

# Dr. Sebastian Stier

GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences  
Department Computational Social Science  
Unter Sachsenhausen 6-8, 50667 Cologne  
Email: [sebastian.stier@gesis.org](mailto:sebastian.stier@gesis.org)  
Website: [sebastianstier.com](http://sebastianstier.com)  
Twitter: [@SebStier](https://twitter.com/SebStier)  
Google Scholar: [Profile](#)

## Areas of specialization

Digital Democracy • Digital Media • Computational Social Science • Comparative Politics • Political Communication • Political Methodology • Political Behavior

## Academic career

2/2021-present	<i>Acting Team Leader</i>
4/2017-11/2017	GESIS, Team Social Analytics & Services
1/2016-present	<i>Senior Researcher</i> (permanent position) GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, Cologne
4/2018-3/2019	<i>Substitute Professor (Professurvertretung)</i> University of Duisburg-Essen, Institute of Political Science
4/2017-9/2017	<i>Lecturer</i> Institute of Political Science, Heidelberg University (IPW HD)
8/2017	<i>Visiting Fellow</i> Center for Advanced Internet Studies (CAIS) Bochum
2/2012-12/2015	<i>PhD Student</i> Graduate School “Policy performance of autocratic and democratic regimes”, IPW HD

## Education

2/2012-3/2016	PhD in Political Science, Heidelberg University ( <i>summa cum laude</i> )
9/2005-7/2011	M.A. (MAGISTER) in Political Science, History and Law, Heidelberg University ( <i>summa cum laude</i> )

## Publications

### JOURNAL ARTICLES

in press	Oschatz, Corinna, Sebastian Stier, and Jürgen Maier. “Twitter in the News: An analysis of embedded tweets in political news coverage”. <i>Digital Journalism</i> .
2021	Maier, Michaela, Carlos Jalali, Jürgen Maier, Alessandro Nai, and Sebastian Stier. “ <a href="#">When do parties put Europe in the center? Evidence from the 2019 European Parliamentary election campaign</a> ”. <i>Politics</i> .

- 2021 Mangold, Frank, Sebastian Stier, Michael Scharkow, and Johannes Breuer. “The Overstated Generational Gap in Online News Use? A Consolidated Infrastructural Perspective”. *New Media & Society*.
- 2021 Yan, Pu, Ralph Schroeder, and Sebastian Stier. “Is there a link between climate change scepticism and populism? An analysis of web tracking and survey data from Europe and the US”. *Information, Communication & Society*.
- 2020 Stier, Sebastian, Caterina Froio, and Wolf J. Schünemann. “Campaigning in the transnational arena: An analysis of candidates’ transnational linkages on Twitter during the 2019 European Parliament elections”. *West European Politics*.
- 2020 Stier, Sebastian, Nora Kirkizh, Caterina Froio, and Ralph Schroeder. “Populist attitudes and selective exposure to online news – A cross-country analysis combining web tracking and surveys”. *The International Journal of Press/Politics* 25 (3): 426–446.
- 2020 Stier, Sebastian, Johannes Breuer, Pascal Siegers, and Kjerstin Thorson. “Integrating Survey Data and Digital Trace Data: Key issues in developing an emerging field”. *Social Science Computer Review* 38 (5): 503–516.
- 2020 Scharkow, Michael, Frank Mangold, Sebastian Stier, and Johannes Breuer. “How social network sites and other online intermediaries increase exposure to news”. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS)*. 117 (6): 2761–2763.
- 2020 Keller, Franziska B., David Schoch, Sebastian Stier, and JungHwan Yang. “Political Astroturfing on Twitter: How to Coordinate a Disinformation Campaign”. *Political Communication* 37 (2): 256–280.
- 2019 Jungherr, Andreas, Ralph Schroeder, and Sebastian Stier. “Digital Media and the Surge of Political Challengers: Explaining the Political Success of Outsiders in the US, Germany and China”. *Social Media + Society* 5 (3).
- 2019 Rau, Jan Philipp, and Sebastian Stier. “Die Echokammer-Hypothese: Fragmentierung der Öffentlichkeit und politische Polarisierung durch digitale Medien? (The Echo Chamber hypothesis: Do digital media lead to a fragmentation of the public sphere and to political polarization?)”. *Zeitschrift für Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft* 13 (3): 399–417.
- 2018 Stier, Sebastian, Arnim Bleier, Haiko Lietz, and Markus Strohmaier. “Election Campaigning on Social Media: Politicians, Audiences and the Mediation of Political Communication on Facebook and Twitter”. *Political Communication* 35 (1): 50–74.  
Reprinted in *Studying Politics Across Media*, edited by Leticia Bode, and Emily K. Vraga. London: Routledge (2019).
- 2018 Stier, Sebastian, Wolf J. Schünemann, and Stefan Steiger. “Of Activists and Gatekeepers: Temporal and Structural Properties of Policy Networks on Twitter”. *New Media & Society* 20 (5): 1910–1930.
- 2017 Stier, Sebastian, Lisa Posch, Arnim Bleier, and Markus Strohmaier. “When populists become popular: Comparing Facebook use by the right-wing movement Pegida and German political parties”. *Information, Communication & Society* 20 (9): 1365–1388.
- 2017 Stier, Sebastian. “Internet Diffusion and Regime Type: Temporal Patterns in Technology Adoption”. *Telecommunications Policy* 41 (1): 25–34.
- 2016 Schünemann, Wolf J., Stefan Steiger, and Sebastian Stier. “Transnationalisierung politischer Öffentlichkeit über Soziale Medien – ein Politikfeldvergleich” (Is There a Transnationalization of Public Spheres? A Comparison of Two Global Political Issues). *Zeitschrift für Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft* (Suppl) 10: 233–257.

