Rebecca C. Kittel

Curriculum Vitae

Free University Berlin
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Research Interest

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

Current Position

Since 10/2023	**Post Doctoral Researcher**, *Free University*, 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

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: Prof. Ellen Immergut (supervisor), Prof. Simon Hix, Prof. Amy Catalinac, Prof. 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

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, 2015 and 2016	**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

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.

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*

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. Konstatin 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 Prof. 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
08/2011 – 03/2016	**Freelance Journalist**, Westfälische Nachrichten – Local Newspaper, Münster, Germany

Scholarships and Competitive Grants

2023	**ECPR Grant** for Attending ECPR Joint Sessions in Toulouse
2021	**EUI Exchange Programme with NYU** – Travel Grant
2020	**EUI Early Stage Researcher Grant** for a Survey Experiment on Language Complexity
2020	**ECPR Grant** for the First Virtual ECPR Method School
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

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)

Presentations and Talks

2023	– Talk at "Protest und Widerstand Workshop", MA Research Project, University Würzburg – DAM Frankfurt
	– EPSA – Glasgow
	– ECPR Joint Sessions – Toulouse
	– MPSA – Chicago
2022	– Lunch Talk – Heinrich-Heine-University – Düsseldorf
	– EUI Political Behaviour Colloquium – Florence
	– CIVICA Data Science Days – Florence
	– ECPR General Conference - Innsbruck
	– EPSA - Prague
	– NYU Comparative Politics Workshop – New York City
2021	– ECPR General Conference - Virtual Event
	– ECPR Standing Group on Parliaments Conference - Virtual Event
	– Populism in power and its socioeconomic policies in Europe, Scuola Normale Superiore – Virtual Event
2020	– CIVICA PhD Conference: *Challenges to Democracy in the EU* – Virtual Event

Professional Memberships and Service

Reviewer	Party Politics, Politics of the Low Countries
Service to Discipline	– Observer in PhD Programme Selection Procedure (cohorts 2020, 2021, 2023), European University Institute,
	– Panel Organizer and Chair, ECPR Standing Group on Parliaments Conference, 2021
	– Chair, EPSA Glasgow, 2023

Software Skills

Advanced	R, LaTeX
Basic	STATA, Python, Qualtrics

Languages

German	Native
English	Fluent, C1
Italian	Basic, A2

December 2023