# Gaetano Scaduto

Ph.D Student in Social Sciences

 **github.com/gaetanoscaduto**  **gaetanoscaduto.quarto.pub/home/** | *Updated:* Apr. 12, 2025

## Education

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

## 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)

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## Publications

Papers published/accepted in peer-reviewed journals

**Scaduto, G.** (2025) Politicultural Linking: Inferences between Political and Apolitical Traits. Accepted for publication in *Public Opinion Quarterly.*

Preprint available here.

**Scaduto, G,** Negri, F. (2024). 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

**Scaduto, G**., & Negri, F. (2024). 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

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 (2024): 1-26. https://doi.org/10.1080/15205436.2024.2351980

Bertero, A., **Scaduto, G**. (2023). 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

**Scaduto, G**., Mancosu, M. (2022). Lacrime di coccodrillo? Variazioni nel contenuto visuale su Instagram dei politici populisti e mainstream durante la pandemia. Comunicazione politica, 23(2), 255-276. https://www.rivisteweb.it/doi/10.3270/104851

**Scaduto, G**. (2022). 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

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.

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). R&R (second round) in *Social Science Computer Review.*

Decadri, S., Mancosu, M., Negri, F., **Scaduto, G**. A comparative analysis of the visual and textual strategies of European politicians on Instagram. R&R (second round) in *International Journal of Press/Politics.*

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. Under review in *Political Behavior*.

Working Papers

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: 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 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

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

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

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## Conferences, Workshops, and Seminars[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

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.

European Survey Research Association (ESRA) Conference 2025, Utrecht, The Netherlands, 14-18 July 2025 [ACCEPTED, Waiting to register]

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[1]Asterisks signal the paper presenter

**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

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.

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.

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.

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.

2024 Conference of the Italian Political Science Society (SISP). Trieste, 12-14 September.

**Scaduto, G*.** Politicultural 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).

2024 Conference of the Italian Political Communication Association (ASSOCOMPOL). Catania, 30 May-1 June.

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

2024 CompText Conference (COMPTEXT), 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).

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

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

2023 VDATA Final Conference. Pavia, 7-8 September.

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)

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.

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.

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

**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,** *Univesity of Milan-Bicocca*, Italy            Sept 2023-Aug 2025
Involvement in the activities related to the project "The visual politics of populism" (PI: Mattia 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.

## 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