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S I M O N M U N Z E R T

personal information

Citizenship: German
Year of birth: 1985
Title: Dr.rer.soc.

academic employments

Hertie School

Assistent Professor in Data Science and Public Policy, 2019–Present.

Lecturer in Political Data Science, 2017–2019.

University of Maryland and Joint Program of Survey Methodology

Adjunct assistant professor, 2018–Present.

Humboldt University of Berlin

Postdoctoral research and teaching fellow, Department of Social Sciences, Chair of Comparative Political Behavior (Prof. Dr. Heike Klüver), 2017.

University of Mannheim

Postdoctoral research fellow; founder and manager of the Social Science Data Lab, Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES), 2016.

Duke University

Visiting research fellow, Department of Political Science and Ward Lab, 2014.

University of Konstanz

Research and teaching assistant, Chair for Survey Research (Peter Selb), 2011–2016.

Stipendiary, Center for Quantitative Methods and Survey Research, 2009–2011. Project “Integrating Disparate Data into a Geographic Information System of the German Electoral Districts” (together with Peter Selb and Susumu Shikano).

Student assistant, 2006–2009. Work at the chairs of Wolfgang Seibel, Rainer Schnell, Thomas Bräuninger, Susumu Shikano, and Christoph Knill.

academic education

University of Konstanz

Ph.D., Political Science, Graduate School of Decision Sciences, University of Konstanz, 2015.

Grade: summa cum laude. Thesis: *Contributions to the Measurement of Public Opinion in Subpopulations*. Committee: Peter Selb, Susumu Shikano, Michael D. Ward.

M.A., Politics and Public Administration, University of Konstanz, 2011.

Grade: 1.0; ranked 1st among 35 students. Thesis: *Political Representation Of Constituents' Attitudes Towards Nuclear Power Phaseout. A Bayesian Hierarchical Approach Exploiting Sparse Survey Data And Geographic Information*. Supervisors: Peter Selb, Susumu Shikano.

B.A., Political and Administrative Science, University of Konstanz, 2009.

Grade: 1.5; ranked 5th among 61 students. Thesis: *Vote Overreporting. Ein einfaches Erklärungsmodell auf Basis der Wahlbeteiligung*. Supervisor: Peter Selb.

research grants
and scholarships

2020. Hertie School Faculty Activity Fund, AY 2019/20 II. "*Fundamental Rights Trade Offs: Challenges for Governance in Times of Corona*." Main principal investigator; co-principal investigators: Anita Gohdes, Will Lowe, Başak Çalı. Total amount: EUR 26,800.

2020. Facebook Research Content Governance Award. "*Global Preferences for Hate Speech Regulation*." Main principal investigator; co-principal investigator: Richard Traunmüller. Total amount: EUR 85,400.

2019. Hertie School Faculty Activity Fund, AY 2019/20. "*Free Speech Regulation and the Politics of Hate*." Main principal investigator; co-principal investigator: Daniela Stockmann. Total amount: EUR 4,700.

2019. Hertie School Faculty Activity Fund, AY 2018/19, second round. "*Building Indicators of Public Engagement in Health and Climate Change*." Main principal investigator; co-principal investigator: Slava Jankin. Total amount: EUR 9,780.

2019. Stifterverband and Dieter-Schwarz-Stiftung. Innovation Hubs@Campus Finalist and Member of the Innovation Club. "*Hertie School Data Science Lab. Data Science meets Public Policy*" Together with Slava Jankin. Total amount: EUR 15,000.

2018–2019. Hertie School Faculty Activity Fund, AY 2018/19. "*What Should We Be Allowed to Say? Citizens' Preferences for Hate Speech Regulation*." Main principal investigator; co-principal investigator: Daniela Stockmann, Richard Traunmüller. Total amount: EUR 15,350.

2017–2019. Daimler and Benz Foundation, Postgraduates and Junior Professors Fellowship Program. "*Citizen and Elite Activity on the Wikipedia Market Place of Political Information*." Total amount: EUR 40,000.

