

# Javier Ruiz-Soler

PhD in Social and Political Sciences



## RESEARCH INTERESTS

- European Public Sphere, especially online.
- Political Communication, especially at the European level.
- Social Media and Politics.
- Digital Diplomacy and Digital Democracy.
- Mis- and dis- information.
- Computational methods: network analysis, content & sentiment analysis, big data.
- Digital methods: issue mapping, data analytics.

## EDUCATION

**PhD in Political and Social Sciences** Florence | Italy 2015 – 2019

European University Institute

'Is Twitter the new coffee house? The contribution of the European Political Twittersphere to a transnational European Public Sphere and European demos'. Supervised by Professor Alexander Trechsel.

Visiting Scholar U. Penn (Annenberg)

Philadelphia | USA

Visiting Scholar Milan U. (Pomlab)

Milan | Italy

**M.S. in Research**

Florence | Italy 2014 - 2015

European University Institute

**M.A. in European Studies**

Lund | Sweden 2010 – 2012

Lund University

**B.A. Contemporary History**

Valencia | Spain 2004 – 2009

University of Valencia

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCES

### Researcher

Digital Democracies Lab  
Vancouver, Canada  
September 2019 – on going

- Mis- and Dis- information research focus.
- Data collection of social media data.
- Data analysis and visualization showing trends and metrics.
- Presentation of outcomes in conferences and publications.

### Collaborator

OpenEUdebate.eu  
Madrid  
January 2019 – on going

- European Elections Research focus.
- Jean Monett network.
- Data collection of social media data.
- Data analysis and visualization showing trends and metrics.

### Researcher

European University Institute  
Florence, Italy  
September 2014 – June 2019

- Research on online communications and European Politics.
- Data Analytics of social media data in R and Python.
- Data visualizations with Tableau.
- Report with recommendations for EU institutions.
- Publication of the outcomes of the research in scientific journals.

### Head of Communications

TEDx Stockholm  
Stockholm, Sweden  
September 2012 – September 2013

- Organized and managed big events of 300-500 attendees.
- Coordinated press and media attending the events: interviews, schedules, appointments.
- Designed, coordinated with the team & implemented the online communication's strategy of the festival.

## VISITING PERIODS

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- **February 2020 – May 2020:** Visiting Scholar at Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society. Harvard University. Fernando Bermejo, director of the MediaCloud.

- **September 2017 – January 2018.** Visiting Scholar at Public Opinion & Media Lab (POMLAB) and Voices from the BLOGS in the Department of Social and Political Sciences. University of Milan. Supervisors: Mauro Barisione and Luigi Curini.

- **January 2017 – June 2017.** Visiting Scholar at the Digital Media, Networks, & Political Communication (DIMENET) research group at the Annenberg School for Communication. University of Pennsylvania. Supervisor: Sandra González-Bailón.

## TEACHING

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- 2018 Undergraduate level. Social Media and Politics. Luzern University (Switzerland).
- 2018 Undergraduate level. Communications Research Methods Course. Lorenzo di Medici Institute. Florence (Italy).
- 2016 Teaching Certificate. European University Institute. Florence (Italy).

## KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

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### COMPUTATIONAL

- R (3 years)
- Python (2 year)
- Google Maps API
- Twitter Capture Analysis Toolkit (TCAT)
- Twitter API(s)
- Bash/shell
- GitHub
- Web management (typo3, wordpress, jekyll, octopress)
- Amazon EC2 (3 years)

### DATA VISUALIZATION

- Tableau
- ggplot2
- Shiny
- Plotly
- Infogram

### RESEARCH

- Social Network Analysis (Gephi and iGraph)
- Content and Sentiment analysis with quanteda and iSA

### COMMUNICATION

- Interpersonal skills: used to multicultural team work.
- Public speaking experience in academic and professional events.
- Professional experience in communication strategies.

### LANGUAGES

- Spanish and Catalan (bilingual mother tongue)

- English (Proficient C1)
- Italian (Good Knowledge B1)

