Nicole Schwitter, PhD

Curriculum Vitae | Version date: 2025-06-29

🌐 nschwitter.github.io

Personal Information

ORCID   0000-0002-3837-680X

Google Scholar ID   uVA42V4AAAAJ

Experience / Research Positions

Main position since 10/2023
Postdoctoral Researcher with Prof. Nan Zhang, *Mannheim Centre for European Social Research, University of Mannheim*
○ Project: Making Diversity Work (funded by the German Science Foundation)

Since 05/2025
External Research Collaborator with Dr. Iolanda Pensa, *Scuola universitaria professionale della Svizzera italiana*
○ Project: Visual Analytics for Sustainability and Climate Change. The case of Wikipedia (funded by the Swiss National Foundation)

Since 09/2023
Honorary Research Fellow, *University of Warwick*

07/2023 – 09/2023
Research Assistant with Dr. Didier Ruedin, *University of Neuchâtel*
Grant application coordination

01/2023 – 06/2023
Digital Humanities Fellow, *German National Library*
○ Project: Age, Period and Cohort Effects in Writing Literary Works

03/2023 – 06/2023
Research Assistant with Dr. Stella Chatzitheochari, *University of Warwick*
○ Project: Disability and Discrimination in Hiring Practices: An Intersectional Approach (funded by the Warwick Research Development Fund)

07/2017 – 09/2021
Research Assistant with Prof. Ulf Liebe, *University of Bern (until 12/2017)/University of Warwick*
○ Project: Social Status and Prosociality: A Cross-Cultural Study in Four Selected Countries (funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation and German Research Foundation)
○ Project: Uncovering Evidence of Structural Poverty Reduction by Re-Using Existing Data at Oxfam GB (funded by the Warwick ESRC Impact Acceleration Account, International Development NGO Data Fund)

11/2015 – 09/2017
Student Research Assistant with Prof. Thomas Voss, *University of Leipzig*, Institute of Sociology

06/2014 – 09/2014
Internship, *Federal Statistical Office of Germany*, Wiesbaden, Department "National Income and Expenditure, Prices"
○ Project: Feasibility study on automated online price collection

Research Visits

05/2025
Visiting Fellow, *Swedish Excellence Centre for Computational Social Science*, University of Linköping

Education

2023
PhD in Sociology, *University of Warwick*
Thesis Title: The Role of Offline Ties in Online Communities: The Case of Wikipedia. Supervisors: Prof. Ulf Liebe, Dr. Andreas Murr. Examiners: Dr. Wojtek Przepiorka, Dr. Richard Lampard.

2017
M.A. in Sociology, *University of Leipzig*

| 2015 | **B.A. in Social Sciences (major) and Computer Science (minor)**, *University of Bern* |

Methods Training

2022	**Physalia Courses**
	Data visualization in R with ggplot2
2021	**Summer Institute in Computational Social Science**, *University of Oxford*
2019 – 2021	**ICPSR Summer Program**, *University of Michigan*
	Four-week courses: Network Analysis II: Advanced Topics, Categorical Data Analysis, Data Science and Text Analysis, Multilevel Models II: Advanced Topics
2018 – 2021	**Q-Step Masterclasses**, *University of Warwick*
	One-day method workshops: Panel Data Analyses, Quantitative Text Analysis, Automated Web Data Collection, Agent-Based Modeling, Spatial Statistics, Reproducible Analyses in R, Deep Learning, Social Network Analysis, Introduction to Longitudinal Analysis

Funding and Grants

2025	**Mobility Grant**, Participation grant to take part in the ISA Forum of Sociology, University of Mannheim, "Women go abroad" scheme
2024	**Conference Grant**, Grant to organise a two-day conference titled "Novel Data Sources, New Methods and Computational Approaches for Understanding Discrimination and Bias"with Johanna Gereke, Johanna Hölzl and Daria Szafran, University of Mannheim, MZES
2024	**Mobility Grant**, Participation grant to take part in the International Conference on Computational Social Science, University of Mannheim, "Women go abroad" scheme
01/2023 – 06/2023	**Digital Humanities Fellowship**, Deutsche Nationalbibliothek
10/2021 – 09/2022	**Project Grant**, Wikimedia Foundation
2019	**North America Bursary**, International Office of the University of Warwick

