

# Rebecca C. Kittel

## Curriculum Vitae

Free University Berlin  
Garystr. 55 – Room 222  
14195 Berlin, Germany  
✉ rebecca.kittel@fu-berlin.de

### Research Interest

text-as-data, populism, party and voter behaviour, democratic processes, political communication, protest behaviour

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### Current Position

Since 10/2023 **Post Doctoral Researcher**, *Free University*, Berlin, Germany, ERC-Project LOOPS, PI: Dr. Anna Fruhstorfer

Since 10/2023 **Research Affiliate**, *WZB Berlin Social Science Center*, Center for Civil Society Research, Berlin, Germany

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### Education

09/2019 – 09/2023 **Ph.D. in Political and Social Sciences**, *European University Institute*, Florence, Italy, *The New Politics of Party Signalling: Language, Positioning and Electoral Dynamics*, Examining Board: Prof. Ellen Immergut (supervisor), Prof. Simon Hix, Prof. Amy Catalinac, Prof. Sven-Oliver Proksch

09/2021 – 06/2022 **Visiting PhD Researcher**, *New York University*, New York City, USA, Host faculty: Prof. Amy Catalinac

09/2019 – 08/2020 **M.Res. in Social and Political Science**, *European University Institute*, Florence, Italy

10/2016 – 08/2019 **M.A. in Political Science**, *University of Cologne*, Cologne, Germany, *How Do They Talk? A Comparison of Left-Wing and Right-Wing Populists' Speeches in Parliament*, Supervision: Prof. Sven-Oliver Proksch

08/2017 – 12/2017 **Visiting Student**, *Sciences Po*, Paris, France

10/2012 – 03/2016 **B.Sc. in Social Sciences**, *University of Cologne*, Cologne, Germany, *Temporal Distance between European and National Elections – Exploring the Performance of Eurosceptic Parties*, Supervision: Prof. André Kaiser

08/2014 – 12/2014 **Visiting Student**, *Duquesne University*, Pittsburgh, USA

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### Working Papers

Kittel, Rebecca. *What Do Populist and Non-Populist Voters Respond to? A Survey Experiment on the Effect of Simple Language, Blame Attribution and People-Centrism*. Revise and Resubmit.

Kittel, Rebecca. *Language Complexity in Parliament: Use and Effect of Simple Language Among Populist and Mainstream Actors in Parliamentary Debate*. Under Review.

Kittel, Rebecca and Mirko Wegemann. *Federalism in Crisis? The Role of Party Affiliation and Government Status in Sub-National Crisis Management*. Under Review.

Carmo Duarte, Mariana and Rebecca Kittel. *Ill-Informed or Up-To-Date? How National Parliamentary Discourse Affects Public Opinion on the European Union*. Draft available upon request.

Fruhstorfer, Anna and Rebecca Kittel. *The conceptualization and measurement of protest camp logistics in authoritarian regimes*. Draft available upon request.

Kittel, Rebecca and Bruno Castanho Silva. *Dumbing Down? The Determinants of Language Complexity in Politicians' Parliamentary and Online Communication in 14 Countries*. Draft available upon request.

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## Work in Progress

Kittel, Rebecca and Mirko Wegemann. *Dataset on Press Releases from National and Sub-National Party Fractions in Germany*. Dataset available upon request.

Kittel, Rebecca and Konstantin Vössing. *Political Justifications in Parties' Responses Towards Covid-19: An Analysis of Press Releases from (Sub-) National Party Fractions in Germany*

Kittel, Rebecca and Konstantin Vössing. "I had no choice!", "It's all their fault!", "I did it for a reason!", "All because of me!" Politicians' four most common explanatory strategies and their effects on public opinion

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## Teaching Experience

Summer Term 2023 **Teaching Assistant**, EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE, Tutor for *Computational Text Analysis* by Dr. Jessica di Cocco, Florence, Italy

Spring Term 2023 **Instructor**, UNIVERSITY OF LUCERNE, Party Competition and Political Communication, Master Seminar, 22h, Lucerne, Switzerland

Winter Term 2022 **Instructor**, HEINRICH-HEINE-UNIVERSITY DÜSSELDORF, Party Competition and Political Communication, Bachelor Seminar, 22.5h, Düsseldorf, Germany (student evaluation: 1.1 on scale from 1.0 to 5.0)

09/2022 **Teaching Certificate**, EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE, Introduction to Teaching and Learning in Higher Education

Winter Term 2013, 2015 and 2016 **Teaching Assistant**, UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE, Tutor for *Introduction to Comparative Politics: Comparative Analysis of Political Institutions* by Prof. André Kaiser, Chair for Comparative Politics, Cologne, Germany

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## Professional Experience

10/2022 – 10/2023 **Research Associate**, HANS-BOECKLER STIFTUNG & CITY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON, Political explanations and their effects on public opinion and political behavior by Prof. Ellen Immergut and Prof. Konstantin Vössing, Florence, Italy

- 09/2020 – 09/2022 **Research Assistant**, EUI RESEARCH PROJECT, Responding to COVID-19: Government Action, Government Rhetoric, and Public Trust by Prof. Ellen Immergut and Dr. Tamara Popic, Florence, Italy
- 04/2018 – 07/2019 **Student Research Assistant**, CHAIR FOR EUROPEAN AND MULTI-LEVEL POLITICS, Prof. Sven-Oliver Proksch, Center for Comparative Politics, University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany
- 09/2018 – 12/2018 **Student Assistant Work**, GERMAN ACADEMIC EXCHANGE SERVICE (DAAD), Bonn, Germany
- 04/2014 – 09/2018 **Student Research Assistant**, CHAIR FOR COMPARATIVE POLITICS, Prof. André Kaiser, Cologne Center for Comparative Politics, University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany
- 04/2018 – 07/2018 **Research Assistant Work**, LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE, for Prof. Sara B. Hobolt and Prof. Christopher Wratil about EU Council Deliberations
- 01/2018 – 04/2018 **Internship**, GERMAN ACADEMIC EXCHANGE SERVICE (DAAD), Bonn, Germany
- 06/2016 – 07/2016 **Internship**, WORTWERT - DIE WIRTSCHAFTSREDAKTION, Journalism Bureau, Cologne, Germany
- 08/2011 – 03/2016 **Freelance Journalist**, WESTFÄLISCHE NACHRICHTEN – LOCAL NEWSPAPER, Münster, Germany

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## Scholarships and Competitive Grants

- 2024 **Berlin University Alliance: X-Research Group** – Teaching Grant for Research Seminar “Online Communication and the Organisation of Protest Camps”
- 2023 **ECPR Grant** for Attending ECPR Joint Sessions in Toulouse
- 2021 **EUI Exchange Programme with NYU** – Travel Grant
- 2020 **EUI Early Stage Researcher Grant** for a Survey Experiment on Language Complexity
- 2020 **ECPR Grant** for the First Virtual ECPR Method School
- 2019 – 2023 **Full PhD Scholarship** of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
- 2012 – 2019 **Study Scholarship** of the Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung, Journalism Programme
- 2017 **Erasmus+ Scholarship** for Study Abroad Programme at the Sciences Po Paris, France

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## Methods Training

- 2022 – Introduction to Machine