

# SIMON MUNZERT

Research Assistant

## AFFILIATION

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University of Konstanz  
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## PERSONAL INFORMATION

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| <i>Citizenship</i>   | German                |
| <i>Date of birth</i> | 24 December 1985      |
| <i>Title</i>         | Magister Artium, M.A. |

## EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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|--------|---|
| 2014   | <i>Duke University, USA</i><br>Visiting scholar at the Department of Political Science  |
| 2013 - | <i>University of Konstanz, Germany</i><br>Doctoral student, Department of Politics and Public Administration and Graduate<br>School of Decision Sciences<br>Thesis title: "Contributions to the Measurement of Public Opinion in Subpopulations"  |
| 2011   | <i>University of Konstanz, Germany</i><br>Master of Arts in Politics and Public Administration (1.0)<br>Thesis title: "Political Representation Of Constituents' Attitudes Towards Nuclear<br>Power Phaseout. A Bayesian Hierarchical Approach Exploiting Sparse Survey Data And<br>Geographic Information" |
| 2009   | <i>University of Konstanz, Germany</i><br>Bachelor of Arts in Political and Administrative Science (1.5)<br>Thesis title: "Vote Overreporting. Ein einfaches Erklärungsmodell auf Basis der<br>Wahlbeteiligung"   |
| 2005   | High-school diploma (Abitur), Gymnasium Scheinfeld, Germany (1.0)   |

## ADDITIONAL TRAINING

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|-------------|--|
| 2012        | ECPR Winter School in Methods and Techniques : Mathematics for the Social Sciences<br>(Jeff Gill)  |
| 2010        | Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis: Bayesian Data Analysis (Simon<br>Jackman)   |
| 2011 - 2013 | Doctoral Program Politics and Public Administration, University of Konstanz: Courses<br>on causal inference with observational data, spatial data analysis, Bayesian hierarchical<br>modeling (Peter Selb, Susumu Shikano) |

## ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

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### Researcher / Teaching Assistant

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| 2011 -      | <i>University of Konstanz, Germany</i><br>Research assistant, Chair of Survey Research (Peter Selb)  |
| 2009 - 2011 | <i>University of Konstanz, Germany</i><br>Stipendiary at the Center for Quantitative Methods and Survey Research (CMS): Project "Integrating Disparate Data into a Geographic Information System of the German Electoral Districts" (Peter Selb) |
| 2006 - 2009 | <i>University of Konstanz, Germany</i><br>Student Assistant (Wolfgang Seibel, Thomas Bräuninger, Susumu Shikano, Christoph Knill)  |

### Survey Project Management

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| 2014 | Political Science and Public Administration Alumni Survey      |
| 2013 | Journalist Expert Survey on the German Bundestag Election 2013 |
| 2012 | Student survey "Study and Politics"                            |

### Teaching

|                  | <i>Undergraduate/graduate level</i>       | <i>overall evaluation score*</i> |
|------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 2011, 2013       | Introduction to questionnaire design      | 2.0, 1.2                         |
| 2014             | Introduction to survey methodology with R | 1.8                              |
| 2012, 2013, 2014 | Data collection in the World Wide Web     | 1.1, 1.2, 1.3                    |
| 2013             | Election forecasting                      | 1.1                              |
| 2011, 2012       | Introduction to Stata                     | 1.3, 1.3                         |

\* Student evaluations range from 1 (A) to 5 (F)

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Books

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 2015 | "Automated Data Collection with R. A Practical Guide to Web Scraping and Text Mining." Together with Christian Rubba, Peter Meißner, and Dominic Nyhuis. Chichester: John Wiley & Sons. Accompanying website: <a href="http://r-datacollection.com/">http://r-datacollection.com/</a> |
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### Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

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|------|---|
| 2015 | "Determining the Impact of Strategic Voting on Election Results". Together with Michael Herrmann and Peter Selb. Forthcoming in <i>Journal of the Royal Statistical Society Series A</i> .  |
| 2014 | "Loyal to the Game? Strategic Policy Representation in Mixed Electoral Systems." <i>Representation</i> 50(1): 83-97. Together with Julian Bernauer.   |
| 2013 | "Political Depolarization in German Public Opinion, 1980-2010." <i>Political Science Research and Methods</i> 1(1): 67-89. Together with Paul Bauer. Winner of the 2014 ALLBUS award for the best paper published using data from the German General Social Survey.<br><br>"Forecasting Runoff Elections Using Candidate Evaluations From First Round Exit Polls." <i>International Journal of Forecasting</i> 29: 541-547. Together with Peter Selb, Michael Herrmann, Thomas Schübel, and Susumu Shikano.<br><br>"Voter Overrepresentation, Vote Misreporting and Turnout Bias in Postelection Surveys." <i>Electoral Studies</i> 32(1): 186-196. Together with Peter Selb. |

- 2011 "Estimating Constituency Preferences from Sparse Survey Data Using Auxiliary Geographic Information." *Political Analysis* 19(4): 455-470. Together with Peter Selb. Winner of the 2014 DGfW award for the best paper published using data from the German Longitudinal Election Study.

