HAUKE LICHT
Computational Political Scientist

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Contact Information

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Current Position

Assistant Professor of Computational Political Science   08/2024 – present
University of Innsbruck, Department of Political Science & Digital Science Center   *Innsbruck, Austria*

Publications

Hauke Licht*, Rupak Sarkar*, Patrick Wu, Niklas Stoehr, Pranav Goel, Elliott Ash, and Alexander Hoyle*. 2025. **Measuring Scalar Constructs in Social Science with LLMs**. *Proceedings of the 2025 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing* (**EMNLP**).

Hauke Licht, Ronja Sczepanski, Moritz Laurer, and Ayjeren Bekmuratovna. 2025. **Validating open-source machine translation for quantitative text analysis**. *Political Science Research and Methods* (conditionally accepted). ⬒

Hauke Licht and Ronja Sczepanksi. 2025. **Detecting Group Mentions in Political Rhetoric: A Supervised Learning Approach**. *The British Journal of Political Science* (forthcoming). ⬒ 🗄 ♆ 🤗

Hauke Licht, Tarik Abou-Chadi, Pablo Barberá, and Whitney Hua. 2025. **Measuring and understanding parties' anti-elite strategies**. *The Journal of Politics*, 87(1), 0-0. DOI:10.1086/730711. ⬒ 🗄

Hauke Licht and Fabienne Lind. 2023. **Going cross-lingual: A guide to multilingual quantitative text analysis**. *Computational Communication Research*, 5(2), 1-31. DOI:10.5117/CCR2023.2.2.LICH. ⬒

Hauke Licht. 2023. **Cross-lingual classification of political texts using multilingual sentence embeddings**. *Political Analysis*, 31(3), 366-379. DOI:10.1017/pan.2022.29. ⬒ 🗄 </>

Grants

DFG–FWF-funded *Weave* project (214,451 EUR)   02/2026 – 01/2028
awarded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the Austrian Science
   Fund (FWF) for the project "GAPED - Group Appeals in Parliamentary and
   Electoral Debates"
with Lena M. Huber (University of Mannheim)

Selten Seeding Grant (500 EUR)   01/2024 – 03/2024
awarded by the "ECONtribute: Markets & Public Policy" Cluster of Excellence

Selten Seeding Grant & LMU Munich Postdoc Funding (4,800 EUR)   01/2024 – 12/2024
awarded by the "ECONtribute: Markets & Public Policy" Cluster of Excellence
  and LMU Munich, Faculty for Social Science
with Leonce Röth (LMU Munich)

Selten Seeding Grant (5,000 EUR)   10/2022 – 01/2023
awarded by the "ECONtribute: Markets & Public Policy" Cluster of Excellence
with Ronja Sczepanski (ETH Zurich)

CIS Collaboration Grant (2,930 CHF)   05/2021 – 10/2021
awarded by the Center for Comparative and International Studies of
  the University of Zurich and the ETH Zurich
with Ronja Sczepanski (ETH Zurich)

Awards

PolMeth Europe Best Poster Award for Innovative Data Science (300 EUR)   06/2022
awarded by the European Society for Political Methodology for the poster
"Who are you talking to? Automated measurement of group appeals in political texts"
sponsored by the Hertie School Data Science Lab
with Ronja Sczepanski (ETH Zurich)

Conference Participation

American Political Science Association	2024, 2023, 2021, 2019
European Political Science Association	2024, 2023, 2022, 2021
Conference on the Quantitative and Computational Analysis of Textual Data (COMPTEXT)	2025, 2024, 2023, 2022
Conference on New Directions in Analyzing Text as Data (TADA)	2021
ECPR Joint Sessions of Workshops	2023
PolMeth Europe	2022, 2021
Swiss Political Science Association	2021, 2020

Invited Talks

GESIS Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences   08/07/2025
CSS Seminar   *online*

Bundeswehr University Munich   17/06/2025
Competence Center Early Warning speaker series   *online*

University of Duisburg-Essen   01/06/2024
Empirical Political Science Working Group   *Dusseldorf, Germany*

GESIS Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences   18/01/2023
Knowledge Technologies for the Social Sciences Colloquium   *Cologne, Germany*

Text-as-Data Reading Group   13/12/2022
Text-as-Data Reading Group Speaker Series   online

University of Gothenburg   29/11/2022
Research Seminar of the Party Research Group   *Gothenburg, Sweden*

Teaching

Data Management II   03/2025 − 07/2025
Minor "Digital Science", University of Innsbruck   *Innsbruck, Austria*
co-taught with Reto Stauffer and Joanna Chimiak-Opoka

Comparative perspectives on elite rhetoric and democratic competition   03/2025 − 07/2025
University of Innsbruck, BA Political Science   *Innsbruck, Austria*

Expand your toolkit! How to harness more diverse task types
 for concept measurement   04/2025
7th Annual COMPTEXT Conference 2022   *Vienna, Austria*
pre-conference workshop

Data Management II   10/2024 − 01/2025
Minor "Digital Science", University of Innsbruck   *Innsbruck, Austria*
co-taught with Reto Stauffer and Joanna Chimiak-Opoka

Introduction to *R* programmning   10/2024 − 01/2025
Minor "Digital Science", University of Innsbruck   *Innsbruck, Austria*
co-taught with Francesca Finotelle

From Embeddings to LLMs: Advanced Text Analysis with Python   09/2024
GESIS Fall Seminar in Computational Social Science 2023   *Mannheim, Germany*
co-taught with Lisa Wierer-Lechner (University of Innsbruck)

Hands-on text coding with Large Language Models for social scientists in R   06/2024
University of Cologne, Center for Comparative Politics   *Cologne, Germany*