2017–2019. VolkswagenStiftung. "*Paying Attention to Attention: Media Exposure and Opinion Formation in an Age of Information Overload*." Main principal investigator; co-principal investigators: Pablo Barberá, Andrew Guess, JungHwan Yang. 2017–2019. Total amount: EUR 736,600.

2014. DFG / Excellence Initiative Research Fellowship at the Department of Political Science, Duke University (granted for five months). Total amount: EUR 6,750.

2009–2011. Stipendiary at the Center for Quantitative Methods and Survey Research. Total amount: approx. EUR 24,000.

awards

2014. ALLBUS Award for the best paper published using data from the German General Social Survey, awarded by GESIS–Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences (together with Paul Bauer) for “*Political Depolarization in German Public Opinion, 1980-2010*”.

2014. Best Paper Award of the German Society for Electoral Studies (DGfW), together with Peter Selb, for “*Estimating Constituency Preferences from Sparse Survey Data Using Auxiliary Geographic Information*”.

2011. VEUK Award (Verein der Ehemaligen der Universität Konstanz) for best M.A. thesis.

publications

Monographs

Simon Munzert. 2015. *Contributions to the Measurement of Public Opinion in Subpopulations*. Konstanz: Universität Konstanz. PhD Thesis.

Simon Munzert, Christian Rubba, Peter Meißner, and Dominic Nyhuis. 2014. *Automated Data Collection with R. A Practical Guide to Web Scraping and Text Mining*. Chichester: John Wiley & Sons.

Accompanying website: <http://r-datacollection.com/>

Review in *JStatSoft*: <https://www.jstatsoft.org/article/view/v068b03>

Journal articles (peer-reviewed)

Sascha Göbel, **Simon Munzert**. “*The Comparative Legislators Database*.” Forthcoming at *British Journal of Political Science*.

Simon Munzert, Peter Selb, Anita Gohdes, Lukas Stoetzer, Will Lowe. “*Tracking and Promoting the Usage of a COVID-19 Contact Tracing App*.” Forthcoming at *Nature Human Behavior*.

Simon Munzert, Sebastian Ramirez-Ruiz. “*Meta-Analysis of the Effects of Voting Advice Applications*.” Forthcoming at *Political Communication*.

Simon Munzert, Andrew Guess, Pablo Barberá, JungHwan Yang. “*Do Online Voter Guides Empower Citizens? Evidence from a Field Experiment with Digital Trace Data*.” Forthcoming at *Public Opinion Quarterly*.

Nick Watts, Markus Amann, Nigel Arnell, Sonja Ayeb-Karlsson, Jessica Beagley, Kristine Belesova, Maxwell Boykoff, Peter Byass, Wenjia Cai, Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum, Stuart Capstick, Jonathan Chambers, Samantha Coleman, Carole Dalin, Meaghan Daly, Niheer Dasandi, Shouro Dasgupta, Michael Davies, Claudia Di Napoli, Paula Dominguez-Salas, Paul Drummond, Robert Dubrow, Kristie L. Ebi, Matthew Eckelman, Paul Ekins, Luis E. Escobar, Lucien Georgeson, Su Golder, Delia Grace, Hilary Graham, Paul Hagggar, Ian Hamilton, Stella Hartinger, Jeremy Hess, Shih-Che Hsu, Nick Hughes, Slava Jankin Mikhaylov, Marcia P. Jimenez, Ilan Kelman, Harry Kennard, Gregor Kiesewetter, Patrick L. Kinney, Tord Kjellstrom, Dominic Kniveton, Pete Lampard, Bruno Lemke, Yang Liu, Zhao Liu, Melissa Lott, Rachel Lowe, Jaime Martinez-Urtaza, Mark Maslin,

Lucy McAllister, Alice McGushin, Celia McMichael, James Milner, Maziar Moradi-Lakeh, Karyn Morrissey, **Simon Munzert**, Kris A. Murray, Tara Neville, Maria Nilsson, Maquins Odhiambo Sewe, Tadj Oreszczyn, Matthias Otto, Fereidoon Owfi, Olivia Pearman, David Pencheon, Ruth Quinn, Mahnaz Rabbaniha, Elizabeth Robinson, Joacim Rocklöv, Marina Romanello, Jan C. Semenza, Jodi Sherman, Liuhua Shi, Marco Springmann, Meisam Tabatabaei, Jonathon Taylor, Joaquin Triñanes, Joy Shumake-Guillemot, Bryan Vu, Paul Wilkinson, Matthew Winning, Peng Gong, Hugh Montgomery, Anthony Costello. 2019. “The 2020 report of The Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: responding to converging crises.” *Lancet* 397:129–70.

