



**Stefan Müller, PhD**  
Assistant Professor and Ad Astra Fellow  
School of Politics and International Relations  
University College Dublin  
Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland  
✉ [stefan.mueller@ucd.ie](mailto:stefan.mueller@ucd.ie)  
🌐 <https://muellerstefan.net>

Level 4 Module; Spring Trimester 2022

## Quantitative Text Analysis (POL42050)

Draft (Version: December 6, 2022)

Latest version at: <https://muellerstefan.net/teaching/2022-spring-qta.pdf>

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Time: Tuesday, 09:00–11:00

Location: [QUI-113 \(Quinn School of Business\)](#)

Credits: 10.0

Format: Lecture and computer labs

Module coordinator: Stefan Müller, PhD

[stefan.mueller@ucd.ie](mailto:stefan.mueller@ucd.ie) | <https://muellerstefan.net>

Office: Newman Building, G312

Office hours: Tuesday, 13:00–15:00 ([sign up here](#))

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## Course Content

Automated text analysis has become very popular in political science over the past years. With the massive availability of text data on the web, political scientists increasingly recognize automated text analysis (or “text as data”) as a promising approach for analyzing various kinds of social and political behaviour. This module introduces students of political science to the quantitative analysis of textual data. We discuss the underlying theoretical assumptions, substantive applications of these methods, and the respective implementations in the R statistical programming language.

Each session combines lectures with practical, hands-on exercises to apply the methods to political text, dealing with practical issues in each step of the research process. Most of these methods can be reduced to a three-step process: first, identifying texts and units of texts for analysis; second, extract quantitatively measured features from these texts and converting them to a quantitative feature matrix; third, analyse this matrix with statistical methods, such as dictionary construction and application, scaling models, and topic models, to draw inferences about the texts. Students will learn how to apply these steps to various types of texts. The course will also introduce advanced methods, including word embeddings, speech transcription, machine translation, and computer vision.

## Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Understand fundamental issues in (quantitative) text analysis such as inter-coder agreement, reliability, validation, accuracy, and precision.
2. Convert texts into quantitative matrices of features, and then analyse those features using statistical methods.

3. Use human coding of texts to train supervised classifiers.
4. Apply these methods to their own text corpus to address a substantive research question.
5. Critically evaluate (social science) research that uses automated text analysis methods.

## General Readings

The seminar does not build on a single textbook, but relies on papers and book chapters. The following books and articles are recommended for a general overview of quantitative text analysis, natural language processing, and computational social science.

- K. Benoit (2020). “Text as Data: An Overview”. *Handbook of Research Methods in Political Science and International Relations*. Ed. by L. Curini and R. Franzese. Thousand Oaks: Sage: 461–497.
- E. Hvitfeldt and J. Silge (2021). *Supervised Machine Learning For Text Analysis in R*. Boca Raton: CRC Press.
- J. Grimmer and B. M. Stewart (2013). “Text as Data: The Promise and Pitfalls of Automatic Content Analysis Methods for Political Texts”. *Political Analysis* 21 (3): 267–297
- K. Watanabe and S. Müller (2022). *Quanteda Tutorials*. URL: <https://tutorials.quanteda.io>
- D. Jurafsky and J. H. Martin (2021). *Speech and Language Processing: An Introduction to Natural Language Processing, Computational Linguistics, and Speech Recognition*. 3rd edition. <https://web.stanford.edu/~jurafsky/slp3/>

## Technical Background

The following books and websites are helpful to refresh and extend the knowledge of R, RMarkdown, and the `quanteda` package. Websites such as [Stack OverFlow](#), [R bloggers](#), and the documentation of R packages will be helpful for solving practical problems. All books listed in the syllabus are published in print, but also freely available online.

## R and RMarkdown

- C. Ismay and A. Y. Kim (2020). *Statistical Inference via Data Science: A Modern Dive into R and the tidyverse*. Boca Raton: CRC Press.
- H. Wickham and G. Grolemund (2017). *R for Data Science: Import, Tidy, Transform, Visualize, and Model Data*. Sebastopol: O’Reilly.
- Y. Xie, J. Allaire, and G. Grolemund (2018). *R Markdown: The Definite Guide*. Boca Raton: CRC Press.

