto, G.\***, Negri, F. Food for (political) thought: exploring the factors associated with making political inferences from apolitical cues in Italy

12. 2023 Conference of the Italian Political Science Society (SISP). Genoa, 14-16 September.

**Scaduto, G.\***, Negri, F. Food for (political) thought: exploring the factors associated with making political inferences from apolitical cues in Italy.

Mancosu, M., **Scaduto, G.\*** Crowds and smiles: Visual opportunity structures and the communication of European political leaders during the Covid-19 pandemic

13. 2023 Conference of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR). Prague, 4-8 September.

**Scaduto, G.\***, Negri, F. Food for (political) thought: exploring the factors associated with making political inferences from apolitical cues in Italy.

14. 2023 Conference of the Italian Political Communication Association (ASSOCOMPOL). Turin, 8-10 June.

**Scaduto, G.\***, Negri, F. Food for (political) thought: exploring the factors associated with making political inferences from apolitical cues in Italy.

15. 2022 Conference of the Italian Political Communication Association (ASSOCOMPOL). Bologna June 30th-July 1st.

Mancosu, M., **Scaduto, G.** The representation of political leaders in times of pandemic crisis. Evidence from 28 European countries.

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## Teaching

TEACHING ASSISTANT (TUTOR) IN MATHEMATICS

NOV 2023-PRESENT

*University of Milan-Bicocca*, Milan, Italy  
BS in Organization Science

TEACHING ASSISTANT (TUTOR) IN PUBLIC POLICIES

OCT 2023-PRESENT

*University of Milan-Bicocca*, Milan, Italy  
BS in Organization Science

TEACHING ASSISTANT (SUBJECT EXPERT) IN PUBLIC POLICIES

DEC 2022-PRESENT

*University of Milan-Bicocca*, Milan, Italy  
BS in Organization Science

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## Editorial Activities

REVIEWER FOR:

Canadian Journal of Political Science. Comunicazione Politica.

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## Media Outreach

RADIO

[Buongiorno InBlu 23/01/2025](#), Radio InBlu 2000.

[Buongiorno InBlu 25/10/2024](#), Radio InBlu 2000.

ONLINE MEDIA:

[“Talk-show politici, lo specchio di un’Italia polarizzata”](#) (with Negri F., in Italian). LaVoce.info. January 2025.

[“Ze zijn niet zoals wij”: hoe kiezers kijken naar andere kiezers’](#) (with Tsoulou-Malakoudi, A. & Goovaerts, I., in Dutch). Samenleving & Politiek. December 2024.

[“What your menu choice says about your politics”](#) (with Negri F.). The Loop. October 2024.

[“Dimmi cosa mangi e ti dirò che partito voti”](#) (with Negri F., in Italian). LaVoce.info. October 2024.

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## Awards, Grants, and Memberships

AWARDS

### **Best paper from a Junior Researcher 2023**

Awarded by the Italian Political Communication Association (ASSOCOMPOL) for the best paper presented in the 2023 conference. The prize refers to *“Food for (political) thought: investigating factors and behaviors associated with political inferences from apolitical cues in Italy”* (with F. Negri)

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

**Conference Fee Waiver for the International Journal of Press/Politics 2024 conference** - 300€

**“Mini-scholarship” to take part in the 2024 Conference.** Italian Political Science Association (SISP) - 200€

**Ph.D. Scholarship** University of Milan Bicocca, Department of Sociology and Social Research - 16,243.00€ per year for three years

**Ph.D. Scholarship** University of Trento, Department of Sociology and Social Research (Declined to accept Ph.D. scholarship at UNIMIB)

**Scholarship - Excellence’s Project 2022**, Department of Culture, Politics and Society - University of Turin - 1500€

**Study’s prize 2021**, Renato Einaudi University College of Turin - 1500€

**Study’s prize 2019**, Renato Einaudi University College of Turin - 2500€

**Scholarship by EDISU Piemonte (Regional Agency for Educational Rights) 2021.** Awarded through the combination of (higher) academic performance and (lower) parental income - 5100€