Simon Munzert and Peter Selb. 2020. “Can we directly survey adherence to non-pharmaceutical interventions? Evidence from a list experiment conducted in Germany during the early Corona pandemic.” *Survey Research Methods* 14(2): 205–209.

Marcel Neunhoeffler, Thomas Gschwend, **Simon Munzert**, and Lukas F. Stötter. 2020. “Ein Ansatz zur Vorhersage der Erststimmenanteile bei Bundestagswahlen.” *Politische Vierteljahresschrift* 61: 111–130.

Nick Watts, Markus Amann, Nigel Arnell, Sonja Ayeb-Karlsson, Kristine Belesova, Maxwell Boykoff, Peter Byass, Wenjia Cai, Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum, Stuart Capstick, Jonathan Chambers, Carole Dalin, Meaghan Daly, Niheer Dasandi, Michael Davies, Paul Drummond, Robert Dubrow, Kristie L Ebi, Matthew Eckelman, Paul Ekins, Luis E Escobar, Lucia Fernandez Montoya, Lucien Georgeson, Hilary Graham, Paul Hagggar, Ian Hamilton, Stella Hartinger, Jeremy Hess, Ilan Kelman, Gregor Kiesewetter, Tord Kjellstrom, Dominic Kniveton, Bruno Lemke, Yang Liu, Melissa Lott, Rachel Lowe, Maquins Odhiambo Sewe, Jaime Martinez-Urtaza, Mark Maslin, Lucy McAllister, Alice McGushin, Slava Jankin Mikhaylov, James Milner, Maziar Moradi-Lakeh, Karyn Morrissey, Kris Murray, **Simon Munzert**, Maria Nilsson, Tara Neville, Tadj Oreszczyn, Fereidoon Owfi, Olivia Pearman, David Pencheon, Dung Phung, Steve Pye, Ruth Quinn, Mahnaz Rabbaniha, Elizabeth Robinson, Joacim Rocklöv, Jan C Semenza, Jodi Sherman, Joy Shumake-Guillemot, Meisam Tabatabaei, Jonathon Taylor, Joaquin Trinanes, Paul Wilkinson, Anthony Co-stello, Peng Gong, and Hugh Montgomery. 2019. “The 2019 report of The Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: ensuring that the health of a child born today is not defined by a changing climate.” *Lancet* 394:1836–78.

Lukas F. Stötter, Marcel Neunhoeffler, Thomas Gschwend, **Simon Munzert**, and Sebastian Sternberg. 2019. “Forecasting Elections in Multi-Party Systems: A Bayesian Approach Combining Polls and Fundamentals.” *Political Analysis* 27(2): 255–262.

Peter Selb and **Simon Munzert**. 2018. “Examining a Most Likely Case for Strong Campaign Effects: Hitler’s Speeches and the Rise of the Nazi Party, 1927–1933.” *American Political Science Review* 112(4): 1050–1066.

Sascha Göbel and **Simon Munzert**. 2018. “Political Advertising on the Wikipedia Market Place of Information.” *Social Science Computer Review* 36(2): 157–175.

Simon Munzert, Lukas Stötter, Thomas Gschwend, Marcel Neunhoeffler, and Sebastian Sternberg. 2017. “Zweitstimme.org. Ein strukturell-dynamisches Vorhersagemodell für Bun-

destagswahlen.” *Politische Vierteljahresschrift* 58(3): 418–441.
Accompanying website: Zweitstimme.org.

Simon Munzert. 2017. “Forecasting elections at the constituency level: A correction– combination procedure.” *International Journal of Forecasting* 33(2): 467–481.

