

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 Y. Wu, Niklas Stoehr, Pranav Goel, Elliott Ash, and Alexander M. Hoyle. 2025. **Measuring Scalar Constructs in Social Science with LLMs**. *Proceedings of the 2025 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP (Main))*. DOI:DOI: 10.18653/v1/2025.emnlp-main.1635.  

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**. *British Journal of Political Science*, 55, e119. DOI:10.1017/S0007123424000954.    

Hauke Licht, Tarik Abou-Chadi, Pablo Barberá, and Whitney Hua. 2025. **Measuring and understanding parties' anti-elite strategies**. *Journal of Politics*, 87(1), 275-290. 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 “GAEPD - Group Appeals in Electoral and Parliamentary Debates”
with Lena M. Huber (*University of Mannheim*)

Tyrolean early career researchers funding (16,500 EUR) awarded by the State of Tirol for the project “GROUPY: Zero-shot multitask models for analyzing group-based rhetoric in political texts from synthetic labeled data”	01/2026 – 06/2027
Selten Seeding Grant (500 EUR) awarded by the “ECONtribute: Markets & Public Policy” Cluster of Excellence	01/2024 – 03/2024
Selten Seeding Grant & LMU Munich Postdoc Funding (4,800 EUR) awarded by the “ECONtribute: Markets & Public Policy” Cluster of Excellence and LMU Munich, Faculty for Social Science <i>with Leonce Röth (LMU Munich)</i>	01/2024 – 12/2024
Selten Seeding Grant (5,000 EUR) awarded by the “ECONtribute: Markets & Public Policy” Cluster of Excellence <i>with Ronja Sczepanski (ETH Zurich)</i>	10/2022 – 01/2023
CIS Collaboration Grant (2,930 CHF) awarded by the Center for Comparative and International Studies of the University of Zurich and the ETH Zurich <i>with Ronja Sczepanski (ETH Zurich)</i>	05/2021 – 10/2021

Awards

PolMeth Europe Best Poster Award for Innovative Data Science (300 EUR) 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 <i>with Ronja Sczepanski (ETH Zurich)</i>	06/2022
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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 CSS Seminar	08/07/2025 <i>online</i>
Bundeswehr University Munich Competence Center Early Warning speaker series	17/06/2025 <i>online</i>
University of Duisburg-Essen Empirical Political Science Working Group	01/06/2024 <i>Dusseldorf, Germany</i>
GESIS Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences Knowledge Technologies for the Social Sciences Colloquium	18/01/2023 <i>Cologne, Germany</i>

Text-as-Data Reading Group Text-as-Data Reading Group Speaker Series	13/12/2022 online
University of Gothenburg Research Seminar of the Party Research Group	29/11/2022 <i>Gothenburg, Sweden</i>

Teaching

Data Management II University of Innsbruck, Minor <i>Digital Science</i> , <i>co-taught with Reto Stauffer and Joanna Chimiak-Opoka</i>	10/2025 – 01/2026 <i>Innsbruck, Austria</i>
Introduction to Computational Text Analysis with R University of Innsbruck, BA <i>Political Science</i>	10/2025 – 01/2026 <i>Innsbruck, Austria</i>
Text Analysis Diplomatic Academy Vienna, MA <i>Digital International Affairs</i>	10/2025 – 12/2025 <i>Vienna, Austria</i>
Data Management II University of Innsbruck, Minor <i>Digital Science</i> , <i>co-taught with Reto Stauffer and Joanna Chimiak-Opoka</i>	03/2025 – 07/2025 <i>Innsbruck, Austria</i>
Comparative perspectives on elite rhetoric and democratic competition University of Innsbruck, BA <i>Political Science</i>	03/2025 – 07/2025 <i>Innsbruck, Austria</i>
Expand your toolkit! How to harness more diverse task types for concept measurement 7 th Annual COMPTEXT Conference 2022 <i>pre-conference workshop</i>	04/2025 <i>Vienna, Austria</i>
From Embeddings to LLMs: Advanced Text Analysis with Python GESIS Fall Seminar in Computational Social Science 2025	09/2025 <i>Mannheim, Germany</i>
Data Management II University of Innsbruck, Minor <i>Digital Science</i> , <i>co-taught with Reto Stauffer and Joanna Chimiak-Opoka</i>	10/2024 – 01/2025 <i>Innsbruck, Austria</i>
Introduction to R programmning University of Innsbruck, Minor <i>Digital Science</i> , <i>co-taught with Francesca Finotelle</i>	10/2024 – 01/2025 <i>Innsbruck, Austria</i>
From Embeddings to LLMs: Advanced Text Analysis with Python GESIS Fall Seminar in Computational Social Science 2024 <i>co-taught with Lisa Wierer-Lechner (University of Innsbruck)</i>	09/2024 <i>Mannheim, Germany</i>
Hands-on text coding with Large Language Models for social scientists in R University of Cologne, Center for Comparative Politics	06/2024 <i>Cologne, Germany</i>
Hands-on text coding with Large Language Models for social scientists Max-Plank Institute for the Study of Societies	02/2024 <i>Cologne, Germany</i>
Comparative perspectives on elite rhetoric and democratic competition University of Cologne, MA Political Science	10/2023 – 01/2024 <i>Cologne, Germany</i>
Going Cross-Lingual: Computational Methods for Multilingual Text Analysis GESIS Training Workshop <i>co-taught with Fabienne Lind (University of Vienna)</i>	12/2023 <i>Cologne, Germany</i>

