DR. DARIA KRAVETS-MEINKE

06.01.1992 in Gomel

German/Ukrainian

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1 Child (25.02.2022)

RESEARCH FOCUS

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Political Communication
Artificial Intelligence in Journalism
Computational Social Science

EDUCATION

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Dec 2019 – May 2025	**PhD in Political Communication** **University of Passau, Germany** Cumulative Dissertation: *Search Engines and Foreign Influence: How Google and Yandex Mediate Russia's Propaganda Abroad* (magna cum laude) Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Florian Toepfl, Prof. Dr. Mario Haim (LMU) (including 6 months parental leave)
2016 – 2019	**MA Media and Political Communication, Grade: 1,3** Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
2017 – 2018	**MA Global Media Communication (Exchange semester)** University of Melbourne, Australia
2013 – 2016	**BA Media and Communication Studies, Grade: 1,7** **Minor in Computer Science** Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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Jun 2024 – current	**Postdoctoral Researcher** **Bavarian Research Institute for Digital Transformation (bidt), Munich, Germany** Research Focus "Humans and Generative Artificial Intelligence: Trust in Co-Creation" Project "Artificial intelligence as a trustworthy journalist? Effects of AI-generated messages on (skeptical) citizens" (KI-JOURNALISMUS)" (PI: Prof. Dr. Hannah Schmid-Petri)

Dec 2019 – May 2024	**Researcher** **ERC Consolidator Grant Research Group** **University of Passau, Germany** "The Consequences of the Internet for Russia's Informational Influence Abroad" (RUSINFORM), PI: Prof. Dr. Florian Toepfl
Jan 2023 – Feb 2023	**Visiting Fellow** **Queensland University of Technology (QUT)**, **Australia** Chair of Prof. Dr. Alex Bruns
Oct 2020 – Sep 2023	**Researcher and Teaching Assistant** **University of Passau, Germany** Chair of Science Communication
Jun 2019 – Nov 2019	**Researcher** **Freie Universität Berlin, Germany** Institute for Media and Communication Studies Emmy-Noether Research Group "Mediating (Semi-) Authoritarianism: The Power of the Internet in the post-Soviet Space" (Project Completion)
Jan 2015 – May 2019	**Student Research Assistant** **Freie Universität Berlin, Germany** Institute for Media and Communication Studies Emmy-Noether Research Group "Mediating (Semi-) Authoritarianism: The Power of the Internet in the post-Soviet Space," PI: Prof. Dr. Florian Toepfl
Apr 2016 – Feb 2019	**Tutor** **Freie Universität Berlin** Institute for Media and Communication Studies
Sep 2016 – Mar 2018	**Student Research Assistant** **Goefak Media Research Institute, Berlin, Germany** Content analysis of the German television program, Prof. Dr. Trebbe

TEACHING
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WS 24/25	**"Discourse dynamics in the digital society 2 - Artificial intelligence as a trustworthy journalist? Effects of AI-generated messages on (skeptical) citizens"** with Hannah Schmid-Petri, University of Passau
WS 23/24	**"Programming in Python for Communication Science,"** University of Passau
WS 21/22, WS 22/23	**"Programming in R for Communication Science,"** University of Passau Course Syllabus: https://github.com/polcomm-passau/computational-methods-kurs

SoSe 21, SoSe 23	**"Methods 2: Survey Methodology and Experiment,"** University of Passau
WS 20/21	**"Research Seminar: Search Engines and Search Engine Bias,"** University of Passau
SoSe 19/20	**"Advanced Project: Web Scraping Tools for Social Sciences"** Technische Universität Berlin, Germany
2016 – 2019	**"Introduction to Communication Science"** Tutor, 2 bi-weekly classes per semester for 5 semesters, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

Supervision Experience:

BA: „Google, Bing & Co: Eine quantitative Befragung zur Medienkompetenz bei Suchmaschinen von Digital Natives in Deutschland," Lia Mayer (WS23/24)