Simon Munzert and Peter Selb. 2017. “Measuring Political Knowledge in Web-Based Surveys: An Experimental Validation of Visual versus Verbal Instruments.” *Social Science Computer Review* 25(2): 167–183.

Peter Selb and **Simon Munzert.** 2016. “Forecasting the 2013 Bundestag Election Using Many Polls and Historical Election Results.” *German Politics* 25(1): 73–83.

Michael Herrmann, **Simon Munzert**, and Peter Selb. 2016. “Determining the Effect of Strategic Voting on Election Results.” *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society (Series A)* 179(2): 583–605.

Julian Bernauer and **Simon Munzert.** 2014. “Loyal to the Game? Strategic Policy Representation in Mixed Electoral Systems.” *Representation* 50(1): 83–97.

Simon Munzert and Paul Bauer. 2013. “Political Depolarization in German Public Opinion, 1980–2010.” *Political Science Research and Methods* 1(1): 67–89. Winner of the ALLBUS Award 2015 for the best paper published using data from the German General Social Survey, awarded by GESIS–Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences.

Peter Selb, Michael Herrmann, **Simon Munzert**, Thomas Schübel, and Susumu Shikano. 2013. “Forecasting Runoff Elections Using Candidate Evaluations From First Round Exit Polls.” *International Journal of Forecasting* 29: 541–547.

Peter Selb and **Simon Munzert.** 2013. “Voter Overrepresentation, Vote Misreporting and Turnout Bias in Postelection Surveys.” *Electoral Studies* 32(1): 186–196.

Peter Selb and **Simon Munzert.** 2011 “Estimating Constituency Preferences from Sparse Survey Data Using Auxiliary Geographic Information.” *Political Analysis* 19(4): 455–470. Winner of the Best Paper Award 2015 of the German Society for Electoral Studies (DGfW).

Other articles

Simon Munzert. 2014. “Big Data in der Forschung! Big Data in der Lehre? Ein Vorschlag zur Erweiterung der bestehenden Methodenausbildung.” *Zeitschrift für Politikwissenschaft* 24(1-2): 207–222.

Book chapters

Simon Munzert and Dominic Nyhuis. Forthcoming. “Die Nutzung von Webdaten in den Sozialwissenschaften,” in *Handbuch Methoden der Politikwissenschaft*, edited by Claudius Wagemann, Achim Goerres, and Markus Siewert. Springer, Heidelberg.

Simon Munzert. Forthcoming. “Auf dem Weg zu einer fundierten Softwareausbildung in der Politikwissenschaft,” in *Big Data: Große Möglichkeiten oder große Probleme?*, edited by

Joachim Behnke, Andreas Blätte, Kai-Uwe Schnapp, and Claudius Wagemann. Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, Baden-Baden.

Susumu Shikano, **Simon Munzert**, Thomas Schübel, Michael Herrmann, and Peter Selb. 2014. “Eine empirische Schätzmethode der Valenz-Issues auf der Basis der Kandidatenbeurteilung am Beispiel der Konstanzer Oberbürgermeisterwahl 2012,” in *Jahrbuch für Handlungs- und Entscheidungstheorie* 8, edited by André Bächtiger, Eric Linhart, and Bernhard Kittel. Wiesbaden: Springer, 113–131.

Book reviews

Simon Munzert. 2014. *Review of XML and Web Technologies for Data Sciences with R* by Deborah Nolan and Duncan Temple Lang. *Journal of Statistical Software* 81: Book Review 1.

work in progress

Working papers

Andrew Guess, Pablo Barberá, **Simon Munzert**, and JungHwan Yang. “The consequences of online partisan media.” (under review)

Simon Munzert, Anita Gohdes, Lukas Stoetzer, Will Lowe, Basak Cali, Marc Helbling, Rahsaan Maxwell, and Richard Traunmüller. “Citizen Preferences in a Fundamental Rights Dilemma: Evidence from a Triage Experiment in Five Countries.”

Marc Helbling, Rahsaan Maxwell, **Simon Munzert**, and Richard Traunmüller. “Does every life count the same? Evidence from a Triage Experiment.”

