

# SUKAYNA YOUNGER-KHAN

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

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*website* [exc.uni-konstanz.de/sukayna](http://exc.uni-konstanz.de/sukayna)

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Comparative Politics, Science of Science, Political Psychology ·  
Computational Methods, Natural Language Processing, Experiments

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

	Oct 2022–2026	Doctoral Fellow, UNIVERSITY OF KONSTANZ
Cluster of Excellence Politics of Inequality		PhD candidate in Politics & Public Administration. Research area: Science, academia and information systems in comparative contexts. Methods: NLP, networks, digital trace data, and survey experiments.
	Sep–Oct 2026	Visiting Doctoral Fellow, UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW
College of Social Sciences		Situated in the research group led by Prof. Anja Neundorf.
	Jun 2021–Oct 2022	Research Fellow, GLOBAL GOVERNANCE UNIT
WZB Social Science Center Berlin		Project researcher for 'Towards a Typology of Contestations' project at Cluster of Excellence SCRIPTS. Trained named entity recognition models; conducted sentiment analysis, latent factor analysis, k-means clustering for data mining.
	May–Dec 2020	Researcher, SOCIAL MOVEMENTS TEAM
ACLEDEvent Data Project		Extracted and coded event data following real-time activity reports for BLM protests in the US. R, Alteryx for data management; Tableau for analysis and visualisation.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

	Feb 2026	Teaching Assistant, KOMEX
University of Konstanz		PhD/Early Career · Finetuning LLMs; AI Assisted Text Analysis · Lecturer: Seraphine MAERZ
	Sep 2024–Apr 2025	Lecturer, ACADEMIA IN AUTOCRACIES
University of Konstanz		Advanced BA · Co-lecturer: Nils B. WEIDMANN
	Sep–Dec 2021	Teaching Assistant, ADVANCED STATISTICS
Hertie School of Governance		MA/MSc · Supervisor: Svanhildur THORVALDSDOTTIR
	2019–2021	Teaching Fellow, LAW, POLITICS & IR
University of Essex		BA level · Courses: Conflict & Cooperation; Scientific Reasoning (full list on request) · Learning Advisor, Applied Learning Committee & Project Leader

## EDUCATION

	Oct 2022–26	University of Konstanz
PhD Candidate		In progress · <i>Comparative Politics, Interdisciplinary, Computational Methods</i> Working title: "Under Pressure: A New Age of Science in Non-Democracies" · Committee: Nils B. WEIDMANN; David GARCIA; Anja NEUNDORF
	Dec 2020	University of Essex
Master of Science Conflict Resolution		Distinction · <i>Conflict Studies, Computational Methods</i> Thesis: "How to Lose Friends and Alienate People: A Network Analysis of Cooperation and Conflict between Non-State Armed Groups in Yemen" · Supervisor: Philip LEIFELD · Examiner: Kristian Skrede GLEDITSCH
	Jan 2019	University of Sussex
Master of Laws International Law		Distinction · <i>Empirical Legal Studies, Law of Armed Conflict</i> Supervisor: Dr Edward GUNTRIP

Jun 2017

Cardiff University

Bachelor of Laws

First Class Honours · Dean's Honour Roll 2014, 2015  
Exchange at INTI International University Malaysia (2013-15)

#### PUBLICATIONS & WORKING PAPERS

- Publications* Younger-Khan, S. Mapping patterns of trust in science and scientists. (2026) *Current Opinion in Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/>
- Younger-Khan, S., Weidmann, N.B., Oswald, L. Consistent effects of science and scientist characteristics on public trust across political regimes. (2024) *Humanit Soc Sci Commun* 11, 1379. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-024-03909-2>
- Under Review* Younger-Khan, S. Exposure to indoctrination in schools and innovation performance: Evidence from 147 countries (2025)
- Younger-Khan, S. Cheap Talk? Political Rhetoric and Science Policy of Authoritarian Leaders (2025)
- Working Papers* Younger-Khan, S. Navigating Instability: How Do Political Transitions Reshape Scientific Collaboration? (2026)
- Younger-Khan, S., Weiss, R. Constructing the typology of contestations: A methodology (2022). *SCRIPTS Working Paper Series No. 17*.
- Preprints* Younger-Khan, S. Salient cleavages, tactical cooperation and violence between armed groups in Yemen. (2022) *Sage Advance Preprints*. <https://advance.sagepub.com/doi/10.31124/advance.21623526.v1>

