

HAUKE LICHT

Computational Political Scientist

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Contact Information

Address

University of Innsbruck
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Universitätsstraße 15
AT-6020 Innsbruck

Contact

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

Hauke Licht, Ronja Sczepankski, 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” <i>with Lena M. Huber (University of Mannheim)</i>	
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 <i>with Leonce Röth (LMU Munich)</i>	
Selten Seeding Grant (5,000 EUR)	10/2022 – 01/2023
awarded by the “ECONtribute: Markets & Public Policy” Cluster of Excellence <i>with Ronja Szepanski (ETH Zurich)</i>	
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 <i>with Ronja Szepanski (ETH Zurich)</i>	

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	
<i>with Ronja Szepanski (ETH Zurich)</i>	

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 <i>online</i>
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	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 <i>co-taught with Fabienne Lind (University of Vienna)</i>	Cologne, Germany
From Embeddings to Transformers: Advanced Text Analysis with Python	09/2023
GESIS Fall Seminar in Computational Social Science 2023 <i>co-taught with Jennifer Scurrell (ETH Zurich)</i>	Mannheim, Germany
Automated Web Data Collection with R	09/2023
GESIS Fall Seminar in Computational Social Science 2023 <i>co-taught with Allison Koh (Hertie School Berlin)</i>	Mannheim, Germany
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 <i>co-taught with Theresa Gessler (European University Viadrina)</i>	Mannheim, Germany
Collecting Web Data with R	06/2022
MethodsNET 2022 Summer School in Social Research Methods	Nijmegen, Netherlands
Multilingual Supervised Text Classification	05/2022
4 th Annual COMPTEXT Conference 2022 <i>pre-conference workshop</i>	Dublin, Ireland
Automated Web Data Collection	09/2021
GESIS Fall Seminar in Computational Social Science 2021 <i>co-taught with Theresa Gessler (European University Viadrina)</i>	online
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

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,

hosted by Elliott Ash

07/2023 – 08/2023

Zurich, Switzerland

Visiting Ph.D. Researcher with the Data Science Lab group

Hertie School of Governance

hosted by Slava Jankin

09/2020 – 12/2020

Berlin, Germany

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

German Social Democratic Party, Federal Party Executive
Section for Databased Campaigning/Analytics

03/2017 – 09/2017

*Berlin, Germany***Student Assistant**

German Social Democratic Party, Federal Party Executive
Section for Databased Campaigning/Analytics

08/2016 – 03/2017

*Berlin, Germany***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

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