Hands-on text coding with Large Language Models for social scientists   02/2024
Max-Plank Institute for the Study of Societies   *Cologne, Germany*

Comparative perspectives on elite rhetoric and democratic competition   10/2023 − 01/2024
University of Cologne, MA Political Science   *Cologne, Germany*

Going Cross-Lingual: Computational Methods for Multilingual Text Analysis   12/2023
GESIS Training Workshop   *Cologne, Germany*
co-taught with Fabienne Lind (University of Vienna)

From Embeddings to Transformers: Advanced Text Analysis with Python   09/2023
GESIS Fall Seminar in Computational Social Science 2023   *Mannheim, Germany*
co-taught with Jennifer Scurrell (ETH Zurich)

Automated Web Data Collection with R   09/2023
GESIS Fall Seminar in Computational Social Science 2023   *Mannheim, Germany*
co-taught with Allison Koh (Hertie School Berlin)

Big Data: Collecting Web Data with R   06/2023
MethodsNET 2023 Summer School in Social Research Methods   *Nijmegen, Netherlands*

Automated Web Data Collection   09/2022
GESIS Fall Seminar in Computational Social Science 2022   *Mannheim, Germany*
co-taught with Theresa Gessler (European University Viadrina)

Collecting Web Data with R   06/2022
MethodsNET 2022 Summer School in Social Research Methods   *Nijmegen, Netherlands*

Multilingual Supervised Text Classification   05/2022
4th Annual COMPTEXT Conference 2022   *Dublin, Ireland*
pre-conference workshop

Automated Web Data Collection   09/2021
GESIS Fall Seminar in Computational Social Science 2021   *online*
co-taught with Theresa Gessler (European University Viadrina)

Tutor to the lecture "Theories and Systems"   03/2019 – 05/2020
University of Zurich, Department of Political Science   *Zurich, Switzerland*

Tutor to the lectures Statistics I and II   10/2012 – 10/2013
Humboldt University Berlin, Chair of Empirical Social Research   *Berlin, Germany*

Previous Positions

Post-doctoral Researcher   01/2022 – 07/2024
University of Cologne, Cologne Center for Comparative Politics   *Cologne, Germany*
- researcher in Prof. Sven-Oliver Proksch's ERC-funded MINORITYRULE project with focus on work package on political polarization under minority governments
- associated member of the "ECONtribute: Markets & Public Policy" Cluster of Excellence of the universities of Cologne and Bonn

Doctoral researcher   05/2018 – 12/2021
University of Zurich, Department of Political Science   *Zurich, Switzerland*
- Doctoral Program Political Science
- committee: Tarik Abou-Chadi (supervisor), Jonathan Slapin, and Sven-Oliver Proksch
- thesis: "Harnessing large, diverse, and multilingual text data in party competition research"
- defended on January 26, 2022, with *summa cum laude*

Education

Doctoral Program Political Science   05/2018 – 03/2022
University of Zurich   *Zurich, Switzerland*
- committee: Tarik Abou-Chadi (supervisor), Jonathan Slapin, and Sven-Oliver Proksch
- thesis title: "Harnessing large, diverse, and multilingual text data in party competition research"
- defended on January 26, 2022, with *summa cum laude*

M.A. International Relations   10/2014 – 04/2018
Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt University Berlin, University of Potsdam   *Berlin, Germany*

Visiting student, Graduate Studies in Political Science   08/2015 – 05/2016
Duke University   *Durham, NC, USA*

B.A. Social Sciences   09/2011 – 09/2014
Humboldt University Berlin   *Berlin, Germany*

ERASMUS student, B.A. Peace and Development Studies   09/2013 – 01/2014
Uppsala University   *Uppsala, Sweden*

Visiting stays

Visiting Researcher with the Law, Economics, and Data Science group	07/2023 – 08/2023
ETH Zurich,	*Zurich, Switzerland*
hosted by Elliott Ash	
Visiting Ph.D. Researcher with the Data Science Lab group	09/2020 – 12/2020
Hertie School of Governance	*Berlin, Germany*
hosted by Slava Jankin	

Supervision and mentoring

Master theses (second reader)	2025 (1), 2023 (3), 2022 (1)
Research assistant supervision	2025 (6), 2024 (5), 2023 (6), 2022 (4), 2021 (1), 2020 (2)

Reviewer Activity

American Journal of Political Science, *Political Analysis*, *Journal of Computational Social Science*, *European Political Science Review*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, *Electoral Studies*, *Computational Communication Research*, *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties*, *Western European Politics*, *Regulation & Governance*, *Workshops on Computational Linguistics for Political Text Analysis* (in 2022 & 2024)

Other Professional Experiences

Data Analyst	03/2017 – 09/2017
German Social Democratic Party, Federal Party Executive	*Berlin, Germany*
Section for Databased Campaigning/Analytics	
Student Assistant	08/2016 – 03/2017
German Social Democratic Party, Federal Party Executive	*Berlin, Germany*
Section for Databased Campaigning/Analytics	
Research Assistant	05/2015 – 10/2016
Humboldt University Berlin, Chair of Comparative Politics	*Berlin, Germany*
NORFACE project "The Paradox of Health Care Futures HEALTHDOX"	
Research Assistant	02/2014 – 10/2016
Humboldt University Berlin, Chair of Comparative Politics	*Berlin, Germany*
DFG project "The Impact of Electoral Vulnerability on Institutional Change"	

Languages

Languages	German (native), English (fluent)
Programming Languages	R, Python, bash/shell, SQL, JavaScript/ReactJS, Stata, LaTeX