

# Gaetano Scaduto

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Ph.D Candidate.

Born Feb 25th, 1999 in Agrigento, Italy

Currently residing in Antwerp, Belgium

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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 (Unimib), Delia Baldassarri (New York University).

Thesis title: "Thinking About Politics: An Experimental Inquiry into the Mental Associations between Political and Apolitical Traits and Their Social Consequences 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  
*Causal Inference and Experiments in Social Sciences*  
Teachers: Dr. Ryan T. Moore (American University)

JUL-AUG 2023  
Essex, UK

SISP - ITALIAN POLITICAL SCIENCE SOCIETY  
*Crash Course in Text Analysis*  
Teachers: Dr. Silvia Decadri (University of Milan)

SEP. 2023  
Genoa, Italy

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## Publications

PAPERS PUBLISHED / ACCEPTED IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

### 2025

9. **Scaduto, G.** Politicultural Linking: Inferences between Political and Apolitical Traits. Accepted for publication in *Public Opinion Quarterly*. Preprint available [here](#).
8. Decadri, S., Mancosu, M., Negri, F., **Scaduto, G.** Aligning Emotions: A Comparative Analysis of Text and Imagery by European Party Leaders on Instagram. *The International Journal of Press/Politics*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/19401612251339107>
7. Respi, C., Gui, M., **Scaduto, G.**, Serini, M., Pizzul, D., Gerosa, T., & Lutz, C. (2024). Lower Cynicism, Not Higher Literacy, Promotes Protective Behavior: Exploring the “privacy exception” in the Digital Inequality Framework. *Social Science Computer Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08944393251341201>

### 2024

6. **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>
5. **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> (with Negri, F.)
4. 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

3. 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

2. **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>
1. **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

1. 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

3. 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*.
2. **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*.  
Preprint available [here](#)
1. 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. Submitted to *American Political Science Review*.

## WORK-IN-PROGRESS

6. Thinking About Politics: An Experimental Inquiry into the Mental Associations between Political and Apolitical Traits and Their Social Consequences in Italy. Doctoral dissertation (monograph, single author).  
Completed. To be submitted in September 2025 due to administrative constraints of the Italian PhD system.
5. A Visual Conjoint Experiment on Ideological Inferences from Politicians' Instagram Profiles. (with Decadri, S., Negri, F.)  
First draft stage. Expected submission: June/July 2025
4. The apolitical side of affective polarization: Examining the role of perceived non-political differences and similarities among voters. (with Feitosa, F., Goovaerts, I., Lefevere, J., Tsoulou-Malakoudi, A.)  
Second draft stage. Expected submission: May/June 2025
3. *Spotting Them from a Distance*: Mapping Ideological Stereotypes around Sociodemographics, Personality, and Lifestyles in 4 EU Countries. (with Negri, F., Decadri, S.)  
First draft stage. Expected submission: June/July 2025
2. How Perceived External News Efficacy Affects Trust in Journalists: A Visual Experimental Approach. (with Valeriani, A.)  
Design phase
1. Exploring Second-Order Beliefs around EU Membership in Norway. (with Faleide, I.)  
Design phase

## DATASETS (PUBLICLY AVAILABLE)

2. 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)
1. *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)

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## Conferences, Workshops, and Seminars

16. 2025 Conference of the Italian Political Science Society (SISP). Naples, 4-6 September. [accepted, participation pending on funding]
15. European Consortium of Political Research (ECPR) Conference 2025, Thessaloniki, Greece, 26-29 Aug 2025 [accepted, participation pending on funding].
14. European Political Science Association (EPSA) Conference 2025, Madrid, Spain, 26-28 June 2025 [accepted, registered]
13. European Survey Research Association (ESRA) Conference 2025, Utrecht, The Netherlands, 14-18 July 2025 [accepted, waiting to register]
12. Politicologenetmaal 2025, Groningen, The Netherlands, 12-13 June [accepted, registered]
11. PolMeth Europe 2025, London, UK, 7-9 Apr 2025
10. First MethodsNET Conference. Louvain-La-Neuve, Belgium, 31 Oct-1 Nov 2024.
9. 2024 Workshop Survey Experiments in the Social Sciences. Amsterdam Center for Inequality Studies (AMCIS). Amsterdam. 24 October 2024.
8. 10th conference of the International Journal of Press/Politics. Edinburgh, 17-18 October 2024.
7. 2024 Conference of the Italian Political Science Society (SISP). Trieste, 12-14 September. Additionally chaired and organized two panels on "Survey Experiments in Political Science"
6. 2024 Conference of the Italian Political Communication Association (ASSOCOMPOL). Catania, 30 May-1 June.
5. 2024 CompText Conference (COMPTXT), Amsterdam, 2-4 May.
4. SPS Seminar: "Picturing Politics? Exploring the mental images of partisans and ideologues shaped by cultural consumption choices", University of Milan, 17 January 2024.
3. 2023 Conference of the Italian Political Science Society (SISP). Genoa, 14-16 September.
2. 2023 Conference of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR). Prague, 4-8 September.
1. 2023 Conference of the Italian Political Communication Association (ASSOCOMPOL). Turin, 8-10 June.

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## Teaching

TEACHING ASSISTANT (TUTOR) IN MATHEMATICS <i>University of Milan-Bicocca</i> , Milan, Italy BS in Organization Science	NOV 2023-PRESENT
TEACHING ASSISTANT (TUTOR) IN PUBLIC POLICIES <i>University of Milan-Bicocca</i> , Milan, Italy BS in Organization Science	OCT 2023-PRESENT
TEACHING ASSISTANT (SUBJECT EXPERT) IN PUBLIC POLICIES <i>University of Milan-Bicocca</i> , Milan, Italy BS in Organization Science	DEC 2022-PRESENT

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## Editorial Activities

REVIEWER FOR:

Canadian Journal of Political Science. Comunicazione Politica.

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## Media Outreach

RADIO

2. [Buongiorno InBlu 23/01/2025](#), Radio InBlu 2000.
1. [Buongiorno InBlu 25/10/2024](#), Radio InBlu 2000.

ONLINE MEDIA

4. [“Talk-show politici, lo specchio di un’Italia polarizzata”](#) (with Negri F., in Italian). LaVoce.info. January 2025.
  3. [“Ze zijn niet zoals wij”: hoe kiezers kijken naar andere kiezers’](#) (with Tsoulou-Malakoudi, A. & Goovaerts, I., in Dutch). Samenleving & Politiek. December 2024.
  2. [“What your menu choice says about your politics”](#) (with Negri F.). The Loop. October 2024.
  1. [“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 “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 “VIPOP - 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 4 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.

- d) Created electoral databases useful for electoral insights (R). Provided training on digital strategies (WhatsApp-Telegram Cascades) to staff members of multiple campaigns.
- e) Coordinated and wrote a daily newsletter, including press reviews and campaign insights with strategic consideration.
- f) Contributed to the construction of targets for social media political advertisements.

**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

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