Giuliano Formisano

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Last Update: November 10, 2025

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- **University of Zurich - Department of Political Science** — Zurich, CH
  Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Digital Technology & Politics — *2025 - Present*

- **University of Oxford - Department of Politics & IR** — Oxford, UK
  Research Associate, AuthLib project — *2022 - Present*

EDUCATION

- **University of Oxford** — Oxford, UK
  Doctor of Philosophy (PhD); Social Data Science — *2021 - 2025*
  Courses: Data Analytics, Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing, Networks, Statistics
  Thesis: Exploring Online Polarisation in the US: A Computational Social Science Approach
  Assessors: Prof Sara Hobolt (LSE), Prof Mohsen Mosleh (Oxford)

  - **Yale University** - Department of Politics — New Haven, USA
    Visiting Scholar; Advisor: Prof Joshua Kalla — *Spring 2024*
    Courses: Applied Machine Learning, Social Network Analysis, Game Theory

  - **Sciences Po, Paris** - Centre for European Studies and Comparative Politics — Paris, FRA
    Visiting Scholar; Advisors: Dr Joost de Moor & Dr Caterina Froio — *Spring 2023*

- **University of Oxford** — Oxford, UK
  Master of Philosophy (MPhil); Political Science — *2019 - 2021*

- **University of Exeter** — Exeter, UK
  Bachelor of Arts (BA); Politics and International Relations — *2016 - 2019*

PEER-REVIEWED RESEARCH

* = Equal contribution.

3. **Formisano, G.**, Friedrichs, F., Schaffner, F., & Stoehr, N. (Forthcoming) Populism and Governmentalism as Thin-Centered Ideologies: Emotions and Frames on Social Media. *European Journal of Political Research.*

2. Novelli, C., **Formisano, G.**, Juneja, P., Sandri, G., & Floridi, L. (2024) Artificial Intelligence for the Internal Democracy of Political Parties. *Minds and Machines*, 34(36), pp. 1-26.

1. Friedrichs, J.*, Stoehr, N.*, & **Formisano, G.*** (2022) Fear-Anger Contests: Governmental and Populist Politics of Emotion. *Online Social Networks and Media*, 32, pp. 1-13.

WORKING PAPERS

* = Equal contribution.

7. **Formisano, G.***, Hine, E.*, Juneja, P., Laitila, J., Novelli, C., . . ., & Floridi, L. Measuring Misinformation on Wikipedia during the 2024 US Presidential Elections. *R&R.*

6. **Formisano, G.**, Froio, C., & Castelli Gattinara, P. Automating Protest Event Analysis: A Transformer-Based Framework for Multilingual Classification of Newspaper Articles. *R&R.*

5. Errichiello, E.*, & **Formisano, G.*** Digital Bellwethers and Security-Making on Social Media: A Computational Social Science Approach. *Under Review.*

4. Clemente, A.*, & **Formisano, G.*** Mind the Bricks: Fairness Beliefs and Local Housing Inequality in the UK.
   *- Winner of the 2025 **Elinor Ostrom Award** by the Italian Political Science Association.*

3. **Formisano, G.**, Henry, C., Proma, A.M., Hoes, E., Klüser, J., Donnay, K., & Gilardi, F. Indirect Effects of Content Moderation Errors: A Chatroom Experiment with AI Agents. *Presented at 2025 EPSA and APSA Conferences.*

2. **Formisano, G.**, Kosmidis, S., & Theocharis, Y. Measuring Online Polarisation: A Supervised Machine Learning Approach.

1. **Formisano, G.** The Network Dynamics of Online Polarisation in the US. *Presented at 2025 EPSA and APSA Conferences.*

Selected work in progress

2. **Formisano, G.**, & Valentim, V. Public Responses to Violations of Different Political Norms.

1. Whitefield, S., Kosmidis, S., & **Formisano, G.** Programmatic and Emotional Appeals of Illiberal Parties. *Presented at 2025 EPSA and APSA Conferences.*

Conferences

- European Political Science Association (EPSA): 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

- American Political Science Association (APSA): 2023, 2024, 2025

- PolMeth Europe: 2025

- CompText: 2025

Workshops, Pre-Conferences, and Talks

- 2025 (past and scheduled):
    - Social and Moral Norms Workshop, University of Oxford (Presenter and Discussant)
    - Representation in Divided Democracies Workshop, ETH Zurich (Discussant)
    - EPSA Pre-Conference in Large Language Models, Madrid (Presenter)
    - APSA Pre-Conference in Political Communication, Vancouver (Presenter)
    - Digital Democracy Workshop, University of Zurich (Presenter)
    - The Future of Social Media Research Workshop, University of Oxford (Presenter)
    - Polarization Workshop, MIT (Presenter)

- 2024:
    - Harnessing LLMs in Political Science Workshop, Trinity College, Dublin (Presenter)
    - Work in Progress Seminar, Data Ethics Center, Yale University (Presenter)
    - AI and Algorithms in Government Conference, Yale University (Invited Attendee)
    - Pre-Publication Workshop, SciencesPo, Paris (Presenter)

- 2023:
    - Theory Research Cluster, London School of Economics (Presenter)
    - Research in Progress Seminar, Department of Politics, University of Oxford (Discussant)
    - APSA Pre-Conference in Political Economy, Los Angeles (Presenter)

- 2022:
    - DPhil Seminar, Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford (Presenter)
    - DPhil Work in Progress Workshop, Department of Politics, University of Oxford (Presenter)
    - PhD Work in Progress Seminar, European University Institute (Presenter)
    - 17th Annual Doctoral Conference/Workshop, Central European University (Presenter)