## Data Visualisation

- K. Healy (2019). *Data Visualization: A Practical Introduction*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

## Software and Packages

The applications of the course are based on the R statistical programming language. Participants should download and install the latest versions of [R](#) and [RStudio](#). Students should also install the latest releases of the following R packages:

- Quantitative text analysis:
  - [quanteda](#)
  - [quanteda.textmodels](#)
  - [quanteda.textstats](#)
  - [quanteda.textplots](#)
- Importing text data: [readtext](#)
- Topic models: [stm](#)
- Data wrangling and visualisation: [tidyverse](#) (esp. [dplyr](#), [tidyr](#), [lubridate](#), and [ggplot2](#))
- Creating documents and reports: [rmarkdown](#) and [knitr](#)
- Part-of-speech tagging and lemmatisation: [spacyr](#) (not mandatory to install these packages)

## Plagiarism

Although this should be obvious, plagiarism – copying someone else’s text without acknowledgement or beyond ‘fair use’ quantities – is not allowed. Plagiarism is an issue we take very serious here in UCD. Please familiarize yourself with the definition of plagiarism on UCD’s website<sup>1</sup> and make sure not to engage in it.

## Late Submission Policy

All written work must be submitted on or before the due dates. Students will lose one point of a grade for work up to 5 working days late (*B–* becomes *C+*). Students will lose two grade points for work between 5 and 10 working days late (*B–* becomes *C*). When more than two weeks are necessary, the student will need to apply for extenuating circumstances application via the SPIRe Programme Office.

## Office Hours

My office hours take place on Tuesday from 13:00-15:00, either in person (Room G312, Newman Building) or online. Please sign up for a meeting at <https://calendly.com/mueller-ucd/office-hours>.

## Questions and Problems

In this module, we will discuss concepts, methods, and software you might not have heard of before. I am aware that parts of this module could be challenging, and I will assist you as best as I can.

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<sup>1</sup><https://libguides.ucd.ie/academicintegrity>.

We will use Slack for in this module. Make sure to create a Slack account before the first seminar and join the Slack workspace. If you have a question that involve code or concepts, please share your question in `#questions`, `#homework`, or `#research-paper`.

If you struggle to solve problems relating to R or RStudio, please follow the steps outlined below before contacting your peers or me. It is very likely that at least one other person faced the same problem before or received the same error message.

1. Try to summarise the problem in your own words and then google this summary. If the problem relates to R, add `rstats` to your search query. For example: `how to import csv file in rstats`. I am almost certain that you find a solution to most of your questions.
2. If your R code returns an error, I would advise you to Google the text of the error message. For example, you google the error message `"Error: Can't subset columns that don't exist."`

→ If steps 1–2 still do not solve your problem or question, please ask your question in the Slack channel devoted to this module. Your peers and I will help you.

## Syllabus Modification Rights

I reserve the right to reasonably alter the elements of the syllabus at any time by adjusting the reading list to keep pace with the course schedule. Moreover, I may change the content of specific sessions, depending on the participants' prior knowledge and research interests. If I make adjustments, I will email all seminar participants and upload the revised syllabus to Brightspace.

## Additional Covid-19 Guidelines

Covid-19 continues to pose a threat to our well-being and health. We all need to follow UCD's guidelines, which involves wearing masks in the lecture rooms. I will also wear a mask at all times. If you come to my office hours in person, please make sure to wear a mask. If you are unwilling or unable to wear a mask, we can meet virtually. If you are not feeling well, stay home! I try to make all relevant materials available to everyone: I live-will record all lectures, share the slides, and upload all readings. Protecting everyone's health is most important. Should you be sick or need a longer period of absence, please get in touch, and I work with you to ensure your success in this module. We are in this together – let's try our very best in the months to come and support each other.

