Dr. Sebastian Stier

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Department Computational Social Science
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Areas of specialization

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

Academic career

1/2016-present	*Senior Researcher* (permanent position)
	GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, Cologne
2/2021-09/2021	*Acting Team Leader*
4/2017-11/2017	GESIS, Team Social Analytics & Services
4/2018-3/2019	*Substitute Professor (Professurvertretung)*
	University of Duisburg-Essen, Institute of Political Science
4/2017-9/2017	*Lecturer*
	Institute of Political Science, Heidelberg University (IPW HD)
8/2017	*Visiting Fellow*
	Center for Advanced Internet Studies (CAIS) Bochum
2/2012-12/2015	*PhD Student*
	Graduate School "Policy performance of autocratic and democratic regimes", IPW HD

Education

6/2021-present	HABILITATION in Political Science (committee: Yannis Theocharis, Achim Goerres, Andreas Jungherr), TUM School of Governance, Technical University of Munich
2/2012-3/2016	PhD in Political Science, Heidelberg University (*summa cum laude*)
9/2005–7/2011	M.A. (MAGISTER) in Political Science, History and Law, Heidelberg University (*summa cum laude*)

Publications

JOURNAL ARTICLES

2021	Stier, Sebastian, Frank Mangold, Michael Scharkow, and Johannes Breuer. "'Post post-broadcast democracy? News exposure in the age of online intermediaries". *American Political Science Review*.

2021   Richter, Simon, and Sebastian Stier. "Learning about the unknown Spitzenkandidaten: The role of media exposure during the 2019 European Parliament elections". *European Union Politics.*

2021   Haim, Mario, Johannes Breuer, and Sebastian Stier. "Do news actually 'find me'? Using digital behavioral data to study the news-finds-me phenomenon". *Social Media + Society.*

2021   Oschatz, Corinna, Sebastian Stier, and Jürgen Maier. "Twitter in the News: An analysis of embedded tweets in political news coverage". *Digital Journalism.*

2021   Maier, Michaela, Carlos Jalali, Jürgen Maier, Alessandro Nai, and Sebastian Stier. "When do parties put Europe in the center? Evidence from the 2019 European Parliamentary election campaign". *Politics.*

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   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* 44 (7), 1455-1481.

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, 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.* 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

under contract   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

2021   Stier, Sebastian, Jürgen Maier, and Corinna Oschatz. "Die Nutzung sozialer Medien durch Kandidaten im Bundestagswahlkampf 2017". In *Wahlen und Wähler – Analysen aus Anlass der Bundestagwahl 2017*, edited by Harald Schoen, and Bernhard Weßels, 415–432.

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. "Strukturbedingungen im Online-Wahlkampf: USA und Deutschland im Vergleich" (Structural Conditions in Online Campaigns: Comparing the U.S. and Germany). In *Die US-Präsidentschaftswahl 2012, Analysen der Politik- und Kommunikationswissenschaft*, edited by Christoph Bieber, and Klaus Kamps, 363–382. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften.

Grants

2021   "Political polarization and individualized online information environments: A longitudinal tracking study". Funded by the Leibniz Association. With Uwe Hasebrink, Lisa Merten (HBI Hamburg), Juhi Kulshrestha (University of Konstanz), Cornelius Puschmann (U Bremen), Katrin Weller (GESIS). (Total volume **988,682€**, 264,600€ awarded for GESIS' project part)

2021   "News diets & citizenship: A study combining web tracking data and surveys". Funded by Facebook Foundational Integrity & Impact. With Juhi Kulshrestha (University of Konstanz), Denis Bonnay (Université Paris Ouest Nanterre) and Marcos Oliveira (University of Exeter). (Total volume **50,000$**

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 (University Koblenz-Landau) and Corinna Oschatz (University of Amsterdam). (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 Saliences 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

2021	DVPW Conference (P), ECPR General Conference (P+P*), General Online Research Conference (P), Volkswagen Foundation Status Symposium (P)
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)
2016	APSA Annual Meeting (P+P*+C), APSA Political Communication Preconference (P), DVPW Working Group Internet and Politics Conference (P+C), International CSS Workshop Volkswagen Foun-

dation, ECPR General Conference (P), IPSA World Congress (P+C+D), Microposts Workshop @ WWW (P), Web Science Conference (P)

2015   ADDA Conference (P*), BISA Annual Conference (P), DiscourseNet Congress (P*), ECPR General Conference (P*)

2014   Workshop Internet Governance at Syracuse University School of Information Studies, ECPR General Conference (P)

2013   MPSA Annual Conference (P), 3-Ländertagung (P)

P: Presentation; C: Panel chair; D: Discussant; *: Presented by coauthor

Invited talks

2020   Guest Talk at the University of Bern
2020   Symposion "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"

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, European Union Politics, Frontiers in Political Science, German Politics, Government and Opposition, Government Information Quarterly, IC2S2, 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 Psychology, Political Research Exchange, Political Research Quarterly, Public Opinion Quarterly, Schweizerischer Nationalfonds (SNF), Swiss Political Science Review, 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

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