

Hendrik Erz

PhD Candidate

Institute for Analytical Sociology (IAS)
Linköping University

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Research Interests

Political Sociology, Computational Social Science, Natural Language Processing, Computational Text Analysis, Sociology of Culture, Science of Science, Ethics of AI

Education

- Since 2020** **PhD in Analytical Sociology, Linköping University**
Working Title: **Policymaking in U.S. Congress: Evidence from a Century of Speech and Vote Behavior**
Supervisors: Jacob Habinek (IAS, Linköping University), Étienne Ollion (CNRS, Paris)
(expected: 2025)
- 2017** M.A. in Sociology, University of Bonn
- 2014** B.A. in History, University of Bonn (minor: Political Science)

Extracurricular

- 2021** Science of Science Summer School (S4)
Syracuse University, New York, United States

Employment

- 2020-25** **Researcher in Analytical Sociology**
Institute for Analytical Sociology (IAS)
Linköping University
- 2019-20** **Researcher in Machine Learning / Artificial Intelligence**
Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy (IFSH)
University of Hamburg
- 2017-19** **Research Assistant Domestic Policy / Digitalization**
Department for Political Science and Sociology
University of Bonn

Publications

Manuscripts in Preparation

Hendrik Erz. Policymaking in Times of Crisis: Discursive Dynamics in U.S. Congress, 1960-1990.

Hendrik Erz. Vote Defection and Party Power in U.S. Congress: Modelling a Century of Speech and Vote Behavior, 1873-1989.

Hendrik Erz. Measuring Issue-Level Polarization in U.S. Congressional Discourse Using Topic Models and Community Detection. *Currently under review*

Hendrik Erz, Sebastian Giessler. Language Models from the Sweatshop? Helping Researchers Avoid Ethical and Legal Issues With Off-The-Shelf Software.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

2025 Manika Lamba, **Hendrik Erz** (2025). Thanking the World: Exploring gender-based differences in acknowledgment patterns and support systems in theses. *Data and Information Management* 100092. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dim.2024.100092>

Alexandra Dirksen, Sebastian Giessler, **Hendrik Erz**, Martin Johns, Tobias Fiebig (2025). Don't Patch the Researcher, Patch the Game: A Systematic Approach for Responsible Research via Federated Ethics Boards. *Proceedings of the New Security Paradigms Workshop*, 126–141. New York, NY, USA: Association for Computing Machinery. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3703465.3703475>

2019 **Hendrik Erz** (2019). Der lange Schatten von Gustave Le Bon. Zum sprachlichen Einfluss der Crowd Science auf die Soziologie der Gewalt. *Soziologiemagazin* 2/2019, 71–88. <https://doi.org/10.3224/soz.v12i2.06>
("The long shadow of Gustave Le Bon. On the linguistic influence of Crowd Science on the Sociology of Violence.")

Book Chapters

2018 **Hendrik Erz** (2018). Karl Marx und das digitale Zeitalter, in: Klasse, Kapital und Revolution. 200 Jahre Marx. Dietz, Bonn, pp. 145–156.

Other Publications

2023 **Hendrik Erz,** Anastasia Menshikova (2023). Text als Daten. Extraktion von Variablen mittels LSTM-Netzwerken. In: Paula-Irene Villa (ed.) 2023: *Polarisierte Welten. Verhandlungen des 41. Kongresses der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Soziologie 2022*. https://publikationen.sozilogie.de/index.php/kongressband_2022/article/view/1693
("Text as Data. Variable Extraction via LSTM Networks")

2020 **Hendrik Erz** (2020). Künstliche Intelligenz und Daten: Eine Evaluation software-basierter militärischer Informationsgewinnung (Research Report No. 4). IFSSH, Hamburg. https://ifsh.de/file/publication/Research_Report/004/20200701_Research_Report_004.pdf (accessed 07.01.21)
("Artificial Intelligence and data: An evaluation of software-based military intelligence.")

Hendrik Erz (2020). Operative Porträts: eine Bildgeschichte der Identifizierbarkeit von Lavater bis Facebook. Von Roland Meyer. Review. Soziologiemagazin 2020, 75–81. <https://doi.org/10.3224/soz.v13i1.07>

Hendrik Erz (2020). The Status Quo is a Dystopian Nightmare. engagée 9, 20–25.

2019 **Hendrik Erz** (2019). Neoliberalismus — Wie alles anfangt: Das Walter Lippmann Kolloquium. Review. Soziologieblog. <https://soziologieblog.hypotheses.org/12990> (accessed 10.23.19).

Andreas Schulz, **Hendrik Erz**, Veronika Riedl (2019). How to make a Soziologiemagazin. Soziologiemagazin 1/2019. <https://elibrary.utb.de/doi/pdf/10.3224/soz.v12i2.08> (accessed 07.01.21)

2017 **Hendrik Erz** (2017). Zygmunt Bauman: Die Angst vor den anderen. Review. Widerspruch 70/2017, 164–168.

