

🔍 Research Interests

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

🏛️ Academic Positions

Harvard University Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies <i>Post-Doctoral Fellow</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">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</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Project: Political Protest and Radicalization (until Dec 2024)Principal 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>Visiting 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**, Jan Schwalbach, & Noam Himmelrath (2024). [Location matters! Geospatial dynamics of MP responses to Covid-19 protests in multilevel systems](#). *European Journal of Political Research*.
- [2] **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.
- [3] 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.
- [4] **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.
- [5] **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] Saldivia Gonzatti, Daniel, **Lennart Schürmann**, Sophia Hunger & Swen Hutter. How Confrontational Protest Shapes Public Opinion: Experimental Evidence from Climate Mobilization.
· In review process - presented at [APSA Virtual Research Meeting 2024, MOTRA Conference 2024](#)
- [3] **Schürmann, Lennart**, Endre Borbáth, & Swen Hutter. Protest and the Rise of Left-Nationalist Challengers
· In review process - presented at [DVPW Conference 2024](#)
- [4] **Schürmann, Lennart** & Leonard Schmidt. Citizens Protest Locally, Political Elites Protest Globally: Analyzing the Dynamics of Electoral Campaigns and Street Mobilization in the European Multilevel System
· Draft available - presented at [SNS-WZB workshop: Analyzing protest in the digital age 2023, EPSA 2024](#)
- [5] **Schürmann, Lennart**. Not Their Election, Still a Reaction? Political Elite Responsiveness to First- and Second-Order Elections in Multilevel Systems
· Draft available - presented at [EPSA 2023](#)
- [6] **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 (forthcoming). Politischer Protest und Radikalisierung: Aktuelle Entwicklungen der Deutschen Protestlandschaft. In: *MOTRA-Monitor 2023*. Wiesbaden: Bundeskriminalamt - Forschungsstelle Terrorismus/Extremismus.
- [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] 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.
- [2] Lennart Schürmann (2023). [Von der Straße in den Bundestag: Die lokalen Proteste von Fridays for Future zeigen starke Wirkung](#). *WZB Mitteilungen*, 182: 6-9.
- [3] 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*.
- [4] 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*.
- [5] **Schürmann, Lennart**, Caroline Melches, & Stefan Herweg (2019). [Minimalkompromisse machen die Eurozone nicht krisenfest](#). *Makronom – Online-Magazin für Wirtschaftspolitik*.

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 <i>Spring 2023 – Spring 2024</i>
Student Workshop: Applying for PhD Positions and Proposal Writing <i>Organizer together with Rebecca Kittel</i>	WZB Berlin Social Science Center <i>Fall 2023</i>
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 <i>Spring 2022</i>
PhD Workshop: Creating a Webpage with R <i>Organizer together with J. Bekmuratovna</i>	University of Cologne <i>Spring 2022</i>
PhD Workshop: Authoring a PhD <i>Organizer together with Ebru Ece Özbey</i>	University of Cologne <i>Spring 2021</i>
Strategic Models of Democratic Politics <i>Teaching Assistant to Jun.-Prof. Chitralkha Basu, PhD</i>	University of Cologne <i>Fall 2020</i>
Introduction to Quantitative Methods <i>Teaching Assistant to Dr. Bruno Castanho Silva</i>	University of Cologne <i>Fall 2019 Fall 2020</i>
Applied Statistical Analysis: Political Representation by Parliamentary Elites <i>Teaching Assistant to Dr. Dominic Nyhuis</i>	Goethe University Frankfurt <i>Spring 2017</i>
Introduction to Statistics for Social Scientists <i>Teaching Assistant to Prof. Dr. Marita Jacob</i>	University of Cologne <i>Spring 2014 Fall 2014 Spring 2015</i>

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)

Media & Public Outreach

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

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

Podcast appearances in Wissen unplugged/Hörsaal (Deutschlandfunk Nova), Was ist da los? Über Politik und Gesellschaft (Landeszentrale für politische Bildung Brandenburg).

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

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

Role: Principal Investigator

Further Financial Support:

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

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 for Academic Projects Abroad

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

Conferences, Workshops & Invited Talks

EPSA European Political Science Association Conference

2021, 2022, 2023, 2024

Center for Civil Society Research Colloquium, WZB Berlin Social Science Center

2022, 2023, 2024

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

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 Conference, 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*; *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion & Parties*; *Journal of Information Technology & Politics*; *Journal of Legislative Studies*; *Legislative Studies Quarterly*; *Parliamentary Affairs*; *Social Forces*; *Social Problems*

Professional Responsibilities & Memberships

WZB Berlin Social Science Center

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

German Political Science Association (DVPW)

Member 2024 – present

European Political Science Association (EPSA)

Member 2021 – present

Institute for the Study of Protest and Social Movements (ipb)

Member 2020 – present

University of Cologne | Cologne Graduate School

PhD Representative on the CGS Board 2021 – 2022

Academic Skills & Methods Training

Workshops on Academic Development | WZB Berlin Social Science Center

2024

- Science Communication - How to Deal with Hostility against Scientists?

Seminars on Research Management | University of Cologne

2022

- Achieving Your Own Scientific Independence - How to Raise Third-Party Funding?

Seminars on Science Communication | German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

2022

- Fundamentals of Science Communication
- Social Media Communication

Center for Higher Education | University of Cologne

2021

- Planning Teaching Events

Spring Seminar & Workshops | GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences

2021

- Introduction to the Logic of Bayesian Statistics for the Social Sciences
- Causal Machine Learning

DS3: CIVICA Data Science Summer School | Hertie School

2021

- Introduction to Python Programming
- Image as Data: Quantitative Image Analysis with R and Python
- Introduction to Machine Learning
- Introduction to Deep Learning
- GeoData and Spatial Analysis with R

PhD coursework | University of Cologne

2019 – 2020

- Political Choice and Strategy
- Analyzing EU Politics with Big Data
- Causal Inference and Public Policy in Europe

ECPR Summer School in Methods and Techniques | Central European University

2018

- Automated Collection of Web and Social Data

MA coursework | Goethe University Frankfurt

2016 - 2018

- Research Designs in International Relations
- Advanced Statistical Data Analysis with R
- Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) and Fuzzy Sets

Additional Skills

Languages: German (native) · English (C1) · French (B2) · Dutch (A1)

Data Analysis: R · Python · Stata · SPSS

Office & Typesetting: \LaTeX Overleaf · Microsoft Office · Apple iWork

Version Control: GitHub

Previous Student Positions

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
GESIS Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences Computational Social Science Department <i>Research Intern to Prof. Dr. Sebastian Stier</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Analyzed Geographic Representation on Social Media for Master's Thesis	Cologne (DE) 2019
Federal Institute for Population Research Migration and Mobility Research Group <i>Research Assistant to 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 to 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 GraduateCenter 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 to 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 to 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

References

Sven Hutter
Lichtenberg Professor of Political Sociology
Freie Universität Berlin
Director of Center for Civil Society Research
WZB Berlin Social Science Center
Email: swen.hutter@wzb.eu

Sven-Oliver Proksch
Professor of Political Science
Chair for European and Multilevel Politics
University of Cologne
Principal Investigator of Political Economy
Cluster of Excellence ECONtribute
Email: so.proksch@uni-koeln.de

Sebastian Stier
Professor of Computational Social Science
University of Mannheim
Director of Computational Social Science Department
GESIS Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences
Email: sebastian.stier@gesis.org