

Henrique Sposito

COMPUTATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENTIST

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Profile

My research leverages advanced text analysis techniques, such as supervised machine learning, to comparatively investigate diverse aspects of political discourses. I also develop, contribute, and maintain several R packages that assist researchers conducting social network analysis and connecting global governance data across domains. I am broadly interested in issues related to political discourse and environmental politics in Latin America.

Interests: Political Sociology, Environmental Politics, Text Analysis, Comparative Politics, Social Networks

Education

PhD in International Relations and Political Science

THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Geneva, Switzerland

Sep 2019 - Oct 2024

- Doctoral Project: 'On doing politics: Authenticity, Problem-Construction, and Urgency in Political Discourse'
Supervised by Dr. James Hollway and Dr. Yanina Welp

Masters in International Relations and Political Science

THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Geneva, Switzerland

Sep 2017 - Aug 2019

- Masters' Thesis: 'The Construction of a Migrant Crisis - The Venezuelan Migration to Brazil'
Supervised by Dr. Melanie Kolbe and Dr. Graziella Moraes Silva

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Sociology (Double Degree)

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham, United States

Jan 2013 - Jun 2017

- Recipient of 4 years of scholarship as a Student-Athlete for Soccer in a NCAA Division 1 University

Publications and Working Papers

Radiating Truthiness: Authenticity performances in politics in Brazil and the United States

Political Studies

DOI: 10.1177/00323217241261229

2025

Which Amazon Problem? Problem-constructions and Transnationalism in Brazilian Presidential Discourse since 1985 (with Livio Silva-Muller)

Environmental Politics

DOI: 10.1080/09644016.2023.2220639

2024

Public Acceptance of Environmental Restrictions in Non-Democratic Regimes (with Stefano Jud and Quynh Nguyen)

UNDER REVIEW

How urgent are your priorities? Comparing political priorities in discourse (with Jael Tan and James Hollway)

UNDER REVIEW

Armed Conflict and land-use dynamics: A global comparative analysis (with Remo Agovic, Stefano Jud, and Quynh Nguyen)

WORKING PAPER

Universal Rules or Special Exceptions? Fairness and public support for climate policy in non-democratic settings (with Stefano Jud and Quynh Nguyen)

WORKING PAPER

Does democratic backsliding defund the liberal world order? The case of the United Nations (with Livio Silva-Muller)

WORKING PAPER

Managing imprecise dates in R with messydates (with James Hollway)

WORKING PAPER

Employment History (selected)

Wyss Academy for Nature at the University of Bern

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER IN ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE AND GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

Bern, Switzerland

Nov 2024 - Present

- Engage in the research, design, and formulation of innovative and sustainable governance solutions for people and nature
- Lead an interdisciplinary research project mapping and analyzing environmental networks to identify new entry points for governance interventions and measure their impact over time
- Evaluate the viability and effectiveness of possible solutions to pressing environmental challenges using state-of-the-art quantitative and qualitative research methods

Centre for International Environmental Studies

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Geneva, Switzerland

Sep 2020 - Aug 2024

- Assisted with the theoretical, methodological, and empirical developments for comparing data across various issue-domains of global governance in the PANARCHIC project, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation
- Developed the data infrastructure and statistical methods in R for gathering, consolidating, and analyzing global governance data
- Trained and managed research assistants collecting data, working with GitHub, designing websites, and contributing to diverse R packages

Intersoccer

FOOTBALL HEAD COACH

Geneva, Switzerland

May 2018 - Aug 2020

- Ensured a safe and constructive environment for participants, coaches, and parents while promoting the benefits of sports
- Supervised coaches and participants throughout activities to assure their safety
- Coordinated and solved logistical issues related to transportation, venue organization, delivery of supplies, and medical emergencies

Teaching

Intermediate R for Social Science Research

Fall 2023

THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

- Provides an overview of various research methods using R
- Teaches students how to carry-on different types of statistical modeling; how to work with unsupervised text analysis approaches; and how to analyze and visualize survey data
- Encourages students to design their own research projects using R

Fundamentals of R (co-lecturer)

Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023

THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

- Provides a hands-on introduction to data science using the R programming language and software
- Teaches students how to import, transform, analyze, and visualize various types of data in R
- Demonstrates practical applications of R for the analysis of environment, finance, and conflict data

Invited Talks

Can (political) authenticity be performed?

