

# Rebecca C. Kittel

## Curriculum Vitae

Freie Universität Berlin  
Garystr. 55 – Room 222  
14195 Berlin, Germany  
✉ rebecca.kittel@fu-berlin.de

### Research Interest

text-as-data, populism, party and voter behaviour, democratic processes, political communication, protest behaviour

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### Current Position

- Since 10/2023 **Post Doctoral Researcher**, *Freie Universität*, Berlin, Germany, ERC-Project LOOPS, PI: Dr. Anna Fruhstorfer
- Since 10/2023 **Research Affiliate**, *WZB Berlin Social Science Center*, Center for Civil Society Research, Berlin, Germany

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### Education

- 09/2019 – 09/2023 **Ph.D. in Political Science**, *European University Institute*, Florence, Italy, *The New Politics of Party Signalling: Language, Positioning and Electoral Dynamics*, Examining Board: Ellen Immergut (supervisor), Simon Hix, Amy Catalinac, Sven-Oliver Proksch
- 09/2021 – 06/2022 **Visiting PhD Researcher**, *New York University*, New York City, USA, Host faculty: Prof. Amy Catalinac
- 09/2019 – 08/2020 **M.Res. in Social and Political Science**, *European University Institute*, Florence, Italy
- 10/2016 – 08/2019 **M.A. in Political Science**, *University of Cologne*, Cologne, Germany, *How Do They Talk? A Comparison of Left-Wing and Right-Wing Populists' Speeches in Parliament*, Supervision: Prof. Sven-Oliver Proksch
- 08/2017 – 12/2017 **Visiting Student**, *Sciences Po*, Paris, France
- 10/2012 – 03/2016 **B.Sc. in Social Sciences**, *University of Cologne*, Cologne, Germany, *Temporal Distance between European and National Elections – Exploring the Performance of Eurosceptic Parties*, Supervision: Prof. André Kaiser
- 08/2014 – 12/2014 **Visiting Student**, *Duquesne University*, Pittsburgh, USA

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### Teaching Experience

- Summer Term 2023 **Teaching Assistant**, *EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE*, Tutor for *Computational Text Analysis* by Dr. Jessica di Cocco, Florence, Italy
- Spring Term 2023 **Instructor**, *UNIVERSITY OF LUCERNE*, Party Competition and Political Communication, Master Seminar, 22h, Lucerne, Switzerland
- Winter Term 2022 **Instructor**, *HEINRICH-HEINE-UNIVERSITY DÜSSELDORF*, Party Competition and Political Communication, Bachelor Seminar, 22.5h, Düsseldorf, Germany (student evaluation: 1.1 on scale from 1.0 to 5.0)

- 09/2022 **Teaching Certificate**, EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE, Introduction to Teaching and Learning in Higher Education
- Winter Term 2013, **Teaching Assistant**, UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE, Tutor for *Introduction to Comparative Politics: Comparative Analysis of Political Institutions* by Prof. André Kaiser, Chair for Comparative Politics, Cologne, Germany
- 2015 and 2016

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## Working Papers

Kittel, Rebecca. *What Do Populist and Non-Populist Voters Respond to? A Survey Experiment on the Effect of Simple Language, Blame Attribution and People-Centrism* Draft available upon request.

Kittel, Rebecca. *Language Complexity in Parliament: Use and Effect of Simple Language Among Populist and Mainstream Actors in Parliamentary Debate*. Draft available upon request.

Kittel, Rebecca and Mirko Wegemann. *Federalism in Crisis? The Role of Party Affiliation and Government Status in Sub-National Crisis Management* Draft available upon request.

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## Work in Progress

Kittel, Rebecca and Mirko Wegemann. *Dataset on Press Releases from National and Sub-National Party Fractions in Germany*. Dataset available upon request.

Kittel, Rebecca and Konstantin Vössing *Political Justifications in Parties' Responses Towards Covid-19: An Analysis of Press Releases from (Sub-) National Party Fractions in Germany*

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## Professional Experience

- 10/2022 – 10/2023 **Research Associate**, HANS-BOECKLER STIFTUNG & CITY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON, Political explanations and their effects on public opinion and political behavior by Prof. Ellen Immergut and Prof. Konstantin Vössing, Florence, Italy
- 09/2020 – 09/2022 **Research Assistant**, EUI RESEARCH PROJECT, Responding to COVID-19: Government Action, Government Rhetoric, and Public Trust by Prof. Ellen Immergut and Dr. Tamara Popic, Florence, Italy
- 04/2018 – 07/2019 **Student Research Assistant**, CHAIR FOR EUROPEAN AND MULTI-LEVEL POLITICS, Prof. Sven-Oliver Proksch, Center for Comparative Politics, University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany
- 09/2018 – 12/2018 **Student Assistant Work**, GERMAN ACADEMIC EXCHANGE SERVICE (DAAD), Bonn, Germany
- 04/2014 – 09/2018 **Student Research Assistant**, CHAIR FOR COMPARATIVE POLITICS, Prof. André Kaiser, Cologne Center for Comparative Politics, University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany

