Gaetano Scaduto

Ph.D Candidate, Postdoctoral Researcher
Born Feb 25th, 1999 in Agrigento, Italy
Currently residing in Antwerp, Belgium
🌐 gaetanoscaduto.quarto.pub/home/ | *Updated:* Dec. 9, 2025

Appointments

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER   OCT 2025-PRESENT DAY

Erasmus University Rotterdam. Rotterdam. The Netherlands.

Erasmus School of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Department of Public Administration and Sociology (DPAS), Governance and Pluralism.
Working on the project CLIMEANING (PI: Professor Willem De Koster).

(VOLUNTARY) FELLOW   SEPT. 2025-PRESENT DAY

University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium.
Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Political Science.
Collaborating in the activities of the "Media, Movement and Politics" (M2P) research group and the NOTLIKEUS project.

TEACHING ASSISTANT (TUTOR) IN PUBLIC POLICIES   OCT 2023-SEPT 2025

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

TEACHING ASSISTANT (TUTOR) IN MATHEMATICS   NOV 2023-SEPT 2025

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

Education

PH.D STUDENT IN ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROCESSES   NOV 2022-PRESENT DAY

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-AUG 2025

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 as a visiting researcher during my PhD. at the University of Milan Bicocca

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)

SISP - Italian Political Science Society   Sep. 2023

   Crash Course in Text Analysis   Genoa, Italy

   Teachers: Dr. Silvia Decadri (University of Milan)

Publications

Papers published/accepted in peer-reviewed journals

2025

10. **Scaduto, G.**, Negri, F., Decadri, S. It's the Homophily, Stupid: How Apolitical Similarities Affect Political Conversations. Political Behavior. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11109-025-10102-x

9. **Scaduto, G.** (2025). Politicultural Linking: Inferences between Political and Apolitical Traits. Public Opinion Quarterly, 89(3). https://doi.org/10.1093/poq/nfaf047.

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

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 populisti 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

4. Goovaerts, I., Tsoulou-Malakoudi, A., **Scaduto, G.**, Feitosa, F., Lefevere, J. Divided Beyond Politics: How Perceptions of Non-Political Differences Are Linked to Affective Polarization Among Citizens. Under review in *European Political Science Review*

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

2. 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 *Quality & Quantity*.

6. **Scaduto, G.**, Negri, F., Decadri, S. Ideology at First Sight: A Comparative Study of Ideological Stereotypes in 4 European Countries. Submitted to *Political Psychology*.

WORK-IN-PROGRESS

5. Thinking About Politics: An Experimental Inquiry into the Mental Associations between Political and Apolitical Traits and Their Social Consequences in Italy. Book manuscript.

4. A Visual Conjoint Experiment on Ideological Inferences from Politicians' Instagram Profiles. (with Decadri, S., Negri, F.)
   First draft stage. Expected submission: June/July 2025

3. News Efficacy as a Mediator between Expectations and Trust in Journalism. Empirical evidence from Italy
   Final draft stage. Expected submission: October 2025

2. How Perceived External News Efficacy Affects Trust in Journalists: A Visual Experimental Approach.
   First draft stage. Expected submission: October 2025.

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: [10.71732/RMEP03](https://doi.org/10.71732/RMEP03)

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)

Conferences, Workshops, and Seminars

20. "Thinking about Politics". Guest lecture in the course "Media and Politics" in the MA in Political Communication at UAntwerpen. Antwerpen, Belgium. 18 November 2025.

21. "The Visual Politics of Populism". PRIN 2022 Final Event. Online event. 6 November 2025.

22. 2025 Workshop Survey Experiments in the Social Sciences. Amsterdam Center for Inequality Studies (AMCIS). Amsterdam, The Netherlands. 1-2 October 2025.

17. 2025 Conference of the Italian Political Science Society (SISP). Naples, 4-6 September.

16. European Consortium of Political Research (ECPR) Conference 2025, Thessaloniki, Greece, 26-29 Aug 2025

15. European Survey Research Association (ESRA) Conference 2025, Utrecht, The Netherlands, 14-18 July 2025 [accepted, waiting to register]

14. 2025 Conference of the Italian Political Communication Association (ASSOCOMPOL). Milan, 4-6 July 2025.

13. European Political Science Association (EPSA) Conference 2025, Madrid, Spain, 26-28 June 2025

12. Politicologenetmaal 2025, Groningen, The Netherlands, 12-13 June

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, The Netherlands. 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 (COMPTEXT), Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 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.

Editorial Activities

REVIEWER FOR:

Canadian Journal of Political Science. Comunicazione Politica.

Media Outreach

RADIO

3. Buongiorno InBlu 18/11/2025, Radio InBlu 2000.

4. 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.

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 ASSOCOMPOL (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]

Other professional experiences

ACADEMIC

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):
a) Designing a survey fielded in 4 European countries
b) Designing survey experiments
c) Working with computational methods to download and analyze politicians' social media posts
d) Managing the relationship between the working group and the survey company
e) 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*, Milan, Italy   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).

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

a) Contributed to organizing and coordinating multiple campaigns for the 2022 political and municipal elections in Italy.
b) 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.
c) 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.

Skills

Languages

Italian, Native.
English, C2.
Dutch, B2 (as of September 2025, currently studying for C1).

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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Academic References

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Fedra Negri. University of Milan Bicocca. fedra.negri@unimib.it

If not available, feel free to contact:

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Moreno Mancosu. University of Turin. moreno.mancosu@unito.it