- 2015 Schünemann, Wolf J., Stefan Steiger, and Sebastian Stier. “The Net Neutrality Debate on Twitter”. *Internet Policy Review* 4 (4).
- 2015 Stier, Sebastian. “Political Determinants of E-Government Performance Revisited: Comparing Democracies and Autocracies”. *Government Information Quarterly* 32 (3), 132–148.
- 2015 Stier, Sebastian. “Democracy, Autocracy, and the News: The Impact of Regime Type on Media Freedom”. *Democratization* 22 (7), 1273–1295.

#### BOOKS

- in preparation Stier, Sebastian, Caterina Froio, and Ralph Schroeder. “What Do “the People” Want? Digital Media and Populism in Europe and the U.S.” *Oxford: Oxford University Press*.
- 2017 Stier, Sebastian. “Internet und Regimetyp – Netzpolitik und politische Online-Kommunikation in Autokratien und Demokratien” (Internet and Regime Type – Internet Policy and Online Political Communication in Autocracies and Democracies). Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften.  
Reviewed in *Zeitschrift für Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft*.
- 2012 Stier, Sebastian. “Die Bedeutung des Internets als Medium der politischen Kommunikation in Deutschland und den USA – eine vergleichende Fallstudie” (The Impact of the Internet on Political Communication – Germany and the U.S. in Comparison). Münster: Lit Verlag.

#### EDITORSHIP

- 2019 Stier, Sebastian, Johannes Breuer, Pascal Siegers, and Kjerstin Thorson. “Integrating Survey Data and Digital Trace Data”. Special Issue in *Social Science Computer Review*.

#### ARTICLES IN REFEREED CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- 2017 Keller, Franziska B., David Schoch, Sebastian Stier, and Junhwang Yang. “How to Manipulate Social Media: Analyzing Political Astroturfing Using Ground Truth Data from South Korea”. In *Proceedings of the 11th International Conference on Weblogs and Social Media*, 564–567.
- 2016 Stier, Sebastian. “Partisan Framing of Political Debates on Twitter”. In *Proceedings of the 8th ACM Conference on Web Science*, 365–366.
- 2016 Stier, Sebastian. “Studying the Role of Elites in U.S. Political Twitter Debates”. In *Proceedings of the 6th Microposts Workshop @ WWW 2016*, 43–45.

#### ARTICLES IN EDITED VOLUMES

- in press Stier, Sebastian, Jürgen Maier, and Corinna Oschatz. “Die Nutzung sozialer Medien durch Kandidaten im Bundestagswahlkampf 2017”. In *Wahlen und Wähler – Analysen aus Anlass der Bundestagswahl 2017*, edited by Harald Schoen, and Bernhard Weißels.
- 2019 Stier, Sebastian, and Andreas Jungherr. “Digitale Verhaltensdaten und Computational Social Science in der politischen Kommunikationsforschung”. In *Politik in der digitalen Gesellschaft*, edited by Jeanette Hofmann, Norbert Kersting, Claudia Ritzi and Wolf Schünemann, 309–326. Bielefeld: transcript.
- 2019 Stier, Sebastian. “Internetfreiheit in Europa” (Internet Freedom in Europe). In *E-Government und Netzpolitik im europäischen Vergleich*, edited by Wolf J. Schünemann, and Marianne Kneuer, 301–320. Baden-Baden: Nomos.

