

HAUKE LICHT

Computational Political Scientist

Last update: September 1, 2025

Contact Information

Address

University of Innsbruck
Department of Political Science
Universitätsstraße 15
AT-6020 Innsbruck

Contact

✉ hauke.licht@uibk.ac.at
🌐 hauke.licht.github.io

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 Sczepanski. 2025. **Detecting Group Mentions in Political Rhetoric: A Supervised Learning Approach**. *The 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**. *The 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 "GAPED - Group Appeals in Parliamentary and Electoral Debates"

with Lena M. Huber (University of Mannheim)

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 Szczepanski (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 Szczepanski (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 Szczepanski (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 (COMPTXT)	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 <i>online</i>

University of Gothenburg
Research Seminar of the Party Research Group

29/11/2022
Gothenburg, Sweden

Teaching

Data Management II Minor "Digital Science", University of Innsbruck <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 Political Science	03/2025 – 07/2025 <i>Innsbruck, Austria</i>
Expand your toolkit! How to harness more diverse task types for concept measurement 7 th Annual COMPTTEXT Conference 2022 <i>pre-conference workshop</i>	04/2025 <i>Vienna, Austria</i>
Data Management II Minor "Digital Science", University of Innsbruck <i>co-taught with Reto Stauffer and Joanna Chimiak-Opoka</i>	10/2024 – 01/2025 <i>Innsbruck, Austria</i>
Introduction to R programming Minor "Digital Science", University of Innsbruck <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 2023 <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-Planck 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 GESIS Fall Seminar in Computational Social Science 2023 <i>co-taught with Jennifer Scurrrell (ETH Zurich)</i>	09/2023 <i>Mannheim, Germany</i>
Automated Web Data Collection with R GESIS Fall Seminar in Computational Social Science 2023 <i>co-taught with Allison Koh (Hertie School Berlin)</i>	09/2023 <i>Mannheim, Germany</i>
Big Data: Collecting Web Data with R MethodsNET 2023 Summer School in Social Research Methods	06/2023 <i>Nijmegen, Netherlands</i>
Automated Web Data Collection GESIS Fall Seminar in Computational Social Science 2022 <i>co-taught with Theresa Gessler (European University Viadrina)</i>	09/2022 <i>Mannheim, Germany</i>

Collecting Web Data with R

MethodsNET 2022 Summer School in Social Research Methods

06/2022

Nijmegen, Netherlands

Multilingual Supervised Text Classification4th Annual COMPTExT Conference 2022

05/2022

Dublin, Ireland

*pre-conference workshop***Automated Web Data Collection**

GESIS Fall Seminar in Computational Social Science 2021

09/2021

online

*co-taught with Theresa Gessler (European University Viadrina)***Tutor to the lecture “Theories and Systems”**

University of Zurich, Department of Political Science

03/2019 – 05/2020

Zurich, Switzerland

Tutor to the lectures Statistics I and II

Humboldt University Berlin, Chair of Empirical Social Research

10/2012 – 10/2013

Berlin, Germany

Previous Positions**Post-doctoral Researcher**

University of Cologne, Cologne Center for Comparative Politics

01/2022 – 07/2024

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

University of Zurich, Department of Political Science

05/2018 – 12/2021

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**

University of Zurich

05/2018 – 03/2022

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

Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt University Berlin, University of Potsdam

10/2014 – 04/2018

Berlin, Germany

Visiting student, Graduate Studies in Political Science

Duke University

08/2015 – 05/2016

Durham, NC, USA

B.A. Social Sciences

Humboldt University Berlin

09/2011 – 09/2014

Berlin, Germany

ERASMUS student, B.A. Peace and Development Studies

Uppsala University

09/2013 – 01/2014

Uppsala, Sweden

Visiting stays

Visiting Researcher with the Law, Economics, and Data Science group ETH Zurich, <i>hosted by Elliott Ash</i>	07/2023 – 08/2023 <i>Zurich, Switzerland</i>
Visiting Ph.D. Researcher with the Data Science Lab group Hertie School of Governance <i>hosted by Slava Jankin</i>	09/2020 – 12/2020 <i>Berlin, Germany</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 German Social Democratic Party, Federal Party Executive <i>Section for Databased Campaigning/Analytics</i>	03/2017 – 09/2017 <i>Berlin, Germany</i>
Student Assistant German Social Democratic Party, Federal Party Executive <i>Section for Databased Campaigning/Analytics</i>	08/2016 – 03/2017 <i>Berlin, Germany</i>
Research Assistant Humboldt University Berlin, Chair of Comparative Politics <i>NORFACE project “The Paradox of Health Care Futures HEALTHDOX”</i>	05/2015 – 10/2016 <i>Berlin, Germany</i>
Research Assistant Humboldt University Berlin, Chair of Comparative Politics <i>DFG project “The Impact of Electoral Vulnerability on Institutional Change”</i>	02/2014 – 10/2016 <i>Berlin, Germany</i>

Languages

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