

Lukas Hetzer | Doctoral Researcher

University of Cologne – Department of Political Science

✉ lukas.hetzer@wiso.uni-koeln.de • lukashetzer.github.io

🔍 Research & teaching interests

Topics: European politics, political communication, public opinion, crisis governance

Methods: Computational social science, survey experiments, text-as-data, AI-assisted research methods

🏛️ Academic positions & experience

Current

University of Cologne, Department of Political Science

Doctoral Researcher

Cologne (DE)

10/2022–present

Member of the Chair for European and Multilevel Politics, involved in:

- EU Horizon project *Observatory for Political Texts in European Democracies* ([OPTED, WP5](#))
- ERC project *Democracy without Majorities: Political Representation under Minority Rule* ([MINORITYRULE](#))
- Teaching (BA & MA level), Bachelor's thesis supervision, and academic self-administration

Previous

Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, Geschwister-Scholl-Institute

Visiting Scholar

Munich (DE)

10/2024–11/2024

Hosted by the Chair of Political Systems and European Integration (Prof. Dr. Klaus Goetz).

GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences

Specialist for Data Management and Analysis

Mannheim (DE)

10/2021–09/2022

Member of the German Longitudinal Election Team, involved in:

- VW Foundation project *Threat to Democracy? Conspiracy Theories and their Impact on Voting Behavior* ([DemThreat](#))
- Outreach & Knowledge Transfer for the German Longitudinal Election Study

Ghent University, Department of Public Governance and Management

Research Intern

Ghent (BE) / remote

11/2020–05/2021

Assistant to Prof. Dr. Francesco Nicoli (Ghent University), Prof. Dr. Brian Burgoon (University of Amsterdam), Prof. Dr. Marius Busemeyer (University of Konstanz) & Prof. Dr. Stefano Sacchi (Polytechnic University of Turin)

University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research

Research Assistant

Amsterdam (NL)

10/2019–04/2021

Assistant to Prof. Dr. Theresa Kuhn, Challenges to Democratic Representation Research Group

Humboldt University Berlin, Department of Social Sciences

Research Assistant

Berlin (DE)

11/2017–08/2019

Assistant to Prof. Dr. Heike Klüver, Chair of Comparative Political Behavior

🎓 Education

University of Cologne, Cologne Graduate School

Doctoral Study Program in Social Sciences

Cologne (DE)

10/2022–present

Thesis title: *Politics under Pressure: Crisis Governance, Communication, and Public Responses*

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Sven-Oliver Proksch & Prof. Dr. Alexia Katsanidou

University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research

Master of Science Social Sciences Research

Amsterdam (NL)

09/2019–08/2021

GPA: 8.61 (excellent, highest distinction)

Thesis: *Regional Inequality and European Fiscal Solidarity in Times of Crisis: How Regional Wealth and Covid-19 Impact Shape Public Support for EU Risk Sharing*

Humboldt University Berlin, Department of Social Sciences
Bachelor of Science Social Sciences

Berlin (DE)
10/2016–07/2019

GPA: 1.4 (excellent)

Thesis: *Position Taking in EU Parliament Speeches after the 2004 Enlargement: Adaptive Behavior of Newcomers measured through Legislative Speech*

Maastricht University, Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience
Bachelor of Science Psychology

Maastricht (NL)
09/2015–08/2016

Awards & Grants

Faculty of Management, Economics, and Social Sciences, University of Cologne

Junior Teaching Award (2,500€)

01/2026

Awarded by the Faculty Board based on outstanding student evaluations for the course *European Politics in Times of Crisis*

Reinhard Selten Institute (Universities of Bonn and Cologne)

Selten Grant (2,000€)

10/2024

Project: *Emergency Rhetoric in the European Union*

Teaching

University of Cologne

Digitalization & AI – Shaping the Future of European Politics and the Way We Study It (B.A.)

Winter 2025/26

Course on EU digital governance and regulation (AI Act, DSA), AI-assisted quantitative & qualitative research methods, and foresight methods

University of Cologne

Advanced Survey Methods and Challenges to Democracy (M.Sc.)

Summer 2025

Co-taught with Jasmin Rath. Survey methods (sampling, measurement, experiments, AI-assisted survey interviewing, preregistration, ethics, analysis), and Qualtrics

University of Cologne

Tutorial Coordination: Foundations of European Politics (B.A.)

Summer 2025

Recruiting, Supervision and instruction of a team of tutors; Organizing the content and structure of the tutorials (14 Groups) as part of the Lecture "Foundations of European Politics"
(Prof. Dr. Sven-Oliver Proksch)

University of Cologne

European Politics in Times of Crisis (B.A.)

Summer & Winter 2024/25

Courses on crisis governance and rhetoric in the EU; include applied introductions to R

Thesis supervision

University of Cologne

Supervision of B.A. theses (7 theses in total)

2024–2026

Topics include: European political economy, populism and radical right politics, political communication, gender and representation, migration and integration, and the political effects of crises.

Publications

Journal articles (peer reviewed)

- [1] Hetzer, Lukas; Burgoon, Brian (2024). *Regional crises and European fiscal preferences: how regional Covid-19, economic downturn, and migration shape support for EU risk sharing*. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 31(10), 3093–3127.

