

Lennart Schürmann | Dr.

Department of Social and Political Sciences – European University Institute

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🔍 Research Interests

Topics: Protest, Social Movements, Political Participation, European Politics, Representative Democracy

Methods: Computational Social Sciences, Quantitative Methods, Causal Inference, Mixed Methods

🏛️ Academic Positions

Current

European University Institute Social and Political Science Department <i>Max Weber Fellow</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mentor: <i>Simon Hix</i>	Florence (IT) <i>Since Sep 2025</i>
Freie Universität Berlin Chair for Political Sociology (Sven Hutter) <i>Post-Doctoral Researcher DAAD PRIME Fellow</i>	Berlin (DE) <i>Since Jul 2025</i>
WZB Berlin Social Science Center Center for Civil Society Research <i>Post-Doctoral Research Fellow</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Post-Doc Supervisor: <i>Sven Hutter</i>	Berlin (DE) <i>Since Jan 2023</i>

Previous

Harvard University Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies <i>Post-Doctoral Fellow</i>	Cambridge (US) <i>Jan 2025 - Jun 2025</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>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 Toni Rodon</i>	Barcelona (ES) <i>Oct - Nov 2022</i>
WZB Berlin Social Science Center Center for Civil Society Research <i>Guest Researcher with Sven Hutter</i>	Berlin (DE) <i>Jun - Jul 2022</i>
University of Amsterdam Challenges to Democratic Representation Programme Group <i>Visiting Researcher with Gijs Schumacher</i>	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: Sven-Oliver Proksch & 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 (2025). [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] 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** (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.
- [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] 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](#)
- [3] **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](#)
- [4] **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](#)
- [5] 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](#)

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** (2025). [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*.

Awards, Grants & Scholarships

Awards/Recognition

Shortlisted for Tenure-Track Professor position in Computational Social/Political Science <i>C³S Center for Critical Computational Studies at Goethe University Frankfurt</i>	2025
Shortlisted for University Teaching Award 2022 <i>University of Cologne</i>	2022

Major Grants & Fellowships

Empowering Voices Beyond Ballots? Representative Claims by Non-Elected Political Actors <i>Funding: German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD PRIME Grant, ~160,000€)</i> <i>Role: Principal Investigator (Sole Applicant)</i> <i>Further Financial Support:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Harvard University (WZB Harvard Merit Fellowship 2024/2025, 41,500\$)· European University Institute (Max Weber Fellowship 2025/2026)	2025 - 2027
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Smaller Grants & Scholarships (selection)

Conference Travel Support Grant <i>Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University, 1,825\$</i>	2025
Professional Development Award <i>FAS Office for Postdoctoral Affairs at Harvard University, 500\$</i>	2025
Conference Travel Grant <i>DAAD German Academic Exchange Service, 836€</i>	2025
Full PhD Scholarship <i>Cologne Graduate School in Management, Economics and Social Sciences, ~55,000€</i>	2019 - 2022
Selten Grant for Field Work and Research Stay in Barcelona <i>Reinhard Selten Institute/Cluster of Excellence ECONtribute: Markets and Public Policy, ~2,000€</i>	2022
International Mobility Grant <i>Schmittmann-Wahlen-Foundation, ~5,500€</i>	2015 2018 2021
Short-Term Research Grant for Doctoral Candidates for Research Stay in Amsterdam <i>DAAD German Academic Exchange Service, ~6,500€</i>	2021
Residential Fellow <i>Fondation de l'Allemagne – Maison Heinrich Heine (Paris)</i>	2018

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 Chitralekha Basu</i>	University of Cologne <i>Fall 2020</i>
Introduction to Quantitative Methods <i>Teaching Assistant to 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 Dominic Nyhuis</i>	Goethe University Frankfurt <i>Spring 2017</i>
Introduction to Statistics for Social Scientists <i>Teaching Assistant to 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), 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 & Bayerischer Rundfunk.

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).

Research Presentations

Invited Talks

C ³ S Center for Critical Computational Studies Job Talk, Goethe University Frankfurt	2025
New Research on Europe Seminar, Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, Harvard University	2025
Discussion Series, Brandenburgische Landeszentrale für politische Bildung, Potsdam	2024
Institutions and Political Actors Research Seminar, Pompeu Fabra University Barcelona	2022
Hot Politics Lab Meeting, University of Amsterdam	2021

Conferences

EUSA European Union Studies Association, Philadelphia	2025
MPSA Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago	2025
EPSA European Political Science Association Conference	2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
MOTRA Annual Conference, Wiesbaden	2024
DVPW Deutsche Vereinigung für Politikwissenschaft Konferenz, University of Göttingen	2024
COMTEXT Interdisciplinary Conference on the Computational Text Analysis, University College Dublin	2022
ECPR European Consortium for Political Research General Conference	2021
IAPSS World Congress, Paris	2018

Workshops & Colloquia

Center for Civil Society Research Colloquium, WZB Berlin Social Science Center	2022, 2023, 2024
MOTRA Analysis Workshop	2023, 2024
Contentious Politics within Civil Society Workshop, WZB Berlin Social Science Center	2024
Extremism in Germany Workshop, University of Hamburg	2023
Analyzing Protest in the Digital Age Workshop, WZB Social Science Center Berlin	2023
Cologne Political Science Workshop, Cologne	2022
Cologne-Zurich European Politics Workshop, Filzbach (CH)	2022
Cologne Center for Comparative Politics Research Seminar, University of Cologne	2020, 2021
Colloquium on Empirical Democracy Research, Goethe University Frankfurt	2018

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)

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*; *Mobilization: an International Quarterly*; *Parliamentary Affairs*; *Political Behavior*; *Social Forces*; *Social Problems*; *West European Politics*

Positions as Student Assistant

GESIS Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences Computational Social Science Department <i>Research Intern with 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 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 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
Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies <i>Research Intern Research Assistant with 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 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

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