## Expectations and Grading

- Students are expected to read all papers or chapters assigned under **Mandatory Readings**. These readings serve as the basis for in-class discussions about the advantages, disadvantages, and applicability of the various approaches to social science questions. For each session, I also assign a variety of optional readings. I strongly encourage students to (at least) skim these readings. Both the required and the optional readings consist of technical readings and at least one practical application of the respective method.
- Students submit two **Homeworks**, each of which counts towards 25% of the final grade. The assignments will be distributed on Brightspace 14 days before the submission deadline as an RMarkdown file. Students fill in the answers and solutions in the same RMarkdown file, rename it to `hw_01/02_surname_firstname.Rmd`, knit it as an `html` file, and submit it via Brightspace. Only knitted `html` files will be accepted! Homework 1 will be submitted at the end of Week 5.

Homework 2 will be submitted at the end of Week 9. More details on the homework will be provided in the first session(s) of the course.

- Students also submit a short **Research Paper** of around 3,000 words (excluding references and appendices). The research paper counts towards 50% of the final grade. In Homework 2, students will be required to briefly outline the research question they want to test in the research paper and describe which textual data they will use for testing this question.

In the research paper, the students should succinctly but clearly write up the results of a small research project using quantitative text analysis methods. Students are free to collect their own data or use existing data. Creativity is encouraged. Students are free to answer questions from all subfields of political science but must justify their choice and the relevance of the question. This paper should contain the following elements:

1. Introduction and research question: introduction to the topic, research question, and relevance.
2. Expectations: a concise overview of the theoretical expectation(s) that will be tested in the results section.
3. Data and methods: description of the data sources as well as the methods employed.
4. Results: a discussion (with figures and tables) of the results of the analysis. This section forms the bulk of the paper.
5. Conclusion: a brief evaluation of the results and steps to push the research forward.

Overview of deadlines

Date	Assignment
End of Week 5	Homework 1 (25%)
End of Week 9	Homework 2 (25%)
Friday, 29 April 2022	Research Paper (50%)

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## Course Structure

<b>Week 1: Introduction to Quantitative Text Analysis (18 January)</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Week 2: R and RMarkdown (25 January)</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Week 3: Assumptions and Workflow (1 February)</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Week 4: Tokenisation and Document-Feature Matrix (8 February)</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Week 5: Dictionaries and Sentiment Analysis (15 February)</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Week 6: Describing and Comparing Texts (22 February)</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Week 7: Human Coding and Document Classification (1 March)</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Week 8: Supervised and Unsupervised Scaling (22 March)</b>	<b>8</b>

<b>Week 9: Retrieving, Loading and Wrangling Text Corpora (29 March)</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Workshop: Multilingual Automated Text Analysis for Comparative Social Science Research (30 March)</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Week 10: Topic Models (5 April)</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Week 11: New Developments in Data: Images, Speech Recognition, Machine Translation (12 April)</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Week 12: New Developments in Modeling: Word Embeddings (19 April)</b>	<b>10</b>

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## **Week 1: Introduction to Quantitative Text Analysis (18 January)**

- What are quantitative text analysis and natural language processing?
- What is the structure of the module, and what are the expectations?
- *Application*: installing packages and setting up a project in RStudio

### **Readings**

- J. Grimmer and B. M. Stewart (2013). “Text as Data: The Promise and Pitfalls of Automatic Content Analysis Methods for Political Texts”. *Political Analysis* 21 (3): 267–297.
- J. Wilkerson and A. Casas (2017). “Large-Scale Computerized Text Analysis in Political Science: Opportunities and Challenges”. *Annual Review of Political Science* 20: 529–544.

### **Optional**

- D. Lazer and J. Radford (2017). “Data ex Machina: Introduction to Big Data”. *Annual Review of Sociology* 43: 19–39.
- J. Hirschberg and C. D. Manning (2015). “Advances in Natural Language Processing”. *Science* 349 (6245): 261–266.
- M. Gentzkow, B. T. Kelly, and M. Taddy (2019). “Text as Data”. *Journal of Economic Literature* 57 (3): 535–574.

## **Week 2: R and RMarkdown (25 January)**

- How to use R?
- An overview of important R functions
- How to structure the workflow for a quantitative research project?

## Mandatory Readings

- C. Ismay and A. Y. Kim (2020). *Statistical Inference via Data Science: A Modern Dive into R and the tidyverse*. Boca Raton: CRC Press: chapter 1.
- K. Watanabe and S. Müller (2022). *Quanteda Tutorials*. URL: <https://tutorials.quanteda.io>: chapter 1.

