

CV - Phil Swatton

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Phil Swatton
Alan Turing Institute
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London
NW1 2DB

Research Interests

Political Science, Political Methodology, Statistics, Data Science, Computational Social Science, Survey Analysis, Measurement, Ideal Point Estimation, Public Opinion, Ideology, Elections, Political Parties, Comparative Politics, Disinformation, Artificial Intelligence

Appointments

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| Alan Turing Institute <i>Data Scientist</i> in the Applied Research Centre for Defence and Security | <i>2022 - Pres</i> |
| University of Essex <i>Research Assistant</i> in the Department of Government assisting Roi Zur | <i>2021 - 2022</i> |
| University of Essex <i>Research Assistant</i> in the Department of Government assisting Royce Carroll | <i>2021</i> |
| University of Essex <i>Research Assistant</i> in the Department of Government assisting Filip Kostelka | <i>2020 - 2021</i> |

Education

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| PhD Government <i>University of Essex</i> Thesis titled <i>Three Essays on the Measurement of Political Ideology</i> . Supervisor: Rob Johns Board Members: Paul Whiteley, Dominik Duell, Ryan Bakker, Roi Zur Viva Committee: Ben Lauderdale, Seonghui Lee, Linsey McGoey | <i>2019 - 2023</i> |
| MSc Political Science (Distinction) <i>University of Essex</i> | <i>2018 - 2019</i> |
| BA International Relations and Politics (1st Class Hons) <i>Keele University</i> | <i>2015 - 2018</i> |

Publications

Hickey, A, Swatton, P., Knight, J. and Bishop, J. (2025) Event Extraction with Large Language Models. Forthcoming *Technical Report* published by *Alan Turing Institute*

Swatton, P., Hickey, A., Knight, J. and Bishop, J. (2025) Closed-Domain Event Extraction Literature Review. Literature Review published by *Alan Turing Institute*

Dymond, J., Swatton, P., Roberts, J. and Bishop, J. (2024) Selective Forgetting in LLMs. *Technical Report* published by *Alan Turing Institute*

Stockwell, S., Hughes, M., Swatton, P., Zhang, A., Hall KC, J., and Kieran (2024) AI-Enabled Influence Operations: Safeguarding Future Elections. *CETaS Research Report*

Dable-Heath, E., Swatton, P., Roberts, J., and Bishop, J (2024) Low-Cost Model Selection for Transformers (LoCoMoSeT). *Technical Report* published by *Alan Turing Institute*

Stockwell, S., Hughes, M., Swatton, P. and Bishop, K. (2024) AI-Enabled Influence Operations: The Threat to the UK General Election. *CETaS Briefing Papers*

Swatton, P. (2024) Agree to Agree: Correcting Acquiescence Bias in the Case of Fully Unbalanced Scales with Application to UK Measurements of Political Beliefs. *Quality and Quantity*

Swatton, P., Knight, J., and Bishop, J (2023) Model Similarity Phase 2: Dataset Similarity. *Technical Report* published by *Alan Turing Institute*

Swatton, P. (2023) Social Democratic Party Positions on the EU: The Case of Brexit. *Party Politics*

Preprints

Mercer, S. and Martin, D.P (2025) Applying Psychometrics to Large Language Model Simulated Populations: Recreating the HEXACO Personality Inventory Experiment with Generative Agents

Swatton, P. (2025) Predictive Modeling Shows Demographics are Poor Predictors of Vote Choice at the Individual Level

Working Papers

Swatton, P. Age Isn't Just a Number: A Comparative Age-Period-Cohort Analysis of Political Beliefs in Europe. *Revise and Resubmit at Electoral Studies*

Swatton, P. and Wagner, S. The Effect of Vocational Education on Political Behaviour in the Case of Germany

Zur, R., Swatton, P. and Kuraishi, A. How Do Parties Die? Political Parties Change and Mortality in Western Democracies

Public Engagement

Mercer, S. Martin, D. and Swatton, P. (2025) Patterns, Not People: Personality Structures in LLM-powered Persona Agents. *CETaS Expert Analysis*.

Swatton, P. (2025) Public Opinion and the Survey Response. *Renewal: A Journal of Social Democracy*.

Swatton, P. and Leblanc, M. (2024) What are deepfakes and how can we detect them?: The science behind the tech that's transforming the online world. *Alan Turing Institute Blog*

Website Blog. A blog I maintain on my own website containing shorter pieces, sometimes on my reading, sometimes on political theory, sometimes on political methodology.

Dysfunctional Programming. A substack I occasionally write pieces in, drawing on my expertise in political science, political methodology, and data science.

Teaching

Instructor

Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis

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| Introduction to R | 2023 |
| Introduction to R | 2022 |
| Introduction to R | 2021 |

Teaching Assistant

Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis

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| Advanced Machine Learning For Social Scientists | 2022 |
| Machine Learning for Social Scientists | 2022 |
| General technical support in R and Stata | 2021 |
| Webscraping and Data Management in R | 2021 |
| Webscraping and Data Management in R | 2020 |

Senior Postgraduate Teaching Assistant

UCL Department of Political Science

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| Measurement in Data Science | 2021 - 2022 |
| Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods | 2021 |
| Principles of Social Science Research | 2020 - 2021 |

Occasional Lecturer

University of Suffolk Department of English, History, and Politics

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| Political Argumentation and Persuasion | 2021 - 2022 |
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Conferences

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| American Political Science Association Annual Conference Coauthor presented | 2022 |
| Midwestern Political Science Association Annual Conference Presented | 2022 |
| American Political Science Association Annual Conference Presented | 2021 |
| American Political Science Association Annual Conference Coauthor presented | 2021 |
| Royal Statistical Society Annual Conference Coauthor presented | 2021 |
| European Political Science Association Annual Conference Presented | 2021 |
| European Political Science Association Annual Conference Coauthor presented | 2021 |
| Political Science Association Annual Conference Presented | 2021 |
| Political Science Association Annual Conference Coauthor presented | 2021 |
| European Political Science Association Annual Conference Accepted to present, cancelled due to COVID-19 | 2020 |

Software

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| General | Python |
| Statistics | R, Stata |
| Front-end | HTML, CSS, SCSS, JavaScript, Jekyll |
| Markup | Markdown, LaTeX, R Markdown, Sweave |
| Version Control | Git, Github |
| Command Line | Bash, Zsh, Powershell |
| Survey Design | Qualtrics |
| Cloud Computing | AWS, Azure |

Professional Development

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| Machine Learning Specialization <i>Coursera</i> | 2022 |
| Quantitative Text Analysis <i>Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis</i> | 2021 |
| Multilevel Models: Practical Applications <i>Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis</i> | 2020 |

Awards and Grants

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| UCL Department of Political Science Best PGTA | 2020 |
| University of Essex Social Sciences Doctoral Scholarship | 2019 |
| University of Essex Masters Excellence Scholarship | 2018 |
| Owen Powell Student Prize | 2018 |

Professional Service

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| Programme Committee Member 4th Workshop on the security implications of Deepfakes and Cheapfakes (WDC '25) co-located with ACM ASIACCS 2025 | 2025 |
| Organiser Turing-DSIT Workshop on Deepfakes and Disinformation | 2025 |
| Reviewer at <i>Political Analysis</i> | 2023 |
| Co-Organizer POPE (Public Opinion, Parties, and Elections) Reading Group Department of Government, University of Essex | 2020 - 2022 |

Further Work Experience

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| Office of Gareth Snell MP | 2017 - 2018 |
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Employed Intern

Labour Party

2017

Mobilisation Assistant in Stoke-on-Trent Central during 2017 General Election

References

My references are available on request.