- 2019 Stegmeier, Jörn, Wolf J. Schünemann, Marcus Müller, Maria Becker, Stefan Steiger, and Sebastian Stier. “Multi-Method Discourse Analysis of Twitter Communication”. In *Quantifying Approaches to Discourse for Social Scientists*, edited by Ronny Scholz, 285–314. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- 2017 Stier, Sebastian. “Political Determinants of Media Freedom”. In *Routledge Companion to Media and Human Rights*, edited by Howard Tumber, and Silvio Waisbord, 149–157. London: Routledge.
- 2015 Stier, Sebastian. “Strukturenbedingungen im Online-Wahlkampf: USA und Deutschland im Vergleich” (Structural Conditions in Online Campaigns: Comparing the U.S. and Germany). In *Die US-Präsidentenwahl 2012, Analysen der Politik- und Kommunikationswissenschaft*, edited by Christoph Bieber, and Klaus Kamps, 363–382. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften.

## Grants

- 2021 “Tracking the effects of negative political communication during election campaigns in on- and offline communication environments”. Funded by the DFG. With Michaela Maier (University Koblenz-Landau). (Total volume **773,367€**, 265,520€ awarded for my project part)
- 2020 “Negative Campaigning in deutschen Wahlkämpfen: Messung, Dynamik und Determinanten”. Project funded by the DFG. With Jürgen Maier and Corinna Oschatz (University Koblenz-Landau). (Total volume **637,603€**, 325,995€ awarded for my project part)
- 2020 Travel grant by DAAD-Hong Kong funding line. Project “Comparing Hidden Propaganda Campaigns”. With Franziska B. Keller (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology). (**10,203€**)
- 2019 Social Science One grant on “SHARENEWS: Predicting the shareworthiness of ‘real’ and ‘fake’ news in Europe”. With Damian Trilling, Claes de Vreese, Judith Möller (University of Amsterdam), Cristian Vaccari (Loughborough University), Cornelius Puschman (Bredow Institute), Juhi Kulshrestha (University of Konstanz) and Agnieszka Stępińska (Adam Mickiewicz University). (Total volume **50,000€**, 6,000€ for our project part and access to original **Facebook data**)
- 2018 “What Do ‘the People’ Want? Analysing Online Populist Challenges to Europe”, Project funded by the VolkswagenStiftung (7 of 138 applications accepted). Main applicant, with Ralph Schroeder (University of Oxford) and Caterina Froio (Sciences Po, Paris). (Total volume **705,700€**, 349,200€ awarded for my project part)
- 2018 Expert symposium on “Integrating and Analyzing Data From Surveys and Social Media” at CAIS. With Johannes Breuer, Pascal Siegers (**15,000€**)
- 2017 Project on “Monitoring Topic Salience in Social Media”. GESIS project funding (competitive). With Fabian Flöck, Arnim Bleier (**54,000€**)
- 2017 Project on “Integrating Survey Data and Digital Behavioral Data”. GESIS project funding (competitive). With Johannes Breuer, Tobias Gummer, Pascal Siegers (**45,000€**)
- 2017 Project on “Monitoring Social Media and Mass Media during the ALLBUS”. GESIS project funding (competitive). With Michael Blohm, Oshrat Hochmann (**15,500€**)
- 2012-2015 PhD Scholarship by Landesgraduiertenförderung Baden-Württemberg (**41,070€**)

## Awards and list positions

- 2020 Number 2 on list for Junior Professorship “Political Communication” at University of Konstanz
- 2019 ICA Computational Methods Best Paper Award (with JungHwan Yang, Franziska Keller, David Schoch)

2016 Number 2 on list for Junior Professorship “Internet and Politics” at University of Hildesheim

## Conference organization

2018 Expert symposium on “[Integrating and Analyzing Data From Surveys and Social Media](#)” at CAIS (main organizer)  
2014/2015 Lecture series “[Who Governs the Internet?](#)” in winter semester 2014/15 at Heidelberg University (co organizer)