## Week 3: Assumptions and Workflow (1 February)

- What are the underlying assumptions of text-as-data approaches?
- *Application*: importing textual data, creating a text corpus, and adding document-level variables

## Mandatory Readings

- K. Benoit (2020). “Text as Data: An Overview”. *Handbook of Research Methods in Political Science and International Relations*. Ed. by L. Curini and R. Franzese. Thousand Oaks: Sage: 461–497.
- C. D. Manning, P. Raghavan, and H. Schütze (2008). *An Introduction to Information Retrieval*. New York: Cambridge University Press: chapter 2.
- K. Benoit, K. Watanabe, H. Wang, P. Nulty, A. Obeng, S. Müller, and A. Matsuo (2018). “quanteda: An R Package for the Quantitative Analysis of Textual Data”. *The Journal of Open Source Software* 3(30): 774.

## Optional

- M. Schoonvelde, G. Schumacher, and B. N. Bakker (2019). “Friends with Text as Data Benefits: Assessing and Extending the Use of Automated Text Analysis in Political Science and Political Psychology”. *Journal of Social and Political Psychology* 7(1): 124–143.

## Week 4: Tokenisation and Document-Feature Matrix (8 February)

- What are tokens, types, and features?
- What is the difference between stemming and lemmatisation?
- What information can we extract from a document-feature matrix?
- *Application*: tokenising texts, removing features, and creating a document-feature matrix

## Mandatory Readings

- K. Watanabe and S. Müller (2022). *Quanteda Tutorials*. URL: <https://tutorials.quanteda.io>: chapter 3.
- K. Welbers, W. Van Atteveldt, and K. Benoit (2017). “Text Analysis in R”. *Communication Methods and Measures* 11(4): 245–265.
- M. W. Denny and A. Spirling (2018). “Text Preprocessing For Unsupervised Learning: Why It Matters, When It Misleads, And What To Do About It”. *Political Analysis* 26(2): 168–189.

## Week 5: Dictionaries and Sentiment Analysis (15 February)

- What are automated dictionary approaches? How can we create, validate, refine, and apply dictionaries?
- *Application*: creating multiword expressions and applying dictionaries to tokens objects and document-feature matrices

### Mandatory Readings

- S.-O. Proksch, W. Lowe, J. Wäckerle, and S. N. Soroka (2019). “Multilingual Sentiment Analysis: A New Approach to Measuring Conflict in Legislative Speeches”. *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 44 (1): 97–131.
- S. Müller (2020). “Media Coverage of Campaign Promises Throughout the Electoral Cycle”. *Political Communication* 37 (5): 696–718.

### Optional

- Y. R. Tausczik and J. W. Pennebaker (2010). “The Psychological Meaning of Words: LIWC and Computerized Text Analysis Methods”. *Journal of Language and Social Psychology* 29 (1): 24–54.
- A. Muddiman, S. C. McGregor, and N. J. Stroud (2019). “(Re)Claiming Our Expertise: Parsing Large Text Corpora With Manually Validated and Organic Dictionaries”. *Political Communication* 36 (2): 214–226.
- C. Rauh (2018). “Validating a Sentiment Dictionary for German Political Language: A Workbench Note”. *Journal of Information Technology & Politics* 15 (4): 319–343.

## Week 6: Describing and Comparing Texts (22 February)

- How do texts differ in their ‘readability’ and complexity? What are measures to estimate the similarity and distance between texts?
- How can we identify distinct features in texts?
- *Application*: estimating readability, similarity, and “keyness”

### Mandatory Readings

- D. Bischof and R. Senninger (2018). “Simple Politics for the People? Complexity in Campaign Messages and Political Knowledge”. *European Journal of Political Research* 57 (2): 473–495.
- J. P. Cross and H. Hermansson (2017). “Legislative Amendments and Informal Politics in the European Union: A Text Reuse Approach”. *European Union Politics* 18 (4): 581–602.
- K. Benoit, K. Munger, and A. Spirling (2019). “Measuring and Explaining Political Sophistication Through Textual Complexity”. *American Journal of Political Science* 63 (2): 491–508.



