

Lennart Schürmann | Dr.

Center for Civil Society Research – WZB Berlin Social Science Center

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Research Interests

Topics: Protest, Social Movements, Political Participation, Representation, European Politics, Electoral Systems

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

Academic Positions

Harvard University Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies <i>WZB Harvard Merit Fellow/Visiting Scholar</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Development of an <i>ERC Starting Grant Proposal</i>	Cambridge (US) <i>Jan - Jun 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 (WZB ProtestMonitoring & MOTRA)Principal Investigator: <i>Prof. Dr. Swen Hutter</i>	Berlin (DE) <i>Jan 2023 - Dec 2024</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 funded by Cluster of Excellence ECONtribute</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 funded by Cologne Graduate School</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 funded by German Academic Exchange Service</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 Ph.D. Political Science (Dr. rer. pol.) <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. 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. 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-Review).....

- [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*.
- [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] **Schürmann, Lennart**, Endre Borbáth, & Swen Hutter. [Protesting the Cost-of-Living Crisis: The Rise of Left-Authoritarian Challengers after Russia's Invasion of Ukraine](#)
 - *Draft available*
- [2] **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
- [3] **Schürmann, Lennart**. [Citizens Protest Locally, Political Elites Protest Globally: Analyzing the Dynamics of Electoral Campaigns and Street Mobilization in Multilevel Electoral Systems](#)
 - *Draft available* - presented 2023 at SNS-WZB workshop: Analyzing protest in the digital age, EPSA 2024
- [4] Saldivia Gonzatti, Daniel, **Lennart Schürmann**, Sophia Hunger & Swen Hutter. [Conventional vs. Unconventional Protests: Citizens' Perceptions of the Legitimacy of Different Forms of Protest and Their Policy Consequences](#)
 - *Draft available* - presented at WZB 2024, APSA Virtual Research Meeting 2024, MOTRA Conference 2024

Contributions to Edited Volumes.....

- [1] Basu, Chitralekha & **Lennart Schürmann** (accepted). [Media Effects on Political Elites](#). *Edward Elgar Encyclopedia of Political Communication*
- [2] Hutter, Swen, Eylem Kanol, Daniel Saldivia Gonzatti, **Lennart Schürmann**, Teresa Völker & Ruud Koopmans (2023). [Politischer Protest und Radikalisierung \(WZB-ProtestMonitoring\)](#). *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.

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*.



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).

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



Grants & Scholarships

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

PRIME Postdoctoral Researchers International Mobility Experience Grant

DAAD German Academic Exchange Service, ~160,000€ 2025 - 2027

WZB Harvard Merit Fellowship 2024/2025

Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies - Harvard University, ~40.000\$ 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 Scholarships 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

European Political Science Association Conference 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024

MOTRA Annual Conference, Wiesbaden 2024

SNS-WZB workshop: Analyzing protest in the digital age, WZB Social Science Center Berlin 2023

Authors workshop: Book project on Extremism in Germany, University of Hamburg 2023

Center for Civil Society Research Colloquium, WZB Berlin Social Science Center 2022, 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

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 German Ministry of Foreign Affairs	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 Graduate Center Social Sciences <i>Administrative Assistant to Prof. Sigrid Roßteutscher, PhD</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

Teaching Experience

Visualizing Protest Data in the Digital Space and Beyond <i>Supervising WZB Project Partner in ViSoP - Visual Society Program</i>	UdK - Berlin University of the Arts Summer 2023 – Summer 2024
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 Summer 2022
Workshop: Creating a Webpage with R <i>Organizer together with J. Bekmuratovna</i>	University of Cologne Summer 2022
Workshop: Authoring a PhD <i>Organizer together with Ebru Ece Özbey</i>	University of Cologne Summer 2021
Strategic Models of Democratic Politics <i>Teaching Assistant to Jun.-Prof. Chitralkha Basu, PhD</i>	University of Cologne Winter 20/21
Introduction to Quantitative Methods <i>Teaching Assistant to Dr. Bruno Castanho Silva</i>	University of Cologne Winter 19/20 Winter 20/21
Applied Statistical Analysis: Political Representation by Parliamentary Elites <i>Teaching Assistant to Dr. Dominic Nyhuis</i>	Goethe University Frankfurt Summer 2017
Introduction to Statistics for Social Scientists <i>Teaching Assistant to Prof. Dr. Marita Jacob</i>	University of Cologne Summer 2014 Winter 14/15 Summer 2015

Thesis Supervision

- Marie Melchers (2024).** Democratic backsliding and protest behavior. *BA-Thesis (University of Münster) + Research Internship (WZB Berlin Social Science Center)*
- 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)*

Reviewer

American Political Science Review; Italian Political Science Review; Journal of Elections, Public Opinion & Parties; Journal of Information Technology & Politics; Journal of Legislative Studies; Legislative Studies Quarterly; Social Forces; Social Problems

Professional Responsibilities & Memberships

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

Seminars on Research Management University of Cologne · Achieving Your Own Scientific Independence - How to Raise Third-Party Funding	2022
Seminars on Science Communication German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) · Fundamentals of Science Communication · Social Media Communication	2022
Center for Higher Education University of Cologne · Planning Teaching Events	2021
Spring Seminar & Workshops GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences · Introduction to the Logic of Bayesian Statistics for the Social Sciences · Causal Machine Learning	2021
DS3: CIVICA Data Science Summer School Hertie School · 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	2021
Albertus Magnus Center for Early Career Researchers University of Cologne · Academic Writing in the Humanities and Social Sciences · Scientific Presentation - Getting it Right!	2020 – 2021
PhD coursework University of Cologne · Political Choice and Strategy · Analyzing EU Politics with Big Data · Causal Inference and Public Policy in Europe	2019 – 2020
ECPR Summer School in Methods and Techniques Central European University · Automated Collection of Web and Social Data	2018
MA coursework Goethe University Frankfurt · Research Designs in International Relations · Advanced Statistical Data Analysis with R · Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) and Fuzzy Sets	2016 - 2018

Additional Skills

Languages: German (native) · English (C1) · French (B2) · Dutch (A1)
Data Analysis: R · Python · Stata · SPSS
Office & Typesetting: L^AT_EX+Overleaf · Microsoft Office · Apple iWork
Version Control: GitHub

References

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