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

personal

Citizenship: German

Date of birth: 24 December 1985

Title: Dr.rer.soc.

Marital status: In a partnership, one daughter (*2014)

positions

Postdoctoral research fellow, University of Mannheim, Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES), 2016–Present.

Visiting scholar, Duke University, NC, Department of Political Science, 2014.

Research and teaching assistant, University of Konstanz, 2011–2016.

Chair of Survey Research (Peter Selb).

Stipendiary at the Center for Quantitative Methods and Survey Research, University of Konstanz, 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, University of Konstanz, 2006–2009.

Work at the chairs of Wolfgang Seibel, Thomas Bräuninger, Susumu Shikano, and Christoph Knill.

education

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*. Supervisors: 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.

awards & grants

- DFG / Excellence Initiative Research Fellowship at the Department of Political Science, Duke University (granted for five months), 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”, 2014.
- VEUK Award (Verein der Ehemaligen der Universität Konstanz) for best M.A. thesis, 2011.
- Stipendiary at the Center for Quantitative Methods and Survey Research, 2009–2011.

writings

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 by Stefano M. Iacus in *JStatSoft*: <https://www.jstatsoft.org/article/view/v068b03>

Journal articles (peer-reviewed)

- Forthcoming. **Simon Munzert** and Peter Selb. “Measuring Political Knowledge in Web-Based Surveys: An Experimental Validation of Visual versus Verbal Instruments.” *Social Science Computer Review*.
- 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.

- 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.

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

- 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

- Simon Munzert. “A Methodological Framework for Constituency-Level Election Forecasting.”
- Simon Munzert. “Using Wikipedia Article Traffic Volume to Measure Public Issue Attention.”
- Simon Munzert and Andreas E. Murr. “Forecasting Turnout at UK Elections.”
- Sascha Göbel and Simon Munzert. “Political Advertising on the Wikipedia Market Place of Information.”
- Peter Selb and Simon Munzert. “Scrutinizing the Myth of Adolf Hitler as a Consummate Campaigner.”
- Paul C. Bauer, Pablo Barberá, and Simon Munzert. “The quality of citations: Towards quantifying qualitative impact in social science research.”

invited talks
& workshops

- “A Primer on Web Scraping with R.” One-day workshop, Joint Statistical Meetings, Chicago, IL, 2016.
- “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.” Two-day workshop, University of Bamberg, 2015.
- “Web Scraping with R.” Workshop, Duke University, 2014.
- “Automatisierte Datenerhebung im World Wide Web mit R.” Three-day workshop, University of Bern, 2014.
- “Introduction to Web Scraping with R.” Workshop on Automating Online Data Collection in R, University of Zurich, 2013.
- “Introduction to R and Web Scraping.” Workshop on Automating Data Collection in R, Mannheim, 2012.
- “Estimating Constituency Preferences from Sparse Survey Data Using Auxiliary Geographic Information.” Journée d’études: Assessing the Impact of Geography on the Vote, SciencePo Paris, 2012.

conferences
with
presentations

- Webdatanet Conference: 2015 (Salamanca)
- The Empiricist’s Challenge Conference: 2015 (Mannheim)
- Annual Conference of the DVPW Working Group on Elections: 2015 (Düsseldorf)
- Annual Conference of the DVPW Working Group on Political Methodology: 2014 (Duisburg), 2016 (Mannheim, co-organizer)
- Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association: 2014 (Chicago)
- Conference of the European Survey Research Association: 2011 (Lausanne), 2013 (Ljubljana), 2015 (Reykjavik)
- General Conference of the European Political Science Association: 2012 (Berlin), 2013 (Barcelona), 2014 (Edinburgh), 2016 (Brussels)
- Annual Convention of the Swiss Political Science Association: 2013 (Zurich)

service to the
profession

Referee for *British Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties*, *Knowledge and Information Systems*, *Party Politics*, *Political Behavior*, *Political Science Research and Methods*, *Public Choice*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *Survey Research Methods*, *Swiss Political Science Review*.

Manuscript review for *John Wiley & Sons*.

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

- survey project management** Political Science and Public Administration Alumni Panel Survey, University of Konstanz, 2014/15. Design, programming and monitoring.
University of Konstanz Canteen survey, 2014. Design, programming and monitoring.
Journalist Expert Survey on the German Federal Election, 2013. Design, programming and monitoring.
Survey on Studies and Politics, University of Konstanz, 2012. Design, programming and monitoring.
Exit poll at Konstanz mayoral election, 2012. Design and field work.
- teaching** Undergraduate level: Computational Political Science (2015), Introduction to Questionnaire Design (2011, 2013), Election forecasting (2013), Introduction to Stata (2011, 2012)
Graduate level: Introduction to survey methodology with R (2014), Data collection in the World Wide Web (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)
- 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.”
The Monkey Cage, 22 August 2013, “[\(Not Much\) Political Polarization in Europe](#)” by Larry Bartels.
The Monkey Cage, 25 July 2013, “[Political Depolarization in Germany](#)” by Andrew Gelman.
Südkurier, 8 July 2012, “Was die Forscher zur OB-Wahl sagen.”
Südkurier, 2 May 2012, “Wie das Wetter die Politik beeinflusst.”
- references** Peter Selb (University of Konstanz, Department of Politics and Public Administration, D-78457 Konstanz, peter.selb@uni-konstanz.de), Professor of Survey Research, University of Konstanz. *My first PhD supervisor and regular co-author.*
- Susumu Shikano (University of Konstanz, Department of Politics and Public Administration, D-78457 Konstanz, susumu.shikano@uni-konstanz.de), Professor of Political Methodology. *A former teacher of mine and collaborator on several research projects.*

Michael D. Ward (Duke University, Department of Political Science, Durham, NC 27708, michael.d.ward@duke.edu), Professor of Political Science. *My external PhD supervisor and mentor during my research stay at Duke University.*

Jeff Gill (Washington University, Department of Political Science, Arts & Sciences, St. Louis, MO 63130-4899, jgill@wustl.edu), Professor of Political Science, Biostatistics and Surgery. *A former teacher of mine.*

Mannheim, August 2016.