

SIMON MUNZERT

Curriculum Vitae

AFFILIATION

University of Konstanz
Department of Politics and Public
Administration
Chair for Survey Research
P.O. Box D85
D-78457 Konstanz

Office: [University of Konstanz, Room D307](#)
Phone: +49 7531 883087
Mobile: +49 176 65311823
Email: simon.munzert@uni-konstanz.de
Homepage: <http://simonmunzert.github.io/>

EDUCATION

- 2011–2015 **PhD, Political Science (grade: summa cum laude)**
Graduate School of Decision Sciences and Department of Politics and Public
Administration, University of Konstanz, Germany
Thesis: "Contributions to the Measurement of Public Opinion in Subpopulations"
Supervisors: Peter Selb, Susumu Shikano, Michael D. Ward
- 2014 Visiting scholar at Duke University, NC, Department of Political Science (August to
November)
- 2009–2011 **Master's degree, Politics and Public Administration (grade: 1.0)**
Department of Politics and Public Administration, University of Konstanz, Germany
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
- 2005–
2009 **Bachelor's degree, Political and Administrative Science (grade: 1.5)**
Department of Politics and Public Administration, University of Konstanz, Germany
Thesis: "Vote Overreporting. Ein einfaches Erklärungsmodell auf Basis der
Wahlbeteiligung"

AWARDS AND GRANTS

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

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 2015 Simon Munzert, Christian Rubba, Peter Meißner, and Dominic Nyhuis. "Automated Data Collection with R. A Practical Guide to Web Scraping and Text Mining." Chichester: John Wiley & Sons. Accompanying website: <http://r-datacollection.com/>

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

- 2015 Michael Herrmann, Simon Munzert, and Peter Selb. "Determining the Impact of Strategic Voting on Election Results". Forthcoming at the *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society Series A*.
- 2014 Julian Bernauer and Simon Munzert. "Loyal to the Game? Strategic Policy Representation in Mixed Electoral Systems." *Representation* 50(1): 83-97.
- 2013 Simon Munzert and Paul Bauer. "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. "Forecasting Runoff Elections Using Candidate Evaluations From First Round Exit Polls." *International Journal of Forecasting* 29: 541-547.
- Peter Selb and Simon Munzert. "Voter Overrepresentation, Vote Misreporting and Turnout Bias in Postelection Surveys." *Electoral Studies* 32(1): 186-196.
- 2011 Peter Selb and Simon Munzert. "Estimating Constituency Preferences from Sparse Survey Data Using Auxiliary Geographic Information." *Political Analysis* 19(4): 455-470.

Other Articles

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

Book Reviews

- 2014 Simon Munzert. "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.

Work in Progress

- Peter Selb and Simon Munzert. "Forecasting the 2013 Bundestag Election Using Many Polls and Historical Election Results." R&R at *German Politics*.
- Simon Munzert. "A Methodological Framework for Constituency-Level Election Forecasting."
- Simon Munzert and Andreas E. Murr. "Forecasting Turnout at UK Elections."
- Simon Munzert. "Using Metadata of Online User Behavior to Measure Issue Salience."
- Simon Munzert. "Electoral Consequences of Voter Turnout at German Federal Elections, 1949 - 2013."
- Simon Munzert and Peter Selb. "Measuring Political Knowledge in Web-Based Surveys."
- Simon Munzert, Jordan P. Roberts, and Michael D. Ward. "The Modifiable Temporal Unit Problem in Explaining the Onset of Mass Protest. An Application to Uprisings in the Ukraine."

ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

Academic Positions

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

Survey Project Management

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>
2015	Computational Political Science	1.5
2011, 2013	Introduction to questionnaire design	2.0, 1.2
2014	Introduction to survey methodology with R	1.8
2012, 2013, 2014, 2015	Data collection in the World Wide Web	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5
2013	Election forecasting	1.1
2011, 2012	Introduction to Stata	1.3, 1.3

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

ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

2008	<i>Munich</i> Four-month internship at TNS Infratest Sozialforschung
2007	<i>Konstanz/Berlin</i> Six-month internship at the bureau of Peter Friedrich, Member of Parliament

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

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

CONFERENCES WITH PRESENTATIONS

- 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 AND AFFILIATIONS

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

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

INVITED TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

- 2015 "Measuring Political Knowledge in Web-Based Surveys", GESIS Mannheim; May 2015.
- "Introduction to Web Scraping with R", Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin; May 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.
- "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.

MEDIA ATTENTION

- 2014 *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“](#)
- 2013 *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

2012

Südkurier, 8 July 2012: „Was die Forscher zur OB-Wahl sagen“

Südkurier, 2 May 2012: „Wie das Wetter die Politik beeinflusst“

LANGUAGES AND COMPUTING SKILLS

Languages: German (native), English (fluent), French (basic)

Computing skills: R, Stata, SPSS, LaTeX, WinBUGS, HTML, SQL

REFERENCES

Available upon request

Simon Munzert

Konstanz, July 2015