Declined Offers

| 5/2025 | **LSE Fellow in Advanced Quantitative Methods**, London School of Economics and Political Science |
| | Offer declined. |

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Forthcoming	Schwitter, N. and Liebe, U. (accepted, forthcoming). Sometimes, A Descriptive Figure is Worth More than a Thousand Model Coefficients: The Importance of Data Description in Social Research. *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*.
2025	Schwitter, N., Chatzitheochari, S. and Liebe, U. (2025). Disability discrimination in hiring: A systematic review. *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*, 98: 101069. DOI: `10.1016/j.rssm.2025.101069`.
	Schwitter, N. (2025). Using large language models for preprocessing and information extraction from unstructured text: A proof-of-concept application in the social sciences. *Methodological Innovations*, 18(1): 61-65. DOI: `10.1177/20597991251313876`.
2024	Schwitter, N. (2024). How offline meetings affect online activities: the case of Wikipedia. *EPJ Data Science*, 13(67). DOI: `10.1140/epjds/s13688-024-00506-w`.
	Schwitter, N. (2024). Offline Connections, Online Votes: The role of offline ties in an online public election. *New Media & Society*. DOI: `10.1177/14614448241274456`.

Schwitter, N. and Liebe, U. (2024, published online 2023). Using Natural Experiments to Uncover Effects of Anti-refugee Riots on Attitudes of Refugees. *Sociology*, 58(1): 253-262. DOI: `10.1177/00380385231206072`.

2023   Schwitter, N. (2023). Bridging the offline and online: 20 years of offline meeting data of the German-language Wikipedia. *Journal of Computational Social Science*, 6:1103-1124. DOI: `10.1007/s42001-023-00225-8`.

Schwitter, N. and Liebe, U. (2023). Not Cologne but the data collection (might have) changed everything: a cautionary tale on ignoring changes in data recording in sociological research. *European Sociological Review*, 39(6):1005-1010. DOI: `10.1093/esr/jcac057`.

2022   Schwitter, N., Pretari, A., Marwa, W., Lombardini, S. and Liebe, U. (2022). Big data and development sociology: An overview and application on governance and accountability through digitalization in Tanzania. *Frontiers in Sociology*. DOI: `10.3389/fsoc.2022.909458`.

Liebe, U., Schwitter, N. and Tutić, A. (2022). Individuals of high socioeconomic status are altruistic in sharing money but egoistic in sharing time. *Scientific Reports*, 12: 1083. DOI: `10.1038/s41598-022-14800-y`.

Schwitter, N. and Liebe, U. (2022). Does living in districts with higher levels of ethnic violence affect refugees' attitudes towards the host country? Empirical evidence from Germany. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 45(15): 2793-2821.. DOI: `10.1080/01419870.2022.2052141`.

Schwitter, N. (2022, published online 2020). Social capital in retirement villages: A literature review. *Ageing and Society*, 42(7): 1560-1588. DOI: `10.1017/S0144686X20001610`.

2021   Liebe, U. and Schwitter, N. (2021). Explaining Ethnic Violence: On the Relevance of Geographic, Social, Economic, and Political Factors in Hate Crimes on Refugees. *European Sociological Review*, 37(3): 429-448. DOI: `10.1093/esr/jcaa055`.

2019   Liebe, U., Schwitter, N. and Tutić, A. (2019). Objektiver Status, subjektiver Status und Prosozialität bei Schweizer Berufsschülerinnen und Berufsschülern. *Schweizerische Zeitschrift für Soziologie*, 45(1): 57-81. DOI: `10.2478/sjs-2019-0004`.

Other Publications

Forthcoming   Schwitter, N. and Yalcin, O. F. Web data collection. In Liebe, U. (Ed.) *Handbook of Quantitative Methods in Sociology*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar. Preprint available on *SSNR*, DOI: `10.2139/ssrn.5009050`.

2022   Schwitter, N. (2023).*The role of offline ties in online communities: the case of Wikipedia.* PhD thesis. `http://wrap.warwick.ac.uk/175384/`

2020   Schwitter, N. and Liebe, U. (2020).*Going Digital: Web data collection using Twitter as an example.* Oxford: Oxfam GB. DOI: `10.21201/2020.5686`.
○ Shared in podcast: Coronavirus and Web Data Analysis. *Oxfam Real Geek Series*.