Teaching

PG = Postgraduate level; UG = Undergraduate level

- **University of Zurich, Department of Political Science**   Zurich, CH
  Course Convenor:
    - Computational Political Science Methods (PG/UG)   *Fall 2025*
    - Political Campaign Strategy (UG)   *Fall 2025*
    - Digital Politics (UG)   *Spring 2025*

- **Yale University, Institution for Social and Policy Studies**   New Haven, USA
  Workshop on Fine-tuning, Evaluating and Employing Large Language Models   *Spring 2024*

- **University of Oxford, Oxford Internet Institute**   Oxford, UK
  Teaching Assistant:
    - Digital Social Research Method: Statistics Core (PG)   *Fall 2022*
    - Digital Era Politics and Government (PG)   *Spring 2022*

Research Experience

- **AuthLib Project; CEU Democracy Institute & EU Horizon 2020**   Oxford, UK
  Research Assistant; Advisors: Prof(s) Stephen Whitefield & Spyros Kosmidis   *2022 - Present*
  Constructing a research design to collect a large textual dataset of public opinion, train a machine
  learning classifier for illiberal behaviour, and analyse data.

- **Sciences Po; Centre for European Studies and Comparative Politics**   Remote, Paris, FRA
  Research Assistant; Advisor: Dr Caterina Froio   *2022 - Present*
  Developing a machine learning classifier to classify protest events based on a large dataset of
  human-coded newspaper articles from European multilingual sources.

- **University of Oxford**   Oxford, UK
  Research Assitant; Advisor: Prof Spyros Kosmidis   *Spring 2022*
  Applied transfer learning to conduct a sentiment analysis based on roBERTa, and designed and
  implemented sequence classification based on a pre-labelled corpus of 2,000 political tweets.

  Research Assistant; Advisor: Dr Vicente Valentim   *Spring 2022*
  Built large Twitter posts dataset, applied and validated sentiment analyses for multilingual text.

  Research Assistant; Advisor: Prof Joerg Friedrichs   *Fall 2020*
  Programmed web-scraping tools to build large online electoral datasets. Coded data with pre-trained
  machine learning classifiers. Analysed data via time-series analyses.

- **University of Exeter**   Exeter, UK
  Research Assitant; Advisor: Prof Clare Saunders   *2018 - 2019*
  Produced literature review on affective polarisation. Coded and analysed interview transcripts about
  the 2015 UK Badger Culling policy, involving governmental actors, police, stakeholders and citizens.

Professional Experience

- **UK Labour Party**   Remote, London, UK
  Research Associate   *2024 - 2025*
  Collaborated with Labour's Data Science and Communication teams, using machine learning,
  natural language processing, and causal inference methods.

- **Piave Digital Agency**   Remote, Bologna, IT
  Research Associate   *2022 - 2023*
  Collected and analysed public opinion data on Stefano Bonaccini (Current President of Emilia
  Romagna regional council) during the Democratic Party's 2023 leadership elections.

- **DREAMANDO Ltd** — Remote, Paris, FRA
  Co-Founder & Lead Developer *2020 - Present*
  Co-founded an educational start-up, leading a team of 20+ students and professionals. Designed and created website and online outputs based on a 6-month market analysis.

Academic Service

- Organised a Workshop on Fine-tuning, Evaluating, and Employing Large Language Models, Yale University (Institution for Social and Policy Studies). *Spring 2024*
- Referee for: *International Journal of Comparative Sociology; Minds & Machines; Journal of Information Technology & Politics; Theory & Society.*

Honours and Awards

- Inequality Research Fund, University of Zurich (with Clemente, A.), CHF 6,050 *2025*
- Elinor Ostrom Prize, Italian Political Science Association (with Clemente, A.), EUR 500 *2025*
- University of Zurich - Travel Grants, approx. CHF 8,000 *2025*
- Nuffield College - Research Grant, approx. £6,000 *Spring 2025*
- Nuffield College - Yale Exchange Programme, approx. £18,000 *Spring 2024*
- ESRC Overseas Institutional Visit Fund, £4,000 *Spring 2024*
- ESRC and Nuffield College Travel Grants, approx. £9,000 *2021-2025*
- ESRC Advanced Quantitative Scholarship (Tuition fees and stipend) *2021 - 2025*
- Nuffield College DPhil Scholarship (College fees) *2021 - 2025*
- Victor Wiseman Prize, University of Exeter - Best grade overall and dissertation *2019*

Languages and Skills

- **Languages**: Italian (native), English (bilingual), French and Spanish (professional proficiency), German (beginner)
- **Coding**: Python, R, SQL, SPSS, PHP, HTML, CSS
- **Key libraries**: PyTorch, TensorFlow, scikit, Keras, NLTK, NetworkX, tidyverse, ggplot, dplyr, tidyr
- **Platforms**: Anaconda, VSCode, RStudio, Docker, AWS, Git/GitHub, Google Console & Workspace
- **Publishing**: Git/GitHub, Rmarkdown, Jupyter Notebooks, LaTeX, DataVerse

References

- Prof Fabrizio Gilardi, Political Science Department, University of Zurich: gilardi@ipz.uzh.ch.
- Prof Spyros Kosmidis, Department of Politics, University of Oxford: spyros.kosmidis@politics.ox.ac.uk.
- Prof Ralph Schroeder, Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford: ralph.schroeder@oii.ox.ac.uk.