## Optional

- J. Blumenau (2021). “[The Effects of Female Leadership on Women’s Voice in Political Debate](#)”. *British Journal of Political Science* 51 (2): 750–771.
- M. Schoonvelde, A. Brosius, G. Schumacher, and B. N. Bakker (2019). “[Liberals Lecture, Conservatives Communicate: Analyzing Complexity and Ideology in 381,609 Political Speeches](#)”. *PLoS One* 14 (2): e0208450.
- J. Wilkerson, D. Smith, and N. Stramp (2015). “[Tracing the Flow of Policy Ideas in Legislatures: A Text Reuse Approach](#)”. *American Journal of Political Science* 59 (4): 943–956.

## Week 7: Human Coding and Document Classification (1 March)

- How can we classify documents into known and pre-defined categories? How do we create a training set? How do we assess the classification performance?
- *Application*: supervised machine learning using a Naïve Bayes classifier and a Support Vector Machine

## Mandatory Readings

- C. D. Manning, P. Raghavan, and H. Schütze (2008). *An Introduction to Information Retrieval*. New York: Cambridge University Press: Chapter 13 (Naïve Bayes).
- S. Müller (2022). “[The Temporal Focus of Campaign Communication](#)”. *The Journal of Politics* 84 (1): 585–590.
- A. Peterson and A. Spirling (2018). “[Classification Accuracy as a Substantive Quantity of Interest: Measuring Polarization in Westminster Systems](#)”. *Political Analysis* 26 (1): 120–128.

## Optional

- D. Jurafsky and J. H. Martin (2021). *Speech and Language Processing: An Introduction to Natural Language Processing, Computational Linguistics, and Speech Recognition*. 3rd edition: Chapter 4 (Naïve Bayes).
- K. Benoit, D. Conway, B. E. Lauderdale, M. Laver, and S. Mikhaylov (2016). “[Crowd-Sourced Text Analysis: Reproducible and Agile Production of Political Data](#)”. *American Political Science Review* 110 (2): 278–295.
- D. J. Hopkins and G. King (2010). “[A Method of Automated Nonparametric Content Analysis for Social Science](#)”. *American Journal of Political Science* 54 (1): 229–247.
- K. Watanabe (2018). “[Newsmap: A Semi-supervised Approach to Geographical News Classification](#)”. *Digital Journalism* 6 (3): 294–309.
- S. Mikhaylov, M. Laver, and K. Benoit (2012). “[Coder Reliability and Misclassification in the Human Coding of Party Manifestos](#)”. *Political Analysis* 20 (1): 78–91.
- K. Benoit, M. Laver, and S. Mikhaylov (2009). “[Treating Words as Data with Error: Uncertainty in Text Statements of Policy Positions](#)”. *American Journal of Political Science* 53 (2): 495–513.

## Week 8: Supervised and Unsupervised Scaling (22 March)

- What are the assumptions, advantages, and problems of supervised and unsupervised scaling?
- How can we use supervised scaling to answer substantive questions?
- *Application*: Wordscores and Wordfish

### Mandatory Readings

- M. Laver, J. Garry, and K. Benoit (2003). “[Extracting Policy Positions from Political Texts Using Words as Data](#)”. *American Political Science Review* 97 (2): 311–331.
- J. B. Slapin and S.-O. Proksch (2008). “[A Scaling Model for Estimating Time-Series Party Positions from Texts](#)”. *American Journal of Political Science* 52 (3): 705–722.

### Optional

- A. Herzog and S. Mikhaylov (2020). “[Intra-Cabinet Politics and Fiscal Governance in Times of Austerity](#)”. *Political Science Research and Methods* 8 (3): 409–424.
- A. Baturo, N. Dasandi, and S. Mikhaylov (2017). “[Understanding State Preferences With Text As Data: Introducing the UN General Debate Corpus](#)”. *Research & Politics* 4 (2): 1–9.
- T. Gessler and S. Hunger (2021). “[How the Refugee Crisis and Radical Right Parties Shape Party Competition on Immigration](#)”. *Political Science Research and Methods* published ahead of print (doi: 10.1017/psrm.2021.64).
- T. O’Grady (2019). “[Careerists Versus Coal-Miners: Welfare Reforms and the Substantive Representation of Social Groups in the British Labour Party](#)”. *Comparative Political Studies* 52 (4): 544–578.
- W. Lowe (2008). “[Understanding Wordscores](#)”. *Political Analysis* 16 (4): 356–371.
- N. Baerg and W. Lowe (2020). “[A Textual Taylor Rule: Estimating Central Bank Preferences Combining Topic and Scaling Methods](#)”. *Political Science Research and Methods* 8 (1): 106–122.