Andreas E. Murr and **Simon Munzert**. “Forecasting Turnout at UK Elections.”

Simon Munzert. “Measuring the Importance of Political Elites.”

Simon Munzert, Richard Traunmüller, Andrew M. Guess, Pablo Barberá, and JungHwan Yang. “What should we be allowed to say? Citizens’ Preferences for Online Hate Speech Regulation.”

Richard Traunmüller, **Simon Munzert**, Andrew M. Guess, Pablo Barberá, and JungHwan Yang. “Free Speech and the Effect of Hate Speech Regulation on Preference Falsification. Experimental Evidence from the United States and Germany.”

invited talks & workshops

“What Should We Be Allowed to Post? Citizens’ Preferences for Online Hate Speech Regulation” Nuffield College Political Science Seminar, 2020.

“A Primer to Web Scraping with R.” Campus Lucerne, 2019.

“A Primer to Web Scraping with R.” Max-Planck-Institut für Gesellschaftsforschung, Cologne, 2019.

“A Primer to Web Scraping with R.” Cologne Center for Comparative Politics, 2018.

- “Web Scraping and APIs.” Joint Program in Survey Methodology, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, DC, 2018.
- “Political Economy in the Computational Age.” Hertie School, Berlin, 2018.
- “A Primer to Web Scraping and Text Mining with R.” Geschwister Scholl Institute, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, 2018.
- “Citizen and Elite Activity on Wikipedia.” Hertie School of Governance, Berlin, 2017.
- “Media Exposure and Opinion Formation.” USC, Los Angeles, 2017.
- “International Research in Computational Social Sciences.” GESIS Cologne, 2017.
- “Election Forecasting with R.” University of Konstanz, 2017.
- “A Primer to Web Scraping with R.” AAPOR Webinar, 2017.
- “A Primer to Web Scraping with R.” European University Institute, Florence, 2017.
- “Beyond the Crystal Ball: Scientific Forecasts of the 2017 German Federal Election.” Hertie School of Governance, Berlin, 2017.
- “Networks of Knowledge and the Study of Political Behavior.” Keynote speech, Graduate School of Decision Sciences, Konstanz, 2016.
- “Examining a Most Likely Case for Strong Campaign Effects: Hitler’s Speeches and the Rise of the Nazi Party, 1927–1933.” University of Mannheim, 2016.
- “A Primer on Web Scraping with R.” Joint Statistical Meetings, Chicago, 2016.
- “Empirical Economic and Social Research Workshop.” ZEW/MZES Mannheim, 2016.
- “International Research in Computational Social Sciences.” GESIS Cologne, 2016.
- “Measuring Public Attention using Wikipedia Access Statistics.” ZU Friedrichshafen, 2015.
- “Measuring Political Knowledge in Web-Based Surveys.” GESIS Mannheim, 2015.
- “Introduction to Web Scraping with R.” Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin, 2015.
- “A Primer on Web Scraping with R.” University of Bamberg, 2015.
- “Web Scraping with R.” Workshop, Duke University, 2014.
- “Automated Data Collection in the World Wide Web with R.” University of Bern, 2014.
- “Introduction to Web Scraping with R.” University of Zurich, 2013.
- “Are Voters Really Sensitive to Weather Conditions? Turnout at German Federal Elections under the Meteorological Microscope.” Lange Nacht der Wissenschaft, Konstanz, 2012.
- “Introduction to R and Web Scraping.” University of Mannheim, 2012.
- “Estimating Constituency Preferences from Sparse Survey Data Using Auxiliary Geographic Information.” SciencePo Paris, 2012.

conferences with
presentations

Annual Conference of the DVPW Working Group on Elections: 2015

Annual Conference of the DVPW Working Group on Political Methodology: 2014, 2016 (co-organizer)

Annual Conference of the American Political Science Association (APSA): 2017 (discussant)

Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA): 2014

Conference of the European Survey Research Association (ESRA): 2011, 2013 (panel chair), 2015, 2017