### Other Articles

- 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

- 2014 "Eine empirische Schätzmethode der Valenz-Issues auf der Basis der Kandidatenbeurteilung am Beispiel der Konstanzer Oberbürgermeisterwahl 2012." In: André Bächtiger, Eric Linhart, and Bernhard Kittel (eds.): *Jahrbuch für Handlungs- und Entscheidungstheorie* 8. Together with Susumu Shikano, Susumu, Thomas Schübel, Michael Herrmann, and Peter Selb.

### Book Reviews

- 2014 "XML and Web Technologies for Data Sciences with R" by Deborah Nolan and Duncan Temple Lang. 2014. New York: Springer. *Journal of Statistical Software* 61: Book Review 1.

## CONFERENCES

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- 2015 Webdatanet Conference  
 2014 Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association  
 2011, 2013, 2015 European Survey Research Association Conference  
 2012, 2013 General Conference of the European Political Science Association  
 2013 Annual Convention of the Swiss Political Science Association

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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Reviewer for *Political Behavior*, *Political Science Research and Methods*, *Survey Research Methods*, John Wiley & Sons.

Member of *Midwest Political Science Association*, *European Survey Research Association*, *European Political Science Association*.

## INVITED TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

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- 2015 "A Primer on Web Scraping with R", University of Bamberg; March 2015.  
 2014 "Methods Lab Workshop on Web Scraping", Duke University; October 2014.  
 "Automatisierte Datenerhebung im World Wide Web mit R", three-day workshop at the University of Bern; May 2014.  
 2013 "Improving Constituency-Level Election Forecasting (and some Afterthoughts on the Bundestag Election 2013)." Presented at the Brown Bag Meeting, University of Konstanz; November 2013.  
 "Introduction to Web Scraping with R." Presented at the Workshop Automating Online Data Collection in R, University of Zurich; April 2013.  
 2012 "Introduction to R and Web Scraping." Presented at the Workshop Facilitating Empirical

Research on Political Reforms: Automating Data Collection in R, Mannheim; December 2012.

"Sind Wähler wirklich wetterfülig? Die Wahlbeteiligung bei den Bundestagswahlen unter der meteorologischen Lupe." Presented at the Lange Nacht der Wissenschaft, University of Konstanz; May 2012.

"Estimating Constituency Preferences from Sparse Survey Data Using Auxiliary Geographic Information." Presented at the Journée d'études: Assessing the Impact of Geography on the Vote. SciencePo Paris: March 2012.

## AWARDS, GRANTS AND MEDIA ATTENTION

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- 2014 *DFG Research Fellowship at the Department of Political Science, Duke University*  
*ALLBUS Award 2014* 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."  
*Best Paper Award of the German Society for Electoral Studies (DGfW) 2014* (together with Peter Selb) for "Estimating Constituency Preferences from Sparse Survey Data Using Auxiliary Geographic Information."
- 2012 *Nomination for the Kellogg/Notre Dame Award* for best paper in comparative politics presented at the Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association in 2012 (together with Michael Herrmann and Peter Selb) for "How strategic votes matter."
- 2011 *VEUK Award 2011* (Verein der Ehemaligen der Universität Konstanz), best MA thesis.

Media Attention: *Statistics Views*, 15 December 2014: „[Automated Data Collection with R: A Practical Guide to Web Scraping and Text Mining - An interview with co-author Simon Munzert](#)", *Südkurier*, 27 August 2013: „Erste deutschlandweite Umfragen auf Wahlkreisebene", *Südkurier*, 8 July 2012: „Was die Forscher zur OB-Wahl sagen", *Südkurier*, 2 May 2012: „Wie das Wetter die Politik beeinflusst".

## AREAS OF INTEREST

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Measurement of Public Opinion, Election Forecasting, Methods of Web Scraping and Big Data Management, Bayesian Modeling, and Survey Methods.

*Simon Munzert*

*Konstanz, February 2015*