## Week 9: Retrieving, Loading and Wrangling Text Corpora (29 March)

- What are typical text corpora you can use for your final research paper?
- What are APIs and how can we use them to retrieve data?
- How can we load various types of text corpora and transform them into a quantified corpus object?
- What are legal and ethical requirements and challenges when working with social media data?
- *Application*: Manifesto Corpus, UN General Debate Corpus, Guardian API, Twitter API

### Mandatory Readings

- H. Wickham and G. Grolemund (2017). *R for Data Science: Import, Tidy, Transform, Visualize, and Model Data*. Sebastopol: O’Reilly: ch. 11–12.

- P. C. Bauer and C. Landesvatter, eds. (2022). *APIs for Social Scientists: A Collaborative Review*: skim potentially relevant chapters.

### Optional

- N. Merz, S. Regel, and J. Lewandowski (2016). “The Manifesto Corpus: A New Resource for Research on Political Parties and Quantitative Text Analysis”. *Research & Politics* 3 (2): 1–8.
- Z. C. Steinert-Threlkeld (2018). *Twitter as Data*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- A. Baturo, N. Dasandi, and S. Mikhaylov (2017). “Understanding State Preferences With Text As Data: Introducing the UN General Debate Corpus”. *Research & Politics* 4 (2): 1–9.
- M. J. Salganik (2017). *Bit by Bit: Social Research in the Digital Age*. Princeton: Princeton University Press: ch. 6.

## Workshop: Multilingual Automated Text Analysis for Comparative Social Science Research (30 March)

**Instructor:** Dr. Fabienne Lind (University of Vienna)

**Date:** Wednesday, 30 March, 14:00–16:00

**Details:** This workshop is organised by the [Connected\\_Politics Lab](#). You find more detailed information on the virtual event at <https://bit.ly/3F3ThNZ>

**Workshop description:** Automated text analysis methods have become popular in computational social science. They appeal as they promise the automated extraction of meaning from large numbers of documents, thus allowing to better understand the contents and, indirectly, the document creators and audiences. While the existing techniques are well established for English-language text, the situation is different when it comes to the study of text in more than one language and in languages other than English. Yet it is precisely these multilingual techniques that are needed for (country) comparative research designs. This workshop will start to motivate the need for comparative social science studies that base their interpretations on text data. The main part will provide guidance and many practical tips to help plan such research designs. In particular, it will cover considerations related to the definition of comparative research goals, the selection of a case comparative text data set, the definition of concepts, and the creation of a human annotated validation baseline. The workshop will then focus on methodological strategies that can be employed to obtain measurements from a multilingual corpus with automated text analysis methods. All steps will be illustrated with an applied example. The workshop materials, including slides and scripts, will be made available on GitHub.

## Week 10: Topic Models (5 April)

- How does unsupervised document classification work? What are the assumptions, advantages, and caveats of topic models?
- *Application:* Structural topic models (STM)

### Mandatory Readings

- D. M. Blei (2012). “Probabilistic Topic Models”. *Communications of the ACM* 55 (4): 77–84.

- M. E. Roberts, B. M. Stewart, D. Tingley, C. Lucas, J. Leder-Luis, S. K. Gadarian, B. Albertson, and D. G. Rand (2014). “[Structural Topic Models for Open-Ended Survey Responses](#)”. *American Journal of Political Science* 58 (4): 1064–1082.
- C. Boussalis and T. G. Coan (2016). “[Text-Mining the Signals of Climate Change Doubt](#)”. *Global Environmental Change* 36: 89–100.