General Conference of the European Political Science Association (EPSA): 2012, 2013, 2014 (panel chair, discussant), 2016 (discussant), 2017, 2018, 2019 (panel chair, discussant)

Annual Convention of the Swiss Political Science Association (SVPW): 2013 (discussant)

Webdatanet Conference: 2015 (roundtable organizer)

General Online Research Conference: 2018 (member of the program committee and track chair), 2019 (member of the program committee and track chair)

The Empiricist's Challenge Conference: 2015

service to the
profession

Referee for *American Political Science Review*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Data*, *DFG*, *IC2S2 2017*, *IC2S2 2019*, *Journal of Elections*, *Public Opinion and Parties*, *Knowledge and Information Systems*, *Party Politics*, *Political Behavior*, *Political Communication*, *Political Science Research and Methods*, *Politische Vierteljahresschrift*, *PS: Political Science and Politics*, *Public Choice*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *Sage Open*, *Social Science Computer Review*, *Statistics*, *Politics and Policy*, *Survey Research Methods*, *Swiss Political Science Review*, *West European Politics*.

Manuscript review for *John Wiley & Sons*.

Conference/workshop organizer of *Political Economy in the Computational Age Workshop*, 2018, Berlin (co-organizer), *General Online Research 2018*, Cologne (chair of track "Politics and Communication"), *Citizen and Elite Activity on Wikipedia Workshop*, 2017, Berlin (organizer), *Media Exposure and Opinion Formation Workshop*, 2017, Los Angeles (co-organizer), *DVPW Working Group on Political Methodology Meeting 2016*, Mannheim (co-organizer), *Webdatanet Conference 2015*, Salamanca (roundtable organizer).

Member of *American Political Science Association*, *European Survey Research Association*, *European Political Science Association*, *Deutsche Vereinigung für Politische Wissenschaft*.

institutional
service

External member of the Ethikkommission (ethical review board), 2018–Present, WZB Berlin Social Science Center.

Member of the IT Committee, 2019–Present, Hertie School.

Member of the PhD Board, 2018–Present, Hertie School.

Student representative in the study commission, 2007, Department of Politics and Public Administration, University of Konstanz.

Student representative in search committee “Methoden der empirischen Politikforschung”, 2007, Department of Politics and Public Administration, University of Konstanz.

detektor.fm, Apr 27, 2018, “[Wikipedia wehrt sich—Rassismus löschen fehlgeschlagen](#)” by Doris Hellpoldt and Patrick Ehrenberg.

The Monkey Cage, Sep 23, 2017, “[New German election forecast: Merkel’s party will win but lose seats](#)”.

Financial Times, Sep 20, 2017, “[German election: AfD’s advance in six charts](#)” by Martin Stabe and Haluka Maier-Borst.

Merkur, Sep 18, 2017, “[Erststimmen-Vorhersage: Diese Wahlkreise sind noch offen](#)” by Florian Naumann.

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung Online, Aug 30, 2017, “[Meinungsforscher in der Krise?](#)” by Rebecca Winkels.

Die-Debatte.org, Aug 29, 2017, “[Meinungsforschung der Zukunft](#)” by Rebecca Winkels.

ARD Hauptstadtstudio Blog, May 4, 2017, “[Wir wissen bereits, wer die Bundestagswahl gewinnt – vielleicht](#)” by Marko Milovanovic.

Spektrum.de, Nov 21, 2016, “[Wikipedia – Liebling der Wissenschaft](#)” by Stefan Mey.

Slate.fr, Aug 19, 2016, “[Hitler, cet orateur surestimé](#)” by Jean-Marie Pottier.

Statistics Views, Dec 15, 2014, “[Automated Data Collection with R: A Practical Guide to Web Scraping and Text Mining. An interview with co-author Simon Munzert.](#)”

Südkurier, Aug 27, 2013, “Erste deutschlandweite Umfragen auf Wahlkreisebene.”

The Monkey Cage, Jul 25, 2013, “[Political Depolarization in Germany](#)” by Andrew Gelman.

Südkurier, May 2, 2012, “Wie das Wetter die Politik beeinflusst.”

Berlin, January 2021.