

Lennart Schürmann | Dr.

Max Weber Programme | 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 <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>Swen 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 - Jul 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 Swen 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*.

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 University Teaching Award 2022 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 Chitralekha Basu</i>	University of Cologne Fall 2020
Introduction to Quantitative Methods <i>Teaching Assistant to Bruno Castanho Silva</i>	University of Cologne Fall 2019 Fall 2020
Applied Statistical Analysis: Political Representation by Parliamentary Elites <i>Teaching Assistant to Dominic Nyhuis</i>	Goethe University Frankfurt Spring 2017
Introduction to Statistics for Social Scientists <i>Teaching Assistant to 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, 41,500\$)
- 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

Conferences, Workshops & Invited Talks

C³S Center for Critical Computational Studies Job Talk, Goethe University Frankfurt	2025
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
COMPTXT 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

Previous Student Positions

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

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*

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)

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