#### AWARDS AND PARTICIPATION

- Awards* Feb 2025 · Outgoing Doctoral Fellowship · Cluster Politics of Inequality  
Feb 2025 · Konstanz MEiN Fellowship · University of Konstanz  
Jun 2022 · WZB Conference Grant · 12th Annual EPSA Conference 2022  
Mar 2022 · UCL Travel Grant · UCL Conflict and Change Annual Workshop  
Feb 2022 · Fellowship Grant · ECPR Methods Winter School  
Jun 2021 · Fellowship Grant · Essex Summer School in Social Science Analysis  
Jul 2020 · Scholarship · Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis
- Scholarships* 2019-20 · Academic Excellence Masters Scholarship · University of Essex  
2018-19 · School of Law Award for Best Performance · University of Sussex  
2017-18 · Chancellor's Masters Scholarship · University of Sussex  
2013-15 · INTI-Laureate Merit Scholarship · Joint Award from Cardiff University & INTI International University, Malaysia
- Conferences, Talks and Workshops* Jan 2026 · Paper presentation; Swiss Political Science Association Annual Congress, University of Zurich
- Nov 2025 · Paper presentation; Comparative Politics and Policy Cluster, University of Glasgow  
Jun 2025 · Paper presentation; 15th Annual EPSA Conference 2025, Madrid  
Jun 2025 · Programme committee, 5th Workshop on Computational Linguistics for Political and Social Sciences at KONVENS 2025, Hildesheim  
Apr 2025 · Paper presentation, 7th Annual COMTEXT Conference 2025, University of Vienna  
Oct 2024 · Paper presentation; panel discussant, Methods in Conflict Research, AfK Methods Workshop at Fragile Lives Conference, Humboldt-University Berlin  
Sept 2024 · Paper presentation; programme committee, 4th Workshop on Computational Linguistics for Political and Social Sciences at KONVENS 2024, University of Vienna  
Jul 2024 · Paper presentation, Panel: Trust in Institutions, 14th Annual EPSA Conference 2024, Cologne  
Jun 2024 · Invited talk, Social Data Laboratory Seminar Series, University of Bremen  
Jun 2024 · Paper presentation, Bike & Talk Tour (w/ Nils B. Weidmann), Kassel and Göttingen  
Apr 2024 · Paper presentation, Mitgliederversammlung der Sektion Methoden der Politikwissenschaft der Deutschen Vereinigung für Politische Wissenschaft (DVPW), Bamberg  
Oct 2023 · Paper presentation, Panel: Survey experiments in inequality research: climate-income-scientists, Fall Academy "Challenging Inequalities II" 2023  
May 2023 · Paper presentation, Disinformation Working Group, Clemson University  
Jun 2022 · Paper presentation, Panel: Identity & Civil Conflict, 12th Annual EPSA Conference 2022, Prague  
Mar 2022 · Paper presentation, Panel: Micro-Dynamics of Conflict, 4th Conflict and Change PhD Workshop, University College London

Oct 2021 · Speaker, 1st Methods in Network Science Workshop, Women in Network Science  
 Sep 2021 · Paper presentation, 5th Workshop on Conflict Dynamics, Nuffield College University of Oxford and University of Mannheim (online)  
 Feb 2021 · Participant, 3rd Conflict and Change PhD Workshop, University College London (online)

*Science Communication* Jun 2022 · Lead organiser for SCRIPTS Exhibition “Information Crisis in Modern Democracy” in collaboration with Data Politics Lab, HIIG, Weizenbaum Institute, Der goldene Aluhut, Correctiv

#### METHODS TRAINING

*KOMEX Workshops* Jan 2024 · Social Data Science with Python · University of KONSTANZ  
*WPM Summer School* Jul 2023 · Women in Political Methodology · University of BASEL  
*Radboud Summer School ASPP* Jul 2023 · Complexity methods for Behavioral Science: A Toolbox for Studying Change · Fred HASSELMAN  
 Sept 2022 · 16th Advanced Scientific Programming in Python Summer School · Bilbao, Spain  
*Essex Summer School* Aug 2021 · Advanced Methods for Text as Data: Natural Language Processing · Burt MONROE  
 Jul 2020 · Intro to Network Analysis; Advanced Network Analysis · Filip AGNEESSENS  
*ECPR Winter School* Feb 2022 · Machine Learning with Big Data for Social Scientists · Akitaka MATSUO  
*Dynamics Research Group* Nov 2021 · Online Experiments using OTree · Amalia ALVAREZ-BENJUMEA  
 Jul 2021 · Research Design & Causal Analysis with R · Julian SCHUESSLER  
*Data Science Summer School* Experimental Designs & Experimental Methodology · Libby JENKE  
 Natural Language Processing: Text Classification & Topic Modelling · Dirk Hovy

#### TECHNICAL SKILLS

*Proficient* PYTHON, R, SQL, BASH, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Computing: Google Cloud, Amazon AWS, GitHub/GitLab, Software: Qualtrics  
*Intermediate* JAVASCRIPT, HTML/CSS, OTree, Tableau

#### PROFESSIONAL PARTICIPATION

*Memberships* COMPTTEXT · PONYClub Network of Women in Political Science · SwissNLP · European Political Science Association (EPSA) · Society for Political Methodology (PolMETH) · Conflict Research Society (CRA) · Royal Statistical Society (RSS)  
*Professional Service* Co-organiser, Women in Stats; Co-organiser, Cluster ECR Retreat 2023; Representative, WZB Flexible Funding Committee & Guest Visitor Committee; Chairperson, UEIC Equality and Diversity Committee; Representative, Kaplan LGBTQIA+ Company Network; UNESCO Policy Lab Expert (Civic Education)  
*Reviewing* Reviewer/Committee for COMPTTEXT, KONVENS, AfK Methods Workshop · Perspectives on Politics, Frontiers in Psychology, Humanities and Social Science Communications

#### OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

*Legal Practice* Jun-Jan 2019 · Legal Advisor, Triangle, Brighton  
 Feb-Dec 2018 · Legal Advisor, Citizens Advice Bureau, Brighton  
 May-Dec 2017 · Legal Advisor, The Personal Support Unit, Cardiff  
 Mar-Apr 2017 · Mini-Pupil, One Crown Office Row Chambers, Brighton  
 Feb-May 2016 · Paralegal, Chooi & Company/Messrs Thomas Philip, Malaysia

#### REFERENCES

*Academic* Prof Nils Weidmann, Professor of Political Science, University of Konstanz · [nils.weidmann@uni-konstanz.de](mailto:nils.weidmann@uni-konstanz.de)  
 Prof Philip Leifeld, Professor in Social Statistics, University of Manchester · [philip.leifeld@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:philip.leifeld@manchester.ac.uk)

January 21, 2026