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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- [6] Ruiz-Soler, Javier (2020), 'European Twitter Networks: Where are they? Towards a transnational European Public Sphere' **[under review]**
- [5] Ruiz-Soler, Javier (2019), 'Commenting on Politics Topics through Twitter. Is European politics European?', *Social Media + Society*, 5(4).
- [4] Ruiz-Soler, Javier (2018), 'The last will be the first. A study of European Issue Publics on Twitter', in E. Pavan and A. Mattoni (eds.), *Partecipazione e conflitto*, special issue The Big Data Challenge. From Big Data in Politics to the Politics of Big Data, 11(2): 423-447
- [3] Ruiz-Soler, Javier (2017), 'The European Public Sphere: exist, can exist, will exist', *APUZ-Bdp Bundestag Magazine*, 37/2017: 35-40, ISSN: 0479-611 (In German).
- [2] Ruiz-Soler, Javier (2017), 'Twitter research for social scientists: a brief introduction to the benefits, limitations and tools for analysing Twitter data', *Revista Dígitos*, University of Valencia, 3/2017: 17-32, ISSN: 2444-0132.
- [1] Ruiz-Soler, Javier (2014), 'The role of the Euroblogosphere in a context of a European Public Sphere', in A. Stepinska (ed.) *Media and Communication in Europe*, Logos Verlag, pp. 61-73, ISBN 978-3-8325-3680-0

## BOOK REVIEWS

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- Ruiz-Soler, Javier (2018), [Review of the Book "Integration, Diversity and the Making of a European Public Sphere", by Hakan Sicakkan (Ed.)] *Mass Communication and Society* 21 (2): 269-271.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15205436.2017.1407586>
- Ruiz-Soler, Javier (2018), [Review of the Book "Decoding the Social World: Data Science and the unintended consequences of Communication", by Sandra González-Bailón] *International Journal of Media & Cultural Politics* 14(2): 270-272. [https://doi.org/10.1386/macp.14.2.265\\_5](https://doi.org/10.1386/macp.14.2.265_5)

## PRESS

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- Ruiz-Soler, Javier (2019). 'Are social media platforms good for democracy?', *Magazine Association of Political Communication (ACOP)*, 34: 32-33, ISSN: 2340-9576. (In Spanish)
- Ruiz-Soler, Javier and Seóne Pérez, F. (2018). 'Are bots dreaming in winning elections?' *Magazine Association of Political Communication (ACOP)*, 23: 11-15, ISSN: 2445- 3951. (In Spanish)
- Ruiz-Soler, Javier (2016) 'Reactions to Juncker's State of the Union speech show the difficulties in creating a European public sphere online', *LSE European Politics and Policy (EUROPP) Blog*, 22 Sep 2016.
- Ruiz Soler, Javier (2012) 'The Euroblogosphere has great potential to contribute to the European public sphere', *LSE European Politics and Policy (EUROPP) Blog*, 27 Oct 2012.

- Ruiz-Soler, Javier (2012), 'How can internet contribute to civil participation? The case of Eurobloggers', *Heinrich Böll Foundation*, 24 Sep 2012.

## CONFERENCES

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<b>Transformations in the Digital Age: The Public Sphere</b> - Paper: Transnational public spheres online.	Hildesheim	April 2019
<b>OpenEUdebatte.eu opening Conference</b> - EU elections on Social Media	Madrid	January 2019
<b>ECREA 7<sup>th</sup> European Communications Conference</b> - Paper: A transnational European Public Sphere on Twitter	Lugano	November 2018
<b>ECPR European Consortium Political Research General Conference</b> - Paper: Political topics on Twitter: Are European politics European?	Hamburg	August 2018
<b>ECREA Symposium "Digital Democracy in the age of Big Data"</b> - Paper: Networked Publics on Twitter. The case for the TTIP	Stockholm	November 2017
<b>AOIR Association Internet Researchers Conference: Networked Publics</b> - PhD Colloquium: A European Networked Public Sphere empirical method	Tartu	October 2017
<b>ECPR European Consortium Political Research General Conference</b> - Paper: A transnational European Public Sphere	Oslo	September 2017
<b>EUSN 3<sup>rd</sup> European Conference on Social Networks</b> - Paper: Network analysis of European Twitter networks	Mainz	September 2017
<b>NordMedia 2017 bi-annual Conference</b> - Paper: European transnational interactions on Twitter	Tampere	August 2017
<b>IC2S2 3<sup>rd</sup> Computational Social Science Conference</b> - Poster: Geolocation of Tweets for measuring transnational interactions	Cologne	July 2017
<b>EPSA 7<sup>th</sup> Conference European Political Sciences</b> - Paper: European Networked Public Sphere on Twitter: #schengen and #TTIP	Milan	June 2017
<b>Mediaflows Congress of online political communication</b> - Paper: An introduction to Social Network Analysis of Twitter data	Valencia	November 2016
<b>PhD Symposium Media and Communications London School of Economics</b> - Paper: European Twitter Networks: #brexit	London	June 2016
<b>Conference European Dialogue on Internet Governance EuroDIG.</b> - Contribution of youth work to the development of Internet Governance	Lisbon Berlin Stockholm Vilnius	June 2014 June 2013 June 2012 December 2013
<b>Closing Conference of the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the EU.</b> - Blogger expert and representative of <a href="http://www.bloggingportal.eu">www.bloggingportal.eu</a>		
<b>Conference 14th Annual UACES Forum Conference.</b> - Paper: The Euroblogosphere and European Online Communications.	Loughborough	July 2013
<b>Conference The EU and the Politicization of Europe, by Euroacademia</b> - Selected paper for the Panel <i>The Europeanization of Digital Powers.</i>	Budapest	December 2012
<b>Conference Europe's common future organized by Böll Foundation.</b> - Blogger expert and representative of <a href="http://www.bloggingportal.eu">www.bloggingportal.eu</a>	Berlin	September 2012
<b>Conference United We Stand organized by Copenhagen Business School.</b> - Paper: Fostering EU Engagement.	Copenhagen	June 2012

## SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

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<b>European Commission (DG COMM)</b>	Brussels	March 2019
- Presentation: "Interacting online outside the bubble"		
<b>Seminar Mid Sweden University</b>	Östersund	April 2018
- Guest lecturer: "The European Twittersphere"		
<b>Seminar in course of Political Communication of Scuola Normale Superiore</b>	Florence	February 2018
- Guest lecturer: "The European Public Sphere on Twitter"		
<b>Workshop POMLAB University of Milan</b>	Milan	November 2016
- Mapping the European Political Twittersphere with TCAT and Gephi		
<b>International Seminar "Building European Citizenship", by JEF Europe.</b>	Stockholm	October 2013
- Guest Speaker: "Social Media, European New Media and the EU Public Sph		
<b>International Seminar "Our Europe 2021" organized by Europaforum</b>	Malmö	April 2012
- Panellist about different EU topics (immigration, eurocrisis, identity).		

## ADDITIONAL TRAINING

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<b>6<sup>th</sup> ICA International Summer School</b>	Milan	July 2018
- Political Communication and Electoral Behaviour		
<b>Voices of Blogs (University of Milan)</b>	Milan	September – December 2017
- Content & Sentiment analysis with iSA. Professors: Curini and Ceron.		
<b>UPF Social Media and Big Data Research (Online)</b>	Spain	September 2017
- Big data management, network analysis & text data. Professor: P. Barberá		
<b>Datacamp</b>	Spain	August 2017
- Data Analyst with R (collection, process and visualization of data).		
<b>Annenberg School for Communication (University of Pennsylvania)</b>	Philadelphia	January – June 2017
- Network Analysis with iGraph. Professor: S. González-Bailón.		
<b>Internet Institute Summer School Programme (Oxford University)</b>	Oxford	July 2016
- Research on the Internet related issues.		
<b>Quantitative Methods (European University Institute)</b>	Florence	September 2014 – June 2015
- Statistics.		

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

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- Visiting Postdoctoral Fellowship Algorithmized Public Spheres Unit of the Hans-Bredow Institute with Cornelius Puschmann (Hamburg University). Rejected.
- YECREA Travel Grant for ECREA Lugano Conference 2018.
- Swedish Research Council Grant for PhD studies (2014-2018).
- Erasmus Internship Grant for graduate studies 2010.
- Bancaja Grant for undergraduate studies 2008.
- Erasmus Grant for undergraduate studies 08/09.

## SERVICE

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<b>Canada's Democracy Summit (Ryerson University)</b> - Programme Advisory Committee	Toronto	May 2020
<b>Reviewer The International Journal of Press/Politics</b> - Papers in Political Communication	Vancouver	August 2019
<b>Wahlbeobachtung Election-Watch EU</b> - Consultant on mis/dis- information on social media in the EU elections 2019		May 2019
<b>Organizer Workshop "Social Media and Politics" at the EUI.</b> - Guest Professor: Anamaria Dutceac and Michael Bossetta (Lund and CHP U.)	Florence	May 2018
<b>Reviewer International Journal of Communication USC Annenberg</b> - Papers in Digital Media and Politics	Philadelphia	January 2018
<b>Reviewer International Communications Association (ICA)</b> - Papers for section Political Communication	Milan	December 2017
<b>Data for Democracy</b> - Data analyst for different projects.	Online	From Sept. 2017
<b>ECPR European Consortium Political Research General Conference</b> - Co-chair and Discussant Political Networks Panel.	Oslo	September 2017
<b>Organizer Workshop "Python for the Social Sciences" at the EUI.</b> - Guest Professor: Jonathan Bright, Oxford University.	Florence	May 2016
<b>Organizer Workshop "Social Scientific Network Analysis" at the EUI.</b> - Guest Professor: Carl Nordlund, Central European University.	Florence	May 2015