BA: "Hass, Sexismus, Videospiele? – Eine Inhaltsanalyse von Kommentaren zu Gaming InfluencerInnen," Hanna Vogel (SoSe 22)

EXTERNAL FUNDING
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Jan 2025	bidt Consortium Project "Authoritarian AI: How Large Language Models (LLMs) Align With Russia's Propaganda" (933,900€). **Co-developed idea and co-wrote proposal.** Withdrew before the second-round submission due to conflict of interest.
2022-2024	Frauenbüro at the University of Passau, Childcare allowance for business trips (900€)
2022-2023	DAAD Project-Related Personal Exchange with Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Australia. Supervisors: Florian Toepfl & Axel Bruns (25,000€)
Jun 2017	DAAD PROMOS Scholarship for Exchange Semester (3,500€)
2008 - 2009	Scholarship from the US Department of State, exchange year in Iowa, USA, program "FLEX" (Future Leaders Exchange Program)

FURTHER EDUCATION & ACHIEVEMENTS
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Jan 2025	Course "Mediation, Moderation, and Conditional Process Analysis", Andrew Hayes, Canadian Centre for research Analysis and Methods (36 hours)
May 2023 – May 2024	Mentee of MentUP+ Program at Uni Passau, Mentor: Prof. Dr. Mario Haim, LMU

Sep 2023	GESIS Fall Seminar in Computational Social Science „From Embeddings to Transformers- Advanced Text Analysis with Python", Mannheim, Germany
May 2022	ICA 2022 Hackathon, Paris, France
Jul 2021, 2023	Data Science Summer School, Hertie School Data Science Lab
Sep 2020	Workshop „Topic Modeling in R," GESIS
Oct –Nov 2019	MA-Course „Python Programming for Machine Learning," Technische Universität Berlin, Germany (3 ECTS)
Jul 2019	**Lehre+ Certificate – Basic Module (60 hours)**
May 2019	ICA 2019 Pre-Conference / Workshop „Deep learning for automated image analysis," Washington, D.C., USA
Nov 2018	Workshop "Data analysis and programming with Python", Freie University of Berlin, Germany
Jul 2018	Digital Methods Summer School 2018, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, 6 ECTS
Dec 2016	TOEFL iBT in English (112/120 points)

LANGUAGE SKILLS
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Ukrainian, Russian – native
German, English – fluent
Spanish, Belarusian – basic knowledge

CONFERENCES (max. 10)
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Jun 2025	**Generative AI in Journalism: How Individual Differences Shape Attitudes Toward AI and Influence Credibility Perceptions.** Presentation at the 75th Annual Conference of the International Communication Association (ICA) in Denver, USA (with Hannah Schmid-Petri)
Jun 2025	**Artificial Intelligence as a Trustworthy Journalist? Effects of AI Authorship on News Selection.** Presentation at the 75th Annual Conference of the International Communication Association (ICA) in Denver, USA (with Hannah Schmid-Petri)
Jun 2025	**Language of Law or Language of Imperialism? How the Kremlin Justifies the Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine Across the Seven Language Editions of its Foreign Broadcaster RT.** Presentation at the 75th Annual Conference of the International Communication

Association (ICA) in Denver, USA (with Anea Meinert, Marc Jungblut and Florian Toepfl)

Apr 2025   **Generative LLMs in Content Analysis: A Practical Workflow for Communication Research**. Presentation at the 7th COMPTEXT Annual Conference in Vienna, Austria (with Sonja Niemann and Hannah Schmid-Petri)

Sep 2024   **The Kremlin's Foreign Propaganda Network: Consequences of Russia's Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine**. Presentation at the 10th Conference of the European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA) in Ljubljana, Slovenia (with Florian Toepfl, Arista Beseler, Julia Kling, Serge Poliakoff, and Anna Ryzhova)

Jul 2024   **News *On the Side*: Yandex's Top-5 News As a Tool of Russia's Propaganda Abroad.** Presentation at the 10th International Conference for Computational Social Science (IC2S2) in Philadelphia, USA