- 04/2018 – 07/2018 **Research Assistant Work**, LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE, for Prof. Sara B. Hobolt and Dr. Christopher Wratil about EU Council Deliberations
- 01/2018 – 04/2018 **Internship**, GERMAN ACADEMIC EXCHANGE SERVICE (DAAD), Bonn, Germany
- 06/2016 – 07/2016 **Internship**, WORTWERT - DIE WIRTSCHAFTSREDAKTION, Journalism Bureau, Cologne, Germany
- 03/2016 – 06/2016 **Internship**, MEDIA PROGRAM SOUTH EAST EUROPE, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Sofia, Bulgaria
- 08/2011 – 03/2016 **Freelance Journalist**, WESTFÄLISCHE NACHRICHTEN – LOCAL NEWS-PAPER, Münster, Germany

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## Scholarships and Competitive Grants

- 2023 **ECPR Grant** for Attending ECPR Joint Sessions in Toulouse (650 Euro)
- 2021 **EUI Exchange Programme with NYU** – Travel Grant (4,600 Euro)
- 2020 **EUI Early Stage Researcher Grant** for a Survey Experiment on Language Complexity (3,800 Euro)
- 2020 **ECPR Grant** for the First Virtual ECPR Method School (465 Pound)
- 2019 – 2023 **Full PhD Scholarship** of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
- 2012 – 2019 **Study Scholarship** of the Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung, Journalism Programme
- 2017 **Erasmus+ Scholarship** for Study Abroad Programme at the Sciences Po Paris, France
- 2016 **Erasmus+ Scholarship** for an Internship in Sofia, Bulgaria
- 2011 **Federal State Winner** of the History Competition of the German Federal President (250 Euro)

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## Methods Training

- 2022 – Introduction to Machine Learning for Text Analysis in Python, GESIS Fall course
- Quantitative Political Analysis II - Causal Inference, PhD Seminar NYU
- 2021 – Quantitative Political Analysis III - MLE, Bayesaian, Machine Learning, PhD Seminar NYU
- Measurements in Social Sciences, Workshop EUI
- Survey Analysis and Experiments, Workshop EUI
- 2020 – Computational Text Analysis, Workshop EUI
- Python Programming for Social Scientists, ECPR Summer School
- Sequence Analysis in the Social Sciences, Workshop EUI
- Introduction to Machine Learning for Social Science, Workshop EUI
- Multilevel Data Analysis, Workshop EUI

- Causal Inference, Seminar EUI
- 2019 – Theory and Methodology of Discourse Analysis, Workshop EUI
- 2018 – A Primer to Web Scraping with R, Workshop Cologne Center for Comparative Politics (CCCP)

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## Presentations and Talks

- 2023 – Talk at “Protest und Widerstand Workshop”, MA Research Project, University Würzburg – DAM Frankfurt, 8. October
  - EPSA – Glasgow, 22. - 24. June
  - ECPR Joint Sessions – Toulouse, 25. -28. April
  - MPSA – Chicago, 4. - 7. April
- 2022 – Lunch Talk – Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf, 1. December
  - Political Behaviour Colloquium – EUI, 22. November
  - CIVICA Data Science Days – Florence Poster Presentation, 6. - 7. October
  - ECPR General Conference - Innsbruck, 22. - 26. August
  - EPSA - Prague:, 23.-25. June
  - Comparative Politics Workshop – NYU, 16. February
- 2021 – ECPR General Conference - Virtual Event, 30. August - 3. September
  - ECPR Standing Group on Parliaments Conference - Virtual Event, 30. - 31. June
  - Populism in power and its socioeconomic policies in Europe, Scuola Normale Superiore – Virtual Event, 18.-19. March
- 2020 – CIVICA PhD Panel on Challenges to Democracy in the EU, 2. December

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## Professional Memberships and Service

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| Reviewer              | Party Politics, Politics of the Low Countries   |
| Memberships           | European Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association   |
| Service to Discipline | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Observer in PhD Programme Selection Procedure (cohorts 2020, 2021, 2023), European University Institute,</li> <li>– Panel Organizer and Chair, ECPR Standing Group on Parliaments Conference, 2021</li> <li>– Chair, EPSA Glasgow, 2023</li> </ul> |

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## Software Skills

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| Advanced | R, $\text{\LaTeX}$       |
| Basic    | STATA, Python, Qualtrics |

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## Languages

German Native  
English Fluent, C1  
Italian Basic, A2

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## References

### 1. Prof. Dr. Ellen M. Immergut

Chair in Political Sciences  
Department of Political and Social Sciences  
European University Institute  
Via dei Roccettini 9  
50014 San Domenico di Fiesole (FI), Italy  
**Email:** ellen.immergut@eui.eu

### 2. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Vössing

Senior Lecturer  
Department of International Politics  
City University of London  
Northampton Square  
London EC1V 0HB, United Kingdom  
**Email:** Konstantin.Voessing@city.ac.uk

Berlin, 26. October 2023