Quantitative Text Analysis for Social Sciences
By Dr. Maxim Ananyev

This presentation will trace the evolution of quantitative text analysis in economics and political science over the past two decades. It will highlight the progression from early techniques such as dictionary methods and topic modelling to more recent advances in supervised learning and transformer-based models. Particular attention will be given to the growing use of BERT and other deep learning approaches for text classification, as well as the emerging role of Large Language Models (LLMs) in automating, scaling, and enriching textual analysis. The talk will also explore how these tools are reshaping empirical research—enabling new insights from news articles, social media, and legislative texts—and will discuss both the opportunities and limitations these technologies bring to the field.

Date: Monday 12 May 2025
Time: 12-1 pm AEST
Location: Linkway, Level 4, School of Social and Political Sciences (BUILDING 191), Parkville
How to join: If you'd like to join, send an **RSVP** as soon as possible to either Irma (**irma.mooi@unimelb.edu.au**) or Seraphine (**seraphine.maerz@unimelb.edu.au**).

Dr. Maxim Ananyev is a Research Fellow at the Melbourne Institute: Applied Economic & Social Research, University of Melbourne, specialising in applied microeconomics and political economy. His research revolves around topics of social trust, identity, political institutions, and media with articles published in leading journals such as the Economic Journal, World Development, Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization and more. Dr Ananyev has a strong methodological background combining economics, political science, and statistics. He is an active contributor to policy research through engaged projects with Australian foundations and agencies.

Check out QuantLab's website for more details: https://quantilab.github.io!