## Conference participation

2020 ACES Workshop on EP Elections 2019 Amsterdam (P), ECPR, EPSA (cancelled), IB Tagung (P), ICA (P\*)  
2019 APSA CSS Preconference (P\*), DVPW and DGpuK PolKomm Conference (P+C), DVPW Section Comparative Politics Conference (P+C), ECPR General Conference (P+P+C+D), EPSA Conference (P\*), ESRA Conference (P\*), General Online Research Conference (P+P\*+C), Harvard Disinformation Workshop (P\*), ICA Annual Conference (P\*), MPSA Annual Conference (P\*), SSCR Workshop “Digital Threats to Democracy” (P\*)  
2018 Communication, Populism and Electoral Choice Conference (P), DGPs (P\*), DVPW Kongress (C), ECPR General Conference (P+P+D), ESRA BigSurv Conference (P\*), General Online Research Conference (P+C), ICA Annual Conference (P\*), MPSA Annual Conference (P\*)  
2017 APSA Annual Meeting (P\*), DVPW Section Comparative Politics Conference (P+D), IC2S2 (P+C), DVPW Working Group Internet and Politics Conference (P), ICWSM (P\*), IPSA Hannover Conference (P+D), MPSA Annual Conference (P\*), SVPW Congress (P\*), Workshop on “ICT in Authoritarian Regimes” at University St. Gallen (P+D) APSA Annual Meeting (P+P\*+C), APSA Political Communication Preconference (P), DVPW Working Group Internet and Politics Conference (P+C), International CSS Workshop Volkswagen Foundation, ECPR General Conference (P), IPSA World Congress (P+C+D), Microposts Workshop @ WWW (P), Web Science Conference (P)  
2016 ADDA Conference (P\*), BISA Annual Conference (P), DiscourseNet Congress (P\*), ECPR General Conference (P\*)  
2015 Workshop Internet Governance at Syracuse University School of Information Studies, ECPR General Conference (P)  
2014 MPSA Annual Conference (P), 3-Ländertagung (P)  
2013 P: Presentation; C: Panel chair; D: Discussant; \*: Presented by coauthor

## Invited talks

2020 Guest Talk at the University of Bern  
2020 Symposium “Kommunikationsformen von Parteien im digitalen Raum”, University of Düsseldorf  
2020 Guest Talk at the University of Manchester  
2019 Public Hearing for Tenure Track Professorship “Political Communication” at the University of Konstanz  
2018 Kiel Institute for the World Economy  
2018 Lecture Series “Digital Total” at Ruhr University Bochum and CAIS

2018	Hans-Bredow-Institut, Hamburg
2017	Lecture Series “Digitale Lebenswelten” at University of Hildesheim
2017	Participation in panel discussion “Web of Justice” at Ilmenau University of Technology
2016	Lecture “Web Science” at University of Koblenz-Landau
2016	Public Hearing for Junior Professorship “Internet and Politics” at University of Hildesheim
2016	“Praxis-Forum Open Data” at Heidelberg University
2015	Workshop “Studying the Use of Twitter in Political Communication” at GESIS CSS Wintersymposium in Cologne

## Other professional activities

### MEMBERSHIP IN EDITORIAL BOARD

[Political Communication](#) (2020-present)

### MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- DVPW: Section “Comparative Politics”, Section “Political Communication”, Working Group “Politics and Internet”
- German Society for Electoral Studies (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Wahlforschung)
- ECPR Standing Groups on “Internet and Politics”, “Comparative Political Institutions”, “Extremism and Democracy”, “Political Communication”
- German Society for Online Research (DGOF)

### REFeree

#### [Publons profile](#)

*American Political Science Review, Analyse & Kritik, Communication Methods and Measures, Contemporary Politics, Democratization, Digital Journalism, Electoral Studies, European Journal of Political Research, European Policy Analysis, Frontiers in Political Science, German Politics, Government Information Quarterly, ICzSz, ICA, ICWSM, Information, Communication & Society, International Journal of Communication, International Journal of Press/Politics, International Political Science Review, Journal of Communication, Journal of Elections, Public Opinion & Parties, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, Journal of Information Technology & Politics, Journal of Politics, Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series A, Legislative Studies Quarterly, New Media & Society, Party Politics, PLOS ONE, Policy & Internet, Political Behavior, Political Communication, Political Research Exchange, Political Research Quarterly, Public Opinion Quarterly, Schweizerischer Nationalfonds (SNF), Sustainability, The International Journal of Press/Politics, Zeitschrift für Politikwissenschaft, Zeitschrift für Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft*

## Teaching

I have taught 9 seminars and lectures in comparative politics, political communication, political methodology and introductory courses.

## Media coverage and appearances

Bayern 2 Radio, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Deutschlandfunk, FAZ, Handelsblatt, Heise online, MDR Aktuell Radio, Nordwest Zeitung, RAI Südtirol, Süddeutsche Zeitung, SWR Aktuell, Tagesspiegel, WDR Fernsehen

Last updated: May 18, 2021