**Scholarship by EDISU Piemonte (Regional Agency for Educational Rights) 2020.** Awarded through the combination of (higher) academic performance and (lower) parental income - 5100€

**Scholarship by EDISU Piemonte (Regional Agency for Educational Rights) 2019.** Awarded through the combination of (higher) academic performance and (lower) parental income - 5100€

**Scholarship by EDISU Piemonte (Regional Agency for Educational Rights) 2018.** Awarded through the combination of (higher) academic performance and (lower) parental income - 5100€

**Scholarship by EDISU Piemonte (Regional Agency for Educational Rights) 2017.** Awarded through the combination of (higher) academic performance and (lower) parental income - 5100€

#### MEMBERSHIPS

Member of ASSOCOMOL (Italian Political Communication Association) [Since 2024]

Member of SISP, (Società Italiana di Scienza Politica - Italian Political Science Society) [Since 2023]

Member of ECPR Affective Polarization Standing Group [Since 2023]

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### Other professional experiences

#### ACADEMIC

**Research Collaborator** *University of Antwerp, Belgium* Feb 2024-Present  
Involvement in the activities related to the project “NotLikeUS” project. [See here for details.](#)

**Research Collaborator**, *University of Milan-Bicocca, Italy* Sept 2023-Aug 2025  
Involvement in the activities related to the project “The visual politics of populism” (PI: Mat-tia Zulianello, UniTS; Vice PIs: Fedra Negri, Unimib; Luigi Curini, Unimi). These activities included (but were not limited to):

- Designing a survey fielded in 5 European countries

- Designing survey experiments

- Working with computational methods to download and analyze politicians’ social media posts

- Managing the relationship between the working group and the survey company

- Supervising the translation and cultural adaptation of the survey in multiple national contexts.

**Research Collaborator**, *University of Milan-Bicocca, Italy* Aug-Dec 2023  
Analysis and management of survey data for research purposes for the project “VDATA - The Value of Digital Data”

**Conference Assistant**, *European Survey Research Association* Jul 2023  
Assisted in the activities related to the 2023 European Survey Research Association Conference.

**Research Fellow**, *Collegio Carlo Alberto, Turin* May-June 2022  
Data gathering on the media outlets of 47 countries with research purposes. Data analysis on survey results (Stata, R). Data entry and data management (Excel)

#### EXTRA-ACADEMIC

**Junior Research Specialist and Deputy Campaign Coordinator**, *Social Changes, Inc.* 2022

- Contributed to organizing and coordinating multiple campaigns for the 2022 political and municipal elections in Italy.

- Managed the relationship with companies providing media analysis services (WebPredict) and provided insights on how to use media analysis for strategic purposes during the campaign.

- Coordinated and conducted research on advertisements and media profiles of adversarial campaigns.

- Created electoral databases useful for electoral insights (R). Provided training on digital strategies (WhatsApp-Telegram Cascades) to staff members of multiple campaigns.

- Coordinated and wrote a daily newsletter including press reviews and campaign insights with strategic consideration.

- Contributed to the construction of targets for social media political advertisement.

**Part-Time Receptionist**, *Renato Einaudi University College, Turin* 2021-2022

Supervised on the general life and activity of the college. Front office relations. Management of relations with the administration of the college and maintenance, cleaning, and organizational figures.

**Students' Tutor**, *Renato Einaudi University College*, Turin

2021-2022

Mediation between the college administration and its students. Conflict resolution. Support in first arrival orientation. Management of students' educational plan.

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## Skills

### LANGUAGES

**Italian**, Native.

**English**, C2.

**Dutch**, B1 (as of April 2024, currently studying for B2).

### CODING SKILLS/SOFTWARES

**R**, Advanced; **C**, Proficient; **SQL**, Proficient; **LaTeX**, Proficient; **Microsoft Office package**, Proficient; **Python**, Intermediate; **C++**, Beginner; **Stata**, Beginner; **Html**, Beginner; **Shiny**, Beginner; **Javascript**, Beginner; **Matlab**, Beginner