2019   Schwitter, N. and Liebe, U. (2019). Twitter Data Analysis. In A. Pretari, *Active Citizenship in Tanzania: Impact Evaluation of the 'Governance and Accountability through Digitalization' project. Impact Evaluation Report 2017-2019*: Chapters 3.4 and 4.3. Oxford: Oxfam GB. DOI: `10.21201/2019.4764`.

Working Papers

Ratkovic, M., Gschwend, T., Wendering, L., Bauer, K., Kurella, A.-S., Rittmann, O., Sauter, M. and Schwitter, N. Harnessing GPT for Enhanced Academic Writing: Evidence from a Field Experiment with Early-Career Researchers in the Social Sciences. Preprint available on *SSNR*: URL: `https://ssrn.com/abstract=5313034`.
○ Featured in *Tagesspiegel* (2025).

Schwitter, N. Using Artificial Intelligence to Generate Visual Vignettes in Factorial Survey Experiments. Preprint available on *SocArXiv*: DOI: `10.31235/osf.io/csnwy_v4`.

Schwitter, N. From Meetups to Adminship: The Offline Path to Leadership on Wikipedia. Preprint available on *SocArXiv*: DOI: `10.31235/osf.io/xehm3_v2`.

Software

`ISCO08ConveRsions` R-package for the conversion of ISCO codes to prestige scores. R package version 0.2. Latest Version on CRAN.

Conferences

2025 **ECSR: Demography and Social Inequality**, *Responding to Hate: How Group Composition and Group Size Shape Norm Enforcement in Virtual Spaces*, Cologne, DE
Accepted. Taking place in September 2025.

Annual Conference on Experimental Sociology (ACES), *Assessing Ambiguous Crime Scenarios: A Visual Vignette Experiment*, Leipzig, DE
Accepted. Taking place in August 2025.

International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2), *Group Dynamics and Hate Speech Enforcement on Reddit*, University of Linköping, SE
Accepted. Taking place in July 2025.

ISA Forum of Sociology: Knowing Justice in the Anthropocene, *Assessing Ambiguous Crime Scenarios*, Rabat, MA
Accepted. Taking place in July 2025.

WikiWorkshop, *From meetups to adminship: The offline path to leadership on the German-language Wikipedia*, Online

2024 **Analytical Sociology: Theory and Empirical Applications**, *The Impact of Migration Background Salience on National Belonging: Evidence from a Field Experiment During the European Football Championship*, San Servolo, Venice, IT
With Nan Zhang.

Computational Sociology: Methodologische Herausforderungen für Forschung und Lehre, *Knowing your research data in the age of ubiquitous data: Are we even measuring what we think we are measuring?*, University of Bremen, DE

Workshop on Experimental Sociology, *Assessing Ambiguous Crime Scenarios: A Vignette Experiment using AI-Generated Images*, Online

International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2), *Voting on Wikipedia: Do offline ties matter?*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, US

WikiWorkshop, *The Role of Face-To-Face Ties in Voting Behaviour in Requests for Adminship*, Online

2023 **WikiWorkshop**, *Data Brief: Twenty years of offline meeting data of the German-language Wikipedia*, Online

2022 **Web Conference: WikiWorkshop**, *Offline Meetups of German Wikipedians: Boosting or braking activity?*, Lyon, FR

Frühjahrstagung der DGS-Sektion Soziologische Netzwerkforschung, *Social norm enforcement on Wikipedia: The role of offline and online networks*, University of Wuppertal, DE

2021 **Joint Sunbelt and NetSci Conference**, *If I know you offline, I will vote for you online?*, Washington D.C., US

Frühjahrstagung der DGS-Sektion Soziologische Netzwerkforschung, *If I know you offline, I will vote for you online?*, University of Wuppertal, DE

Sociology Doctoral Conference, *Wikipedians' offline meetups and online voting behaviour*, University of Warwick, UK

Invited Talks

2025 **Interdisciplinary Workshop on Experimental Social Science on the Causes and Consequences of Appearance-based Discrimination**, *Assessing Criminality, Fast and Slow: A Visual Vignette Experiment on Racial/Ethnic Biases*, Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften, DE

International Roundtable on Computational Social Science, *Using AI-Generated Images in Vignette Experiments: An Application with Crime Scenarios*, Institute of Analytical Sociology, University of Linköping, SE

Social Science Data Lab, *Digital Data, Contextual Complexities, and Lessons for Social Scientists*, University of Mannheim, DE

