HAUKE LICHT
Computational Political Scientist

Last update: February 28, 2026

Contact Information

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University of Innsbruck
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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). DOI:10.18653/v1/2025.emnlp-main.1635. 🗎 ⬡

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. 🗎 🗄 </>

Working Papers

Hauke Licht and Leonce Röth. 2026. **Attributes, abstractions, and intersectionality: A new taxonomy for studying how parties invoke social groups**. 🗎

Hauke Licht. 2026. **Computational emotion analysis with multimodal LLMs: Current evidence on an emerging methodological opportunity**. ArXiv:10.48550/arXiv.2512.10882. 🗎

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

Sven-Oliver Proksch, Jens Wäckerle, Lukas Hetzer, Paula Hoffmeyer-Zlotnik, Jasmin Rath, *Hauke Licht*. 2025. **Trading off Policy, Stability, and Exclusion of the Radical Right: Experimental Evidence on Voters' Government Preferences**. (available on request)

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)   01/2026 – 06/2027
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"

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   10/2025 – 01/2026
University of Innsbruck, Minor *Digital Science*,   *Innsbruck, Austria*
co-taught with Reto Stauffer and Joanna Chimiak-Opoka

Introduction to Computational Text Analysis with R   10/2025 – 01/2026
University of Innsbruck, BA *Political Science*   *Innsbruck, Austria*

Text Analysis   10/2025 – 12/2025
Diplomatic Academy Vienna, MA *Digital International Affairs*   *Vienna, Austria*

Data Management II   03/2025 – 07/2025
University of Innsbruck, Minor *Digital Science*,   *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

From Embeddings to LLMs: Advanced Text Analysis with Python   09/2025
GESIS Fall Seminar in Computational Social Science 2025   *Mannheim, Germany*

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

Introduction to *R* programmning   10/2024 – 01/2025
University of Innsbruck, Minor *Digital Science*,   *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 2024   *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, Political Science Research and Methods, Sociological Methods and Research, Computational Communication Research, Journal of Computational Social Science, European Political Science Review, Legislative Studies Quarterly, Electoral Studies, Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties, Western European Politics, Regulation & Governance, Workshops on Computational Linguistics for Political Text Analysis

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