

# Henrique Sposito

COMPUTATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENTIST

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## Profile

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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:** Environmental Sociology, Statistical Methods, Text Analysis, Comparative Politics, Social Networks

## Education

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### PhD in International Relations and Political Science

*Geneva, Switzerland*

THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

*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

*Geneva, Switzerland*

THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

*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)

*Birmingham, United States*

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM

*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

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

*Political Studies*

DOI: 10.1177/00323217241261229

*July 2024*

### 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

*June 2023*

### Urgency Analysis: Ranking Political Priorities (with Jael Tan and James Hollway)

UNDER REVIEW

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

WORKING PAPER

### Is peace good for the environment? A comparative approach to post-conflict environmental outcomes (with Stefano Jud and Quynh Nguyen)

WORKING PAPER

## Employment History (selected)

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## Wyss Academy for Nature at the University of Bern

Bern, Switzerland

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER IN ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE AND GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

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 the impact of these interventions 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

Geneva, Switzerland

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

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

Geneva, Switzerland

FOOTBALL HEAD COACH

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

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### 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

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### 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

Geneva, Switzerland

THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

October 2022

- Invited talk at the Centre for International Environmental Studies Seminar

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

Lausanne, Switzerland

UNIVERSITÉ DE LAUSANNE

March 2022

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

## Conference Presentations (selected)

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## 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*

## RPackages

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### 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

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### 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

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- 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

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- **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

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### 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