2024 **Wikimedia Research Showcase**, *Addressing Gender Gaps and the Role of Offline Meetings*, Wikimedia Foundation, Online

2023 **German National Library Lunch Talk**, *Age, Period and Cohort Effects in Writing Literary Works*, German National Library, Frankfurt, DE

DCW Conversation Hour, *Offline Meetings in Wikipedia*, Wikipedia, Online

Digitaler Themenstammtisch, *Die Rolle von Offline-Beziehungen von Wikipedianern*, Wikipedia, Online

2022 **Forschungskolloquium Methoden und Sozialstruktur**, *Using Wikipedia for Social Science Research*, University of Mainz, DE

Warwick R-User-Group, *Let R browse the web for you: An introduction to web-scraping with RSelenium*, University of Warwick, UK

Digitaler Themenstammtisch, *Die Rolle von Offline-Beziehungen von Wikipedianern*, Wikipedia, Online

2021 **Mind Odyssey Café**, *Explaining Ethnic Violence*, London, UK

2019 **Q-Step Methods Spring Camp**, *Social media for improved governance: an impact evaluation?*, University of Warwick, UK
With Alexia Pretari

Workshop "Where research meets practice: collaborating for maximum impact in international development", *Online talk and offline walk? A social media intervention study in Tanzania*, Institute for Fiscal Studies, London, UK
With Ulf Liebe

Teaching Activities

GESIS — Spring Camp: Field Experiments (with Johanna Gereke, 2025)

University of Mannheim — Quantitative Methods in Political Sociology: Approaches to Causal Inference (as teaching assistant, 2024); Applied Causal Inference (as teaching assistant, 2024)

University of Warwick	Intermediate Social Analytics: Survey Analysis and Reporting (as teaching assistant, 2018 – 2021); Intermediate Social Analytics: Survey Design and Data Collection (as teaching assistant, 2018 – 2021); Introduction to Qualtrics (2020); Q-Step Masterclass in Automated Web Data Collection (2022 – 2024)
University of Mainz	Computer-Assisted Data Analysis (2023 – 2024); Introduction to Quantitative Empirical Social Research (2022, 2024)
University of Bern	CAS module on Digitalisation for Sustainable Development (as guest lecturer, 2021 – 2024)
University of Michigan	ICPSR Summer Program: Network Analysis II: Advanced Topics (as teaching assistant, 2020, 2021)

Service

Institutional Responsibilities

2025	**Conference Co-Organiser**, MZES, University of Mannheim Co-organised and coordinated a small hybrid academic conference titled "Novel Data Sources, New Methods and Computational Approaches for Understanding Discrimination and Bias", overseeing all aspects from planning to execution, including speaker selection, scheduling, and logistics. With Johanna Gereke, Johanna Hölzl, and Daria Szafran.
2024	**Organising Committee Member of Datafest Germany**, University of Mannheim Part of the organising committee and on-site consultant crew of the Datafest Germany, a weekend-long hackathon for rising data scientists across Germany (Datafest is initiated by the American Statistical Association). 70 students worked in teams of 3-5 students on independent data projects.
2018 – 2020	**Co-Supervisior of Nuffield Research Placement Students**, Q-Step Centre, University of Warwick Provided guidance and training to students in sixth form to conduct 4-week research projects (which qualified for CREST gold awards) within the field of quantitative social science research.

Referee Activity

Editorial Board Member	Methodological Innovations (since 2025)
Peer Reviewing	Ageing and Society, Big Data and Society, Comparative Migration Studies, European Sociological Review, Ethnic and Racial Studies, Humanities & Social Sciences Communications, Journal of Computational Social Science, Journal of Population Ageing, Journal of Quantitative Description: Digital Media, Methodological Innovations, Scientific Reports, Warwick Sociology Journal
Program Committee Member	WikiWorkshop (2024, 2025), IC2S2 (2025), ACL WikiNLP (2025)
Session Chair	WikiWorkshop (2024)
Technical Committee Member	Wikimedia Research Fund (2023, 2024)

Skills

Languages	German (native), English (fluent), French (conversational), Italian (beginner)
Programming	Python, Data bases (SQL), Java, JavaScript, Pascal, VBA
Statistics	R, Stata, pandas, SPSS
Protocols/Formats	HTML/CSS, XML/XPath, JSON, MARC21