Working papers

- [1] Hetzer, Lukas (2026). Exploiting Emergencies? Crisis Rhetoric, Time Pressure, and Authority Expansion in EU Policy-Making.
- [2] Hetzer, Lukas; Lenz, Alexa (2026). The Efficiency–Deliberation Trade–Off of Crisis Politics: Evidence from Parliamentary Legislative Activity in Germany and Austria.
- [3] Anonymized for peer review

[4] Anonymized for peer review

R&R | Representation

[5] Anonymized for peer review

Under Review | Research and Politics

[6] Anonymized for peer review

R&R | British Journal of Political Science

[7] Schwalbach, Jan; Hetzer, Lukas; Rauh, Christian; Proksch, Sven-Oliver; Sebők, Miklós (2026). The ParILawSpeech dataset.

[8] Buzzelli, Gregorio; Nicoli, Francesco; Sacchi, Stefano; Busemeyer, Marius; Burgoon, Brian; Hetzer, Lukas (2026). A shock is shock is a shock? Globalization, automation and public support for welfare state interventions in linked survey experiments.

[9] Buzzelli, Gregorio; Hetzer, Lukas; Nicoli, Francesco; Sacchi, Stefano; Burgoon, Brian; (2026). The Role of Identity Politics in Shaping Transnational Social Policy Responses to Transforming Labour Markets. Evidence from Linked Survey Experiments.

Book chapters

[1] Blumenberg, Manuela; Bieber, Ina; Hetzer, Lukas; Pollak, Reinhard; Stroppe, Anne-Kathrin (2024). *Pandemie und Wahlverhalten*. In *Wahlen und Wähler: Analysen zur Bundestagswahl 2021*. Springer VS, 179–204.

Edited volumes & contributions

[1] Riebe, Frauke; Hetzer, Lukas; Wurthmann, Constantin (2022). *Die Bundestagswahl 2021: Perspektiven und Daten aus der deutschen Wahlstudie*. *easy_social_sciences* 67.

[2] Rossmann, Joss; Wurthmann, Constantin; Riebe, Frauke; Hetzer, Lukas; Blumenberg, Manuela (2022). *Einführung: Die Bundestagswahl 2021: Eine außergewöhnliche Wahl in ungewöhnlichen Zeiten*. In *easy_social_sciences* 67, pp. 4–8.

[3] Dippel, Alina S.; Hetzer, Lukas; Burger, Axel (2022). *Links oder rechts? Die ideologische Selbstverortung von Wähler:innen und ihre Wahrnehmung von Parteien in Deutschland*. In *easy_social_sciences* 67, pp. 19–29.

Reports

[1] Balduini, Sveva; Burgoon, Brian; Busemeyer, Marius; Gualtieri, Valentina; Hetzer, Lukas; Luppi, Matteo; Nicoli, Francesco; Sacchi, Stefano (2022). Secular Economic Challenges and Public Support for Policy Interventions: Technological change and globalization in a randomized survey experiment in eight countries. INAPP.

Datasets

[1] ParlLawSpeech (2025). Jan Schwalbach; Lukas Hetzer; Sven-Oliver Proksch; Christian Rauh; Miklós Sebők.

Reviewer

Reviewer for *Journal of European Public Policy* (2x), *European Union Politics* (2x), *Young Journal of European Affairs* (1x) ([Web of Science](#))

Conference participations & presentations

Invited talks

Amsterdam Center for European Studies (Prof. Kuhn), University of Amsterdam	2025
Chair of Empirical Theories of Politics (Prof. Knill), LMU Munich	2025
Text-as-Data Reading Group (TaDa) Speaker Series, online	2025
Chair of Chair of Political Systems and European Integration (Prof. Goetz), LMU Munich	2024

Conferences

CES Council for European Studies Conference, Dublin (upcoming)	2026
ECPR Standing Group on Parliaments (SGoP), Barcelona	2025
EPSA European Political Science Association Conference, Madrid	2025

CompText Interdisciplinary Conference on the Computational Text Analysis, Vienna	2025
DVPW Deutsche Vereinigung für Politikwissenschaft Conference, Göttingen	2024
EPSA European Political Science Association Conference, Cologne	2024
ECPR Standing Group on the European Union (SGEU), Lisbon	2024
CompText Interdisciplinary Conference on the Computational Text Analysis, Amsterdam	2024
EPSA European Political Science Association Conference, Glasgow	2023
CompText Interdisciplinary Conference on the Computational Text Analysis, Glasgow	2023
ECPR General Conference, Innsbruck	2022

Workshops & colloquia

JEPP Special Issue Workshop, LMU Munich (upcoming)	2026
Cologne–Zurich–Innsbruck Computational Political Science Workshop, Tratzberg (upcoming)	2026
JEPP Special Issue Workshop, University of Konstanz	2026
Political Science Speaker Series, University of Cologne	2025
Gesis Workshop on validation of Large Datasets, online	2025
Computational Social Science Doctoral Workshop, Sciences Po Paris	2024
Cologne–Zurich European Politics Workshop, Filzbach	2024
Cologne Center for Comparative Politics Colloquium, University of Cologne	2023
OPTED Workshop, University of Vienna	2023
JEPP Special Issue Workshop, University of Amsterdam	2023
Political Representation and Behavior Workshop, University of Cologne	2023
EUI–YouGov “Solidarity in Europe” Data Dissemination Workshop, EUI Florence	2023
OPTED Workshop, VU Amsterdam	2022

Volunteer work

Active member of CorrelAid e.V.	2025–present
Election worker for the German federal election	2025
Voluntary Year, Alzenau city administration; Organization of cultural events & cookbook project with refugees	2014–2015

Additional skills

Languages

German (native) · English (native) · Dutch (intermediate) · Italian (beginner)

Data analysis

R (expert) · Python (advanced) · Stata (expert) · SPSS (basic)

Tools

\LaTeX / Overleaf · Qualtrics (advanced logic; JavaScript/HTML) · GitHub · Microsoft Office