

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Deliberation in online environments, disinformation and conspiracy
- Psychology of sustainable behavior, especially travel and transportation
- Climate change communication and climate change skepticism
- 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 truly international graduate program, hosted by the Oxford Internet Institute, at the intersection between social science 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 Dynamics of Air Travel

BSc. Psychology 2013-2016
University of Kassel
Bachelor thesis in environmental psychology: Outdoor sport and Environmental behavior.
Presentation of thesis-related paper at the AASP Conference in Toronto, 2018

WORK EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant 2021-now
Statistical Modeling & Causal Inference, Hertie School
Teaching groups of MSc students (MSc in public policy), I revised the topics presented in the lecture on statistical modeling and causal inference and demonstrated practical applications of the methods to real-life data sets 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 students' 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 and data analysis and visualization using RStudio. The project was embedded in the SESAM group (Socio-environmental Systems Analysis and Modelling).

Teaching Assistant

2014-2016

University of Kassel, department of Psychology

Teaching groups of 30-40 undergraduate students, I deepened the topics presented in the Quantitative Methods I and II lectures.

Research Assistant

2014-2016

University of Kassel, department of Psychology, Psychology of Memory

Within a project on false memories, I tested individuals in the laboratory.

PUBLICATIONS

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.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Seminar Organization

2019-2020

Network Analysis for Sustainable Development

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

Graduate Center for Environmental Studies and Teaching (GradZ), University of Kassel

I represented students' interests in the interdisciplinary center for environmental research at the University of Kassel.

Seminar Organization 2018-2019

Artificial Intelligence and Society

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

Sustainability Scenario Modelling

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 University of Vienna. I also gained some practical experiences of modelling with System Dynamics.

Elected Student Representative 2017-2018

Directorate, Department of Psychology, University of Kassel

I communicated psychology students' interests to professors, and learned a lot about the internal politics of a scientific institution. Currently (since 2018), I am the elected student representative at the Graduate Center of Environmental Research and Teaching.

Sport Psychology 2017

FC Augsburg (German premier league soccer team)

My job was the collection and analysis of data for research and diagnostics on motivation and volition, as well as the communication of results to coaches and staff.

Psychological therapy of chronic pain 2015

German Red Cross Hospital, Kassel (Pain Clinic)

I led psycho educative groups on the dynamics of chronic pain, especially headaches and stress, and I taught relaxation, mindfulness and meditation methods.

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Highly commended thesis 2020

Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford

Honoring MSc thesis (Should we talk to climate skeptics?), yearly 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 (award every two years).

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

Phone +49-171-2737935

Mail

l.oswald@phd.hertie-school.org