

CV - Phil Swatton

Last Updated 21/11/2025

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Phil Swatton
Alan Turing Institute
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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

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

Education

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 McGoe	2019 - 2023
MSc Political Science (Distinction) <i>University of Essex</i>	2018 - 2019
BA International Relations and Politics (1st Class Hons) <i>Keele University</i>	2015 - 2018

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

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

Teaching Assistant

Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis

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

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

Political Argumentation and Persuasion	2021 - 2022
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Conferences

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

Software

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

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

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

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

Office of Gareth Snell MP	2017 - 2018
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Employed Intern

Labour Party

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

2017

References

My references are available on request.