Nov 2023   **Yandex's Top-5 News Algorithms as a Resource of Russia's Propaganda.** Presentation as part of the PechaKucha competition at the ZOiS conference "Paradigms in Times of War: Unpacking Research and Policy Challenges" in Berlin (***Award for Best Student Presentation***)

Oct 2023   **Yandex News as a Tool of Russia's Propaganda Abroad: A Case Study of Belarus.** Presentation at the 9th Annual Conference of the International Journal of Press/Politics (IJPP) in Edinburgh, UK

Oct 2023   **Different Platforms, Different Plots? The Kremlin-Controlled Search Engine Yandex as a Resource for Russia's Informational Influence in Belarus During the COVID-19 Pandemic.** Presentation at the Annual conference of the Association of Internet Researchers (AiOR) in Philadelphia, USA (with Anna Ryzhova, Florian Toepfl, and Arista Beseler)

May 2022   **Search Engines as 'Globalizing Machines': International News Flow Through Google During the 2020 Belarusian Election.** Presentation at the 72nd Annual Conference of the International Communication Association (ICA) in Paris, France

OTHER EVENTS
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Jun 2025   **AI for content analysis: A practical guide.** Workshop for bidt employees as part of the "Smart Thursday" event series in Munich.

Mar 2025	**Artificial intelligence in journalism: Effects of AI-generated news on news selection.** Poster presentation at the SZ Digital Summit in Munich (with Hannah Schmid-Petri)
Nov 2024	**Russia's justifications for invading Ukraine: Language of law or imperialism?** Poster presentation at the bidt conference "Democracy under pressure? How AI and disinformation influence social trust" in Munich (with Anea Meinert, Marc Jungblut, and Florian Toepfl)

COMMITMENT TO THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY
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- **Reviewer:** *Information, Communication & Society, International Journal of Press/Politics,* ECREA, ICA, AiOR, IC2S2

- **Representative** of the mid-level faculty (Mittelbau) in the selection committee for the W3 professorship in political science with a focus on political theory, University of Passau

- **Science Slam**: Presentation *"Russia's digital foreign propaganda"* at the Tech Science Slam hosted by CYAN IT GmbH in Passau, subsequently, regular work as a juror

- **Conceptual co-development** of the MA program "Communication in the Digital Society" at the University of Passau (with a focus on methodology as well as programming and data analysis courses) (2020-2021)

- **Applicant Manager** for the MA program "Communication in the Digital Society," University of Passau (2021-2024)

- Participation in the **re-evaluation** process for the MA program "Communication in the Digital Society" at the University of Passau (2023-2024)

PREVIOUS & CURRENT COOPERATION PARTNERS
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- University of Oxford, Reuters Institute, Dr. Richard Fletcher & Dr. Felix Simon (collaboration on a study on AI and credibility in journalism)

- Bavarian Research Institute for Digital Transformation (bidt), Prof. Dr. Ute Schmid & Sonja Niemann (interdisciplinary collaboration with communication and computer scientists on a methods paper on generative AI for content analysis)

- bidt consortium project *"Authoritarian AI,"* Prof. Dr. Florian Toepfl, Prof. Dr. Andreas Jungherr, Prof. Dr. Florian Lemmerich (interdisciplinary collaboration on a study of Russian propaganda in LLMs)

- LMU Munich, Chair of Computational Communication Research, Prof. Dr. Mario Haim (PhD project & mentorship)

- LMU Munich, Dr. Marc Jungblut & Anea Meinert (collaboration on a study of Russia' propaganda strategies)

- Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Australia, Prof. Dr. Axel Bruns (DAAD Person Exchange Program, Visiting Fellowship)

- Carleton University, Canada, Prof. Dr. Paul Goode (editor of forthcoming book chapter on Russian propaganda)