Invited Talks

2024 **Economic Policymaking in U.S. Congress**
Institute for Social Science, Department for Computational Social Science
University of Stuttgart, Germany

Economic Policymaking in U.S. Congress
IAS Annual Spring Retreat, Kolmården, Sweden

2023 **Polarization and Paradigm Shifts in US Congressional Economic Policymaking**
IAS Text Analysis Research Group, Norrköping, Sweden

2022 **Discursive Dynamics in Policymaking: Economic Policymaking in U.S. Congress**
IAS Conference, Stockholm, Sweden

2022 **Technological A11y: Zettlr Beyond the Code**
Staatliche Hochschule für Gestaltung, Karlsruhe, Germany

Conference and Workshop Presentations

2025 **Vote Defection and Party Power in U.S. Congress**
Joint Spring Conference of the methods sections of DGS and AS
University of Leipzig, Germany

2024 **Language Models from the Sweatshop? Helping Researchers Avoid Ethical and Legal Issues With Off-The-Shelf Software**
Conference of the Nordic Sociological Association (NSA) 2024, Norrköping, Sweden (in session Pretrained models and sociology)

Policymaking in Times of Crisis: Discursive Dynamics in U.S. Congress, 1960-1990
Conference of the American Sociological Association (ASA) 2024, Montréal, Canada

Markets as actors: Congressional speech between regulation and market freedom

Conference of the International Network of Analytical Sociologists (INAS), Leipzig, Germany

Economic Policymaking in U.S. Congress (Lightning Talk)

Swedish Conference on Computational Social Science, Uppsala, Sweden

2023

Language Models from the Sweatshop? Towards Guidelines For CSS Researchers to Avoid Ethical and Legal Issues With Off-The-Shelf Software. (Poster)

International Conference on Computational Social Sciences (IC2S2), Copenhagen, Denmark

From Speeches to Bills: How do Discursive Dynamics Shape Policymaking in U.S. Congress?

Conference of the International Network of Analytical Sociologists (INAS), Princeton, United States

Taming Rogue Ethics: The Case for a Unified and Fair IRB Procedure

STS-hub.de Conference, Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule (RWTH) Aachen, Germany

Disentangling the Discourse on U.S. Economic Policymaking

Textual Politics Conference, Sciences Po, Paris, France.

2022

Text als Daten: Extraktion von Variablen mittels LSTM-Netzwerken

Kongress der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Soziologie, Bielefeld, Germany.

Extracting Agency from Textual Data Using LSTM Networks

Conference of the International Network of Analytical Sociologists, Florence, Italy.

2019

From Arab Spring to Gilets Jaunes: Riots and the annihilation of legality

Historical Materialism Athens Conference, Greece.

2017

Terrorismus und der War on Terror

Master Thesis Presentation, Studentischer Soziologiekongress, TU Chemnitz, Germany.

Teaching

2022-2024

Digital Strategies for the Social Sciences

M.Sc. program; Teaching Assistant; Linköping University

2023

Summer Institute for Computational Social Sciences (SICSS)

Lecture and workshop on Computational Text Analysis

2021-2023

Logic of Social Inquiry

M.Sc. program; Teaching Assistant; Linköping University

2018-2019

Introduction to Political Science

B.A. program; Teacher; University of Bonn

2018

Scientific Writing

B.A. program; Teacher; University of Bonn

- 2018** **Introduction to Karl Marx' Capital (Reading Course)**
B.A. program; Course Director; University of Bonn
- 2015** **Tutorial: Methods for Quantitative Sociology**
B.A. program; Teaching Assistant; University of Bonn

Service

Reviewer

- Since 2025** Network Science
- Since 2018** Soziologiemagazin

Editorial Board Member

- 2020-2024** Head of Editorial Board, Soziologiemagazin

Organization and Organizational Assistance

- Since 2023** Swedish Interdisciplinary Research School in Computational Social Science (SIRCSS), Norrköping, Sweden (with PI Jacob Habinek)
- Since 2022** Website administration; International Network of Analytical Sociologists (INAS)
- 2025** Chair for the International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2), Norrköping
- 2025** Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS), Norrköping, Sweden (with PI Jacob Habinek)
- 2024** Session Pretrained models and sociology: ethical, methodological, and theoretical considerations (at NSA 2024)
- 2023** Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS), Norrköping, Sweden (with PI Jacob Habinek)
- 2022** IAS PhD Retreat, Norrköping, Sweden
- 2021-2022** IAS Salon (Institute Reading Group)
- 2021-2022** PhD Representative, Institute for Analytical Sociology
- 2016** Student Research Symposium, University of Bonn, Germany

Supervision

- Co-Supervisor, M.Sc. thesis in CSS, Sophia Grill (2024)
- Co-Supervisor, M.Sc. thesis in CSS, Yiqiu Wang (2023)
- Co-Supervisor, M.Sc. thesis in CSS, Lijun Peng (2022)

Memberships

- American Sociological Association (ASA);
- International Network of Analytical Sociologists (INAS)

Academic Software

Since 2017 Zettlr (Project Maintainer)

Since 2024 Pandoc (Contributor)

Languages

German (native), English (fluent, C1),
Swedish (Moderate, B1), French (Moderate, A2)

Programming Languages & Frameworks

Scientific Python, R, Stata, matplotlib, numpy, pandas, PyTorch

Front-End JavaScript/TypeScript, HTML, LESS/SCSS/CSS, Vue.js

Back-End Node.js, PHP, Rust, C/C++