

Research Interests

Topics: Protest, Social Movements, Political Participation, European Politics, Representative Democracy
Methods: Computational Social Sciences, Quantitative Methods, Causal Inference, Mixed Methods

Academic Positions

Harvard University Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies <i>Post-Doctoral Fellow</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Preparation of DAAD PRIME Project <i>Voices-Beyond-Ballots</i>Development of an <i>ERC Starting Grant Proposal</i>	Cambridge (US) <i>Since Jan 2025</i>
WZB Berlin Social Science Center Center for Civil Society Research <i>Post-Doctoral Research Fellow Associated Researcher (since Jan 2025)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Project: Political Protest and Radicalization & MOTRAPrincipal Investigator: <i>Prof. Dr. Swen Hutter</i>	Berlin (DE) <i>Since Jan 2023</i>
University of Cologne Cologne Center for Comparative Politics <i>Doctoral Researcher</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Member of the Chair for European and Multilevel Politics (<i>Prof. Dr. Sven-Oliver Proksch</i>)	Cologne (DE) <i>Oct 2019 – Dec 2022</i>
Pompeu Fabra University Institutions and Political Actors Research Group <i>Visiting Researcher with Dr. Toni Rodon</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Conducting Interviews with Spanish Social Movement Activists and Policy-Makers	Barcelona (ES) <i>Oct - Nov 2022</i>
WZB Berlin Social Science Center Center for Civil Society Research <i>Guest Researcher with Prof. Dr. Swen Hutter</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Theoretical Conceptualization of Why Politicians Refer to Protests and Other Collective Actions	Berlin (DE) <i>Jun - Jul 2022</i>
University of Amsterdam Challenges to Democratic Representation Programme Group <i>Visiting Researcher with Dr. Gijs Schumacher</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Development of a Measurement of Emotional Appeals to Collective Actions in Multi-lingual Texts	Amsterdam (NL) <i>Sep - Dec 2021</i>

Education

University of Cologne Dr. rer. pol. (PhD) in Political Science <ul style="list-style-type: none">Title: Political Representation and Protest Politics in European DemocraciesSupervisors: Prof. Dr. Sven-Oliver Proksch & Prof. Dr. Ingo RohlfingDate of Defense: June 28th, 2023	Cologne (DE) <i>2019 – 2023</i>
Goethe University Frankfurt M.A. in Political Science <ul style="list-style-type: none">Semester Abroad: EHESS School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences Paris	Frankfurt (DE) Paris (FR) <i>2016 – 2019</i>
University of Cologne B.Sc. in Social Sciences <ul style="list-style-type: none">Major: Political Science and Sociology Minor: EconomicsSemester Abroad: Grenoble Alpes University Sciences Po Grenoble	Cologne (DE) Grenoble (FR) <i>2013 – 2016</i>

Publications

Journal Articles (Peer Reviewed).....

- [1] **Schürmann, Lennart**, Endre Borbáth, & Swen Hutter (forthcoming). Protest and the Rise of Left-Nationalist Challengers: Evidence from Germany. *Social Movement Studies*.
- [2] **Schürmann, Lennart**, Jan Schwalbach, & Noam Himmelrath (2025). Location matters! Geospatial dynamics of MP responses to Covid-19 protests in multilevel systems. *European Journal of Political Research*, 64(2): 513 - 534.
- [3] **Schürmann, Lennart** (2024). The impact of local protests on political elite communication: evidence from Fridays for Future in Germany. *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties*, 34(3): 510 - 530.
- [4] Castanho Silva, Bruno, **Lennart Schürmann** & Sven-Oliver Proksch (2024). Modulation of Democracy: Partisan Communication during and after Election Campaigns. *British Journal of Political Science*, 54(2): 339 - 354.
- [5] **Schürmann, Lennart** (2023). Do competitive districts get more political attention? Strategic use of geographic representation during campaign and non-campaign periods. *Electoral Studies* 81, Article 102575.
- [6] **Schürmann, Lennart** & Sebastian Stier (2023). Who represents the constituency? Online political communication by members of parliament in the German mixed-member electoral system. *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 48(1): 219–234.

Working Papers.....