From Embeddings to Transformers: Advanced Text Analysis with Python	09/2023
GESIS Fall Seminar in Computational Social Science 2023	<i>Mannheim, Germany</i>
<i>co-taught with Jennifer Scurrell (ETH Zurich)</i>	
Automated Web Data Collection with R	09/2023
GESIS Fall Seminar in Computational Social Science 2023	<i>Mannheim, Germany</i>
<i>co-taught with Allison Koh (Hertie School Berlin)</i>	
Big Data: Collecting Web Data with R	06/2023
MethodsNET 2023 Summer School in Social Research Methods	<i>Nijmegen, Netherlands</i>
Automated Web Data Collection	09/2022
GESIS Fall Seminar in Computational Social Science 2022	<i>Mannheim, Germany</i>
<i>co-taught with Theresa Gessler (European University Viadrina)</i>	
Collecting Web Data with R	06/2022
MethodsNET 2022 Summer School in Social Research Methods	<i>Nijmegen, Netherlands</i>
Multilingual Supervised Text Classification	05/2022
4 th Annual COMPTEXT Conference 2022	<i>Dublin, Ireland</i>
<i>pre-conference workshop</i>	
Automated Web Data Collection	09/2021
GESIS Fall Seminar in Computational Social Science 2021	online
<i>co-taught with Theresa Gessler (European University Viadrina)</i>	
Tutor to the lecture “Theories and Systems”	03/2019 – 05/2020
University of Zurich, Department of Political Science	<i>Zurich, Switzerland</i>
Tutor to the lectures Statistics I and II	10/2012 – 10/2013
Humboldt University Berlin, Chair of Empirical Social Research	<i>Berlin, Germany</i>

Previous Positions

Post-doctoral Researcher	01/2022 – 07/2024
University of Cologne, Cologne Center for Comparative Politics	<i>Cologne, Germany</i>
· 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	<i>Zurich, Switzerland</i>
· 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 <i>summa cum laude</i>	

Education

Doctoral Program Political Science	05/2018 – 03/2022
University of Zurich	<i>Zurich, Switzerland</i>
· 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 <i>summa cum laude</i>	
M.A. International Relations	10/2014 – 04/2018
Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt University Berlin, University of Potsdam	<i>Berlin, Germany</i>
Visiting student, Graduate Studies in Political Science	08/2015 – 05/2016
Duke University	<i>Durham, NC, USA</i>
B.A. Social Sciences	09/2011 – 09/2014
Humboldt University Berlin	<i>Berlin, Germany</i>
ERASMUS student, B.A. Peace and Development Studies	09/2013 – 01/2014
Uppsala University	<i>Uppsala, Sweden</i>

Visiting stays

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

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	<i>Berlin, Germany</i>
<i>Section for Databased Campaigning/Analytics</i>	
Student Assistant	08/2016 – 03/2017
German Social Democratic Party, Federal Party Executive	<i>Berlin, Germany</i>
<i>Section for Databased Campaigning/Analytics</i>	

Research Assistant

Humboldt University Berlin, Chair of Comparative Politics

NORFACE project "The Paradox of Health Care Futures HEALTHDOX"

05/2015 – 10/2016

Berlin, Germany

Research Assistant

Humboldt University Berlin, Chair of Comparative Politics

DFG project "The Impact of Electoral Vulnerability on Institutional Change"

02/2014 – 10/2016

Berlin, Germany

Languages

Languages

German (native), English (fluent)

Programming Languages

R, Python, bash/shell, SQL, JavaScript/ReactJS, Stata, LaTeX