### Optional

- F. Gilardi, C. R. Shipan, and B. Wüest (2021). “[Policy Diffusion: The Issue-Definition Stage](#)”. *American Journal of Political Science* 65 (1): 21–35.
- D. Greene and J. P. Cross (2017). “[Exploring the Political Agenda of the European Parliament Using a Dynamic Topic Modeling Approach](#)”. *Political Analysis* 25 (1): 77–94.
- R. Parthasarathy, V. Rao, and N. Palaniswamy (2019). “[Deliberative Democracy in an Unequal World: A Text-As-Data Study of South India’s Village Assemblies](#)”. *American Political Science Review* 113 (3): 623–640.
- A. Catalinac (2016). “[From Pork to Policy: The Rise of Programmatic Campaigning in Japanese Elections](#)”. *The Journal of Politics* 78 (1): 1–18.

## Week 11: New Developments in Data: Images, Speech Recognition, Machine Translation (12 April)

- How can we extract text from videos and audio files?
- How can we use computer vision techniques to address social science questions?
- How can we conduct multilingual text analysis?
- *Application*: an introduction to APIs and website for machine translation, speech transcription, and image recognition

### Mandatory Readings

- S.-O. Proksch, C. Wratil, and J. Wäckerle (2019). “[Testing the Validity of Automatic Speech Recognition for Political Text Analysis](#)”. *Political Analysis* 27 (3): 339–359.
- C. Boussalis, T. G. Coan, M. R. Holman, and S. Müller (2021). “[Gender, Candidate Emotional Expression, and Voter Reactions During Televised Debates](#)”. *American Political Science Review* 115 (4): 1242–1257.
- E. De Vries, M. Schoonvelde, and G. Schumacher (2018). “[No Longer Lost in Translation: Evidence that Google Translate Works for Comparative Bag-of-Words Text Applications](#)”. *Political Analysis* 26 (4): 417–430.

### Optional

- C. Schwemmer, C. Knight, E. D. Bello-Pardo, S. Oklobdzija, M. Schoonvelde, and J. W. Lockhart (2020). “[Diagnosing Gender Bias in Image Recognition Systems](#)”. *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World* 6: 1–17.

- C. Lucas, R. A. Nielsen, M. E. Roberts, B. M. Stewart, A. Storer, and D. Tingley (2015). “Computer-Assisted Text Analysis for Comparative Politics”. *Political Analysis* 23 (2): 254–277.

## Week 12: New Developments in Modeling: Word Embeddings (19 April)

- What are word embeddings, and how do they improve classic bag-of-words approaches?
- *Application*: using pre-trained and locally fit word embeddings; using word embeddings in a regression framework

### Mandatory Readings

- E. Hvitfeldt and J. Silge (2021). *Supervised Machine Learning For Text Analysis in R*. Boca Raton: CRC Press: chapter 5.
- P. L. Rodriguez and A. Spirling (2022). “Word Embeddings: What Works, What Doesn’t, and How to Tell the Difference for Applied Research”. *The Journal of Politics* 84 (1): 101–115.
- C. Baden, C. Pipal, M. Schoonvelde, and M. Van der Velden (2022). “Three Gaps in Computational Text Analysis Methods for Social Sciences: A Research Agenda”. *Communication Methods and Measures* 16 (1): 1–18.

### Optional

- P. L. Rodriguez, A. Spirling, and B. M. Stewart (Forthcoming). “Embedding Regression: Models for Context-Specific Description and Inference”. *American Political Science Review*.
- M. Osnabrügge, S. B. Hobolt, and T. Rodon (2021). “Playing to the Gallery: Emotive Rhetoric in Parliaments”. *American Political Science Review* 115 (3): 885–899.
- L. Hargrave and J. Blumenau (2022). “No Longer Conforming to Stereotypes? Gender, Political Style, and Parliamentary Debate in the UK”. *British Journal of Political Science* published ahead of print (doi: 10.1017/S0007123421000648).
- E. Rudkowsky, M. Haselmayer, M. Wastian, M. Jenny, Š. Emrich, and M. Sedlmair (2018). “More than Bags of Words: Sentiment Analysis with Word Embeddings”. *Communication Methods and Measures* 12 (2–3): 140–157.
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