PUBLICATIONS (PEER-REVIEWED)
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Schmid-Petri, H., & **Kravets, D.** (in review). *Artificial intelligence as a trustworthy journalist? Examining the effects of AI authorship cues on message selection* [Manuscript submitted for publication]. *Digital Journalism.*

Kravets, D., Schmid-Petri, H., Niemann, S., & Schmid, U. (in review). *Generative large language models (gLLMs) in content analysis: A practical guide for communication research* [Manuscript submitted for publication]. *Communication Methods and Measures.*

Kravets, D., Meinert, A., Jungblut, M., & Toepfl, F. (in review). *Language of law or language of imperialism? How the Kremlin justifies the full-scale invasion of Ukraine across the seven language editions of its foreign broadcaster RT* [Manuscript submitted for publication]. *Journal of Communication.*

Kravets, D. (2025). Yandex's Top-5 News as a tool of Russia's propaganda abroad: A case study of Belarus. *International Journal of Press/Politics.* Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1177/19401612251349018

Beseler, A., Toepfl, F., **Kravets, D.,** & Kling, J. (in review, 2nd round). *Disrupting or invigorating an anti-democratic counterpublic? How highly-active commenters engage on RT German's Facebook page* [Manuscript submitted for publication]. *New Media & Society.*

Toepfl, F., Poliakoff, S., Beseler, A., Kling, J., **Kravets, D.,** & Ryzhova, A. (in press). The Kremlin's foreign propaganda network: Consequences of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. In P. Goode (Ed.), *Autocracy, influence, war: Russian propaganda today*. University of Michigan Press.

Kravets, D. (2024). Search engines as 'globalizing machines': International news flow through Google during the 2020 Belarusian presidential election. *International Journal*

of Communication, 18(2024), 2577-2597.
https://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/view/20113

Kravets, D., Ryzhova, A., Toepfl, F., & Beseler, A. (2023). Different platforms, different plots?
The Kremlin-controlled search engine Yandex as a resource for Russia's
informational influence in Belarus during the COVID-19 pandemic.
Journalism, 24(12), 2762-2780.
https://doi.org/10.1177/146488492311578

Toepfl, F., Ryzhova, A., **Kravets, D.**, & Beseler, A. (2023). Googling in Russian abroad: How
Kremlin- affiliated websites contribute to the visibility of COVID-19 conspiracy
theories in search results. *International Journal of Communication, 17*(2023),
1126–1146. https://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/view/19423/4042

Toepfl, F., **Kravets, D.**, Ryzhova, A., & Beseler, A. (2022). Who are the plotters behind the
pandemic? Comparing Covid-19 conspiracy theories in Google search results
across five key target countries of Russia's foreign communication.
Information, Communication & Society, *26*(10), 2033–2051.
https://doi.org/10.1080/1369118X.2022.2065213

Kravets, D., & Toepfl, F. (2022). Gauging Reference and Source Bias Over Time: How
Russia's Partially State-Controlled Search Engine Yandex Mediated an
Anti-Regime Protest Event. *Information, Communication & Society*
25(15), 2207-2223*.* https://doi.org/10.1080/1369118X.2021.1933563

OTHER PUBLICATIONS (NOT PEER-REVIEWED)
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Kravets, D. (2024, May 15). *The sad fate of Yandex: From independent tech startup to Kremlin
propaganda tool.* ZOiS Spotlight, 10/2024. Centre for East European and
International Studies (ZOiS). https://www.zois-
berlin.de/en/publications/zois-spotlight/the-sad-fate-of-yandex-from-
independent-tech-startup-to-kremlin-propaganda-tool

Kravets, D., Beseler, A., Toepfl, F., & Ryzhova, A. (2024). The Kremlin-controlled search engine
Yandex as a tool of foreign propaganda. *Russian Analytical Digest,* 313, 11–15.
https://css.ethz.ch/en/publications/rad/rad-all-issues-and-
articles/details.html?id=/n/o/3/1/no_313_russian_foreign_propaganda_in_oc
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