

Rebecca C. Kittel

Curriculum Vitae

Free University Berlin
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14195 Berlin, Germany
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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 Insti-
tute, 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 Pop-
ulists' 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 Compe-
tition 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. 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 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 (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

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