Lausanne, Switzerland

FACULTÉ DES HAUTES ÉTUDES COMMERCIALES DE L'UNIVERSITÉ DE LAUSANNE

May 2025

- Invited talk at the Department of Organizational Behavior Research Seminar

How has the Brazilian Amazon been Constructed as a Problem? Presidential Speeches and Transnational Politics since 1985

THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

- Invited talk at the Centre for International Environmental Studies Seminar

Geneva, Switzerland

October 2022

Anti-Political Correctness and Authenticity: Authenticity performances in politics in Brazil and the United States

UNIVERSITÉ DE LAUSANNE

- Invited talk for the Research Group on Elections and Political Citizenship

Lausanne, Switzerland

March 2022

Conference Presentations (selected)

Swiss Political Science Association

HOW URGENT IS CLIMATE CHANGE FOR OUR LEADERS? URGENCY ANALYSIS OF POLITICAL PRIORITIES

- Panel on 'Preferences' in the Development and Environment working group

Geneva, Switzerland

January 2025

American Sociological Association

ANTI-PC AND AUTHENTICITY: AUTHENTICITY PERFORMANCES IN POLITICS IN BRAZIL AND THE UNITED STATES

- Regular session on the 'Party and its base: Understanding the relationship between political professionals and their audiences'

Los Angeles, United States

August 2022

Latin American Studies Association

AMAZONIAN REPERTOIRES IN BRAZILIAN PRESIDENTIAL DISCOURSE SINCE 1985

- Panel on the 'Forest Managements Conservation and Agricultural Production'

Online

May 2022

Swiss Political Science Association

PERFORMING AUTHENTICITY: ANTI-POLITICALLY CORRECT DISCOURSES IN BRAZIL AND THE UNITED STATES

- Workshop session on 'Liberal Ideology and Cultural Backlash'

Online

February 2022

Latin American Studies Association

THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MIGRATORY CRISIS: THE VENEZUELAN MIGRATION TO BRAZIL

- Panel on 'Las distintas violencias de las migraciones'

Online

May 2020

R Packages

poldis

TOOLS FOR ANALYZING POLITICAL DISCOURSES OVER TIME

Author

manydata

PORTAL FOR GLOBAL GOVERNANCE DATA

Contributor

messydates

EXTENDED DATE/TIME FORMATS

Contributor

manynet

MAKE, MANIPULATE, AND MAP MYRIAD NETWORKS

Contributor

migraph

TOOLS FOR MULTIMODAL AND MULTILEVEL NETWORK ANALYSIS

Contributor

manypkgs

SUPPORT THE CREATION OF NEW MANY PACKAGES

Contributor

Other Publications

Stakeholder Network Analysis of the Nam Tien Provincial Protection Forest in Laos

WYSS ACADEMY FOR NATURE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BERN

February 2025

The politics in anti-politically correct discourses

GLOBAL CHALLENGES, ISSUE 16 - ELECTIONS, WHAT FOR?

November 2024

Awards and Honors

- Best Paper in Amazonian Studies at the Latin American Studies Association for “Which Amazon Problem? Problem-constructions and Transnationalism in Brazilian Presidential Discourse since 1985”
- UAB Presidential Honors List 2013, 2015, 2016 and 2017
- Conference USA Commissioner’s Honor Roll 2013 – 2016
- National Soccer Coaches Association of America NCAA Scholar All-South Region Team 2016
- Conference USA All-Academic Team 2016
- College Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-District Team 2016
- Conference USA Academic Honor Medal 2015

Skills

- **Languages:** Portuguese (native); English (fluent); French (proficient); Italian (intermediate); Spanish (intermediate)
- **Programming languages:** R (proficient); Python (intermediate); Java (intermediate), C (basic)
- **Markup languages:** Markdown (proficient); LaTeX (advanced); HTML (advanced); CSS (advanced)

References

James Hollway

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE
Co-DIRECTOR OF THE GLOBAL GOVERNANCE CENTRE

THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

- Email: james.hollway@graduateinstitute.ch

Graziella Moraes Dias da Silva

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY
Co-DIRECTOR OF THE ALBERT HIRSCHMAN CENTRE ON DEMOCRACY
THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

- Email: graziella.moraes@graduateinstitute.ch

Yanina Welp

RESEARCH FELLOW
ALBERT HIRSCHMAN CENTRE ON DEMOCRACY
THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

- Email: yanina.welp@graduateinstitute.ch