

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Deliberation in online environments
- Misinformation and conspiracy beliefs (esp. climate change context)
- Psychology of sustainable behavior, especially travel and transportation
- Online opinion dynamics, political polarization and extremism

EDUCATION

PhD Governance 2020-2023
Hertie School Berlin

Research focus: Online Environments, Deliberation and Democracy. In affiliation with the Hertie School's Data Science Lab, supervised by Prof. Simon Munzert.

MSc. Social Data Science 2019-2020
University of Oxford

Interdisciplinary and international graduate program, hosted by the Oxford Internet Institute, at the intersection of social and computational science, with a practical focus on data analysis and programming with Python, Internet research and political science

MSc. Psychology 2016-2019
University of Kassel

First major in Social and Environmental Psychology, second major in Clinical Psychology.
Master thesis: Social Drivers of Individual Air Travel

BSc. Psychology 2013-2016
University of Kassel

Bachelor thesis in environmental psychology: Outdoor sport and Environmental behavior.
Presentation of thesis-related poster at the AASP Conference in Toronto, 2018

WORK EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant Fall 2021
Introduction to Data Science, Hertie School

Teaching two groups of MSc students (Data Science for Public Policy), I revisit the topics presented in the lecture on data collection, data storage and programming and demonstrate practical applications in R.

Teaching Assistant Spring 2021
Statistical Modeling & Causal Inference, Hertie School

Teaching two groups of MSc students (Public Policy), I revisited the topics presented in the lecture on statistical modeling and causal inference and demonstrate practical applications of the methods in R.

Research Consultant 2020-2021

Data Science Lab, Hertie School

Providing help and advice on methodological and technical issues that appear in the course of student and PhD research, e.g. questions of research design, quantitative measurement, statistical inference and computational tools.

Research Assistant

2017-2019

Center for Environmental Systems Research (CESR)

Within the DFG funded TOMACE project (Trade Offs between Mitigation and Climate Engineering) we analyzed the public attitude towards solar radiation management. My focus was on psychological test construction, data analysis and visualization using R. The project was embedded in the SESAM group (Socio-environmental Systems Analysis and Modeling).

Teaching Assistant

2014-2016

University of Kassel, Department of Psychology, Quantitative Methods

Teaching various groups of undergraduate students, I deepened the topics presented in the Quantitative Methods I and II lectures and demonstrated the practical implementation of methods in R across three subsequent semesters.

Research Assistant

2014-2016

University of Kassel, Department of Psychology, Psychology of Memory

Within a project on false memories, I conducted experiments with participants in the laboratory.

PUBLICATIONS

Oswald, L., Bright, J. (2021). How do climate change skeptics engage with opposing views? Understanding mechanisms of social identity and cognitive dissonance in an online forum. arXiv preprint arXiv:2102.06516.

Oswald, L., & Ernst, A. (2020). Flying in the Face of Climate Change: Quantitative psychological approach examining the social drivers of individual air travel. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, 29(1), 68-86.

Klaus, G., Ernst, A., & Oswald, L. (2020). Psychological factors influencing laypersons' acceptance of climate engineering, climate change mitigation and business as usual scenarios. *Technology in Society*, 60, 101222.

Klaus, G., Oswald, L., Ernst, A., & Merk, C. (2021). Effects of opinion statements on laypeople's acceptance of a climate engineering technology. Comparing the source credibility of researchers, politicians and a citizens' jury. *Journal of Science Communication*, 20(1), A03.

TALKS

ICP+

2021

International Congress of Applied Psychology

Topic: How do climate change skeptics engage with opposing views? Mechanisms of social identity and cognitive dissonance in an online forum.

PBW	2021
<i>Political Behavior Workshop, Humboldt University Berlin</i>	
Topic: Pinning down deliberative systems with digital trace data.	
MPA	2021
<i>Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association</i>	
Topic: How do climate change skeptics engage with opposing views? Invited talk within the 'internet explorer' symposium.	
DGC	2021
<i>Digital Governance Colloquium, Hertie School Berlin</i>	
Topic: Deliberation in the online public sphere: measurement and selective exposure.	

VOLUNTARY ENGAGEMENT

Seminar Organization	2019-2020
<i>Network Analysis for Sustainable Development</i>	
In collaboration with the German Academic National Foundation (Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes), we hold a 4-day Seminar with 85 participants, international speakers, multiple workshops, talks and hands-on projects on the potentials of network analysis in the context of sustainable development (e.g. mobility networks, ecological networks, climate networks and the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN) in Berlin.	
Elected Student Representative	2018-2019
<i>Graduate Center for Environmental Studies and Teaching (GradZ), University of Kassel</i>	
I represented students' interests in the interdisciplinary center for environmental research at the University of Kassel.	
Seminar Organization	2018-2019
<i>Artificial Intelligence and Society</i>	
Funded by the German Academic National Foundation (Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes), we organized an interdisciplinary discussion seminar on artificial intelligence with a focus on societal, technical, scientific and ethical perspectives, in collaboration with the Ludwig-Maximilian-University, Munich.	
Seminar Organization	2017-2018
<i>Sustainability Scenario Modelling</i>	
We organized this seminar for scholarship holders of the German Academic National Foundation (Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes) with a sustainability focus. We developed climate models and social scenarios, hosted 9 International speakers, in collaboration with IIASA Vienna and the University of Vienna.	
Elected Student Representative	2017-2018
<i>Directorate, Department of Psychology, University of Kassel</i>	
I communicated psychology students' interests to academic faculty and discussed strategic developments of the department.	
Sport Psychology	2017
<i>FC Augsburg (German premier league soccer team)</i>	
Focus on collection and analysis of data for research and diagnostics on motivation and volition, as well as the communication of results to coaches and staff, partly practical work on the field.	

Psychological therapy of chronic pain 2015
German Red Cross Hospital, Kassel (Pain Clinic)
I led psycho educative groups on the psychological dynamics of chronic pain, especially for patients with chronic headaches and stress, and instructed various methods of stress reduction.

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Doctoral Scholarship 2021-2023
German Academic National Foundation (Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes)
Supporting doctoral students from different disciplinary and personal backgrounds that are "united in their particular scientific ability, in their curiosity that extends beyond their own discipline and life world, and in their pronounced sense of social responsibility."

Highly commended thesis 2020
Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford
Honoring MSc thesis (Should we talk to climate skeptics?), annual award.

Carl-Friedrich Graumann Award 2018
German Psychological Society (DGPs), Section Environmental Psychology
Honoring BSc thesis (Outdoor Sport and Environmental behavior) as best newcomer scientist work in the field of environmental psychology, biannual award.

Scholarship 2016-2020
German Academic National Foundation (Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes)
Supporting "the university education of young people who, on account of their exceptional academic or artistic talents and their personalities, can be expected to make an outstanding contribution to society as a whole."

CONTACT

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