- [1] Stephan, Meret & **Lennart Schürmann**. How Anti-Racist Protests Influence Pro- and Anti-Migration Voting Behavior: Evidence from National and European Elections
· Available as *WZB Discussion Paper ZZ 2025(601): 1-38*.
- [2] Hunger, Sophia, Daniel Saldivia Gonzatti, Swen Hutter & **Lennart Schürmann**. Building a Semi-automated Protest Monitoring. A Hands-on Playbook on Advances and Challenges in Protest Event Analysis
· Draft available - presented 2023 at SNS-WZB workshop: Analyzing protest in the digital age
- [3] Saldivia Gonzatti, Daniel, **Lennart Schürmann**, Sophia Hunger & Swen Hutter. How Confrontational Protest Shapes Public Opinion: Experimental Evidence from Climate Mobilization.
· Draft available - presented at APSA Virtual Research Meeting 2024, MOTRA Conference 2024
- [4] **Schürmann, Lennart** & Leonard Schmidt. Supply and Demand of Street Mobilization during Campaign Periods: Evidence from the European Multilevel Electoral System
· Draft available - presented at EPSA 2024, MPSA 2025, Harvard University 2025
- [5] **Schürmann, Lennart**. Do Restrictions of Protest Rights Provoke Protest Participation? Evidence from Spain and the United Kingdom
· Draft available - presented at EPSA 2022, Pompeu Fabra University 2022, WZB Social Science Center 2023

Contributions to Edited Volumes.....

- [1] Basu, Chitralekha & **Lennart Schürmann** (forthcoming). Media Effects on Political Elites. In: *Edward Elgar Encyclopedia of Political Communication*, eds. Alessandro Nai, Max Grömping & Dominique Wirz. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing.
- [2] **Schürmann, Lennart** & Swen Hutter (forthcoming). Ist Kartoffelbrei auf Kunst weniger akzeptiert als politische Gewalt? Wie die Menschen in Deutschland die Legitimität und Effektivität von Protest einschätzen. In: *Extremistische Einstellungen in Deutschland: Verbreitungen, Einflussfaktoren und Trends*, eds. Rebecca Endtricht & Katrin Brettfeld. Wiesbaden: Springer VS.
- [3] Kanol, Eylem, Teresa Völker, Daniel Saldivia Gonzatti, **Lennart Schürmann** & Swen Hutter (2025). Politischer Protest und Radikalisierung: Befunde aus dem WZB ProtestMonitoring. In: *MOTRA-Monitor 2023/24*. Wiesbaden: Bundeskriminalamt - Forschungsstelle Terrorismus/Extremismus, pp. 154-185.
- [4] Hutter, Swen, Eylem Kanol, Daniel Saldivia Gonzatti, **Lennart Schürmann**, Teresa Völker & Ruud Koopmans (2023). Politischer Protest und Radikalisierung (WZB-ProtestMonitoring). In: *MOTRA-Monitor 2022*. Wiesbaden: Bundeskriminalamt - Forschungsstelle Terrorismus/Extremismus, pp. 111-135.
· shortened version re-published as *Der "heisse Herbst" war eher heisse Luft* in KATAPULT-Magazin 33/2024.

Blog Entries & Other Publications

- [1] Stephan, Meret & **Lennart Schürmann** (forthcoming). Wirkungsvolle Proteste: Wie antirassistische Demonstrationen Wahlen beeinflussen. *WZB Mitteilungen*, 188: 10-12.
- [2] Saldivia Gonzatti, Daniel, **Lennart Schürmann** (2024). [Klima- und Umweltproteste in Deutschland von 1950 bis heute](#). *Klimawende Ausblick 2024. Gesellschaftliche Treiber der Transformation in Deutschland* Band 1. Klimapolitik, Klimabewegung und Klimaklagen. Universität Hamburg, pp. 76-78.
- [3] Lennart Schürmann (2023). [Von der Straße in den Bundestag: Die lokalen Proteste von Fridays for Future zeigen starke Wirkung](#). *WZB Mitteilungen*, 182: 6-9.
- [4] Schmidt, Leonhard, Carina Siebler, **Lennart Schürmann** & Daniel Saldivia Gonzatti (2023). [Fünf Jahre Fridays for Future - Erfolge, Herausforderungen und Chancen zur Erneuerung](#) Blog: DVPW - Deutsche Vereinigung für Politikwissenschaft.
- [5] Siebler, Carina, Leonhard Schmidt, **Lennart Schürmann** & Daniel Saldivia Gonzatti (2023). [Five years of 'Fridays for Future': but what future is there now for the movement?](#) *The Loop. A Political Science Blog from ECPR*.
 - re-published as [Five years of 'Fridays for Future': what future now?](#) on Social Europe.
- [6] **Schürmann, Lennart**, Caroline Melches, & Stefan Herweg (2019). [Minimalkompromisse machen die Eurozone nicht krisenfest](#). *Makronom – Online-Magazin für Wirtschaftspolitik*.

Media & Public Outreach

Background interviews and expert opinions for Tagesschau (ARD), Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, DIE ZEIT, Quarks (WDR), nd.Aktuell (Neues Deutschland), ntv (RTL), goin' green (Seven.One), Green European Journal, taz-die tageszeitung & Frankfurter Rundschau.

Speaker at public events organized by Brandenburgische Landeszentrale für politische Bildung, ZEIT-Stiftung Bucerius, Deutschlandfunk & ZEIT Campus.

Podcast appearances in Wissen unplugged/Hörsaal (Deutschlandfunk Nova), Was ist da los? Über Politik und Gesellschaft (Landeszentrale für politische Bildung Brandenburg), Quarks Daily – Dein täglicher Wissenspodcast (WDR), Wissen Weekly (Spotify Original).

Policy counseling for Members of the German Parliament (Leibniz im Bundestag).

Teaching Experience

Visualizing Protest Data in the Digital Space and Beyond <i>Coordinating WZB Project Partner in ViSoP Visual Society Program</i>	UdK - Berlin University of the Arts Spring 2023 – Spring 2024
Student Workshop: Applying for PhD Positions and Proposal Writing <i>Organizer together with Rebecca Kittel</i>	WZB Berlin Social Science Center Fall 2023
How Can Protest Change Politics? Social Movements and Political Representation <i>Instructor Overall assessment: 4.8 (max = 5)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Short-listed (Top 3) for <i>University Teaching Award 2022</i> of the University of Cologne	University of Cologne Spring 2022
PhD Workshop: Creating a Webpage with R <i>Organizer together with J. Bekmuratovna</i>	University of Cologne Spring 2022
PhD Workshop: Authoring a PhD <i>Organizer together with Ebru Ece Özbey</i>	University of Cologne Spring 2021
Strategic Models of Democratic Politics <i>Teaching Assistant to Jun.-Prof. Chitrlekha Basu, PhD</i>	University of Cologne Fall 2020
Introduction to Quantitative Methods <i>Teaching Assistant to Dr. Bruno Castanho Silva</i>	University of Cologne Fall 2019 Fall 2020
Applied Statistical Analysis: Political Representation by Parliamentary Elites <i>Teaching Assistant to Dr. Dominic Nyhuis</i>	Goethe University Frankfurt Spring 2017
Introduction to Statistics for Social Scientists <i>Teaching Assistant to Prof. Dr. Marita Jacob</i>	University of Cologne Spring 2014 Fall 2014 Spring 2015

6a Student Supervision

Master's and Bachelor's Theses

Marie Melchers (2024). Electoral Success of Right-Wing Populists: A Threat to Liberal Democracy? *BA Thesis (University of Münster)*

Meret Stephan (2024). Echoes of the Street: How do Pro-Migration Protests Influence Public Voting Behavior and Attitudes Regarding Migration? *MA Thesis (Humboldt University Berlin)*

Aurelia von Haugwitz (2022). Why People from the German Countryside do not Protest: Urban-rural Divergences of 'Unconventional' Political Participation. *BA Thesis (University of Cologne)*

Student Assistants

Up to 8 Research Assistants for coding the WZB ProtestMonitoring datasets (WZB 2023-2024)

1 Intern in *Monitoring- and Transferplatform Radicalisation* project (WZB 2023)

Projects, Grants & Scholarships

Empowering Voices Beyond Ballots? Representative Claims by Non-Elected Political Actors

Funding: German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD PRIME Grant, ~160,000€)

2025 - 2027

Methodological Innovation: Automated analysis of video data of protests events

Role: Principal Investigator (Sole Applicant)

Further Financial Support:

- Harvard University (WZB Harvard Merit Fellowship 2024/2025, ~40,000\$)
- European University Institute (Max Weber Fellowship 2025/2026)

Conference Travel Support Grant

Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University, 1,825\$

2025

Professional Development Award

FAS Office for Postdoctoral Affairs at Harvard University, 500\$

2025

Conference Travel Grant

DAAD German Academic Exchange Service, 836€

2025

Full PhD Scholarship

Cologne Graduate School in Management, Economics and Social Sciences, ~55,000€

2019 - 2022

Selten Grant for Field Work and Research Stay in Barcelona

Reinhard Selten Institute/Cluster of Excellence ECONtribute: Markets and Public Policy, ~2,000€

2022

International Mobility Grant

Schmittmann-Wahlen-Foundation, ~5,500€

2015 | 2018 | 2021

Short-Term Research Grant for Doctoral Candidates for Research Stay in Amsterdam

DAAD German Academic Exchange Service, ~6,500€

2021

Grants for GESIS Spring Seminar & GESIS Workshop

University of Cologne & GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences

2021 (2x)

Residential Fellow

Fondation de l'Allemagne – Maison Heinrich Heine (Paris)

2018

Grant for ECPR Summer School in Methods and Techniques 2018

European Consortium for Political Research

2018

Erasmus Grants for Exchange Semesters

Erasmus+ Programme

2015 | 2018

Previous Student Positions

GESIS Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences Computational Social Science Department <i>Research Intern with Prof. Dr. Sebastian Stier</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Analyzed Geographic Representation on Social Media for Master's Thesis	Cologne (DE) 2019
German Federal Parliament - Bundestag ECOFIN Committee <i>Policy Intern</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Preparation of Policy Positions on European Stability Mechanism	Berlin (DE) 2019
Federal Institute for Population Research Migration and Mobility Research Group <i>Research Assistant with PD Dr. Heiko Rüger</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Development of an Online Survey for the <i>German Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i>	Wiesbaden (DE) 2018 – 2019
Goethe University Frankfurt Chair for Comparative Politics <i>Research Assistant with Prof. Dr. Thomas Zittel</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Developed a Dataset for the DFG Research Project <i>Individualized Representation and its Sources</i>	Frankfurt (DE) 2017 – 2018
Goethe University Frankfurt GRASOC Graduate Center Social Sciences <i>Administrative Assistant</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Administration of PhD Applications and Counseling Concerning Research Funding Opportunities	Frankfurt (DE) 2016 – 2017
Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies <i>Research Intern Research Assistant with Prof. Dr. Mark Lutter</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Collected Publication Records of Social Scientists at German Universities	Cologne (DE) 2016
University of Cologne Institute for Sociology and Social Psychology <i>Teaching Assistant with Prof. Dr. Marita Jacob</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Taught <i>Introduction to Statistics for Social Scientists</i> to First Year Students	Cologne (DE) 2014 – 2015

Advanced Computational Methods Training

DS3: CIVICA Data Science Summer School Hertie School <ul style="list-style-type: none">Introduction to Python ProgrammingImage as Data: Quantitative Image Analysis with R and PythonIntroduction to Machine LearningIntroduction to Deep LearningGeoData and Spatial Analysis with RTransformers in NLP	2021-2022
Spring Seminar & Workshops GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences <ul style="list-style-type: none">Introduction to the Logic of Bayesian Statistics for the Social SciencesCausal Machine Learning	2021
PhD coursework University of Cologne <ul style="list-style-type: none">Political Choice and StrategyAnalyzing EU Politics with Big DataCausal Inference and Public Policy in Europe	2019 – 2020
ECPR Summer School in Methods and Techniques Central European University <ul style="list-style-type: none">Automated Collection of Web and Social Data	2018
MA coursework Goethe University Frankfurt <ul style="list-style-type: none">Advanced Statistical Data Analysis with RQualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) and Fuzzy Sets (with R)	2016 - 2018

Additional Skills

Languages: German (native) · English (C2) · French (B2) · Dutch (A1)
Data Analysis: R (expert) · Python (basic) · Stata (basic) · SPSS (basic)
Office & Typesetting: \LaTeX +Overleaf · Microsoft Office · Apple iWork
Version Control: GitHub

Conferences, Workshops & Invited Talks

EUSA European Union Studies Association, Philadelphia	2025
New Research on Europe Seminar, Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, Harvard University	2025
MPSA Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago	2025
Contentious Politics within Civil Society Workshop, WZB Berlin Social Science Center	2024
DVPW Deutsche Vereinigung für Politikwissenschaft Konferenz, University of Göttingen	2024
MOTRA Annual Conference, Wiesbaden	2024
Center for Civil Society Research Colloquium, WZB Berlin Social Science Center	2022, 2023, 2024
EPSA European Political Science Association Conference	2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
MOTRA Analysis Workshop	2023, 2024
Analyzing Protest in the Digital Age Workshop, WZB Social Science Center Berlin	2023
Extremism in Germany Workshop, University of Hamburg	2023
Institutions and Political Actors Research Seminar, Pompeu Fabra University Barcelona	2022
Cologne Political Science Workshop, Cologne	2022
COMPTExT Interdisciplinary Conference on the Computational Text Analysis, University College Dublin	2022
Hot Politics Lab Meeting, University of Amsterdam	2021
European Consortium for Political Research General Conference	2021
Cologne Center for Comparative Politics Research Seminar, University of Cologne	2020, 2021
Colloquium on Empirical Democracy Research, Goethe University Frankfurt	2018
IAPSS World Congress, Paris	2018

Reviewer

Journal Reviewer for *American Political Science Review*; *American Journal of Sociology*; *Italian Political Science Review/Rivista Italiana di Scienza Politica*; *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion & Parties*; *Journal of European Public Policy*; *Journal of Information Technology & Politics*; *Journal of Legislative Studies*; *Journalism*; *Legislative Studies Quarterly*; *Parliamentary Affairs*; *Social Forces*; *Social Problems*; *West European Politics*

Professional Responsibilities & Memberships

WZB Berlin Social Science Center

Member of Selection Committee for WZB Harvard & World Merit Fellowships 2025/26 2024

University of Cologne | Cologne Graduate School in Management, Economics & Social Sciences

PhD Representative on the Cologne Graduate School Board 2021 – 2022

Professional Memberships

- Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)
- European Union Studies Association (EUSA)
- German Political Science Association (DVPW)
- European Political Science Association (EPSA)
- Institute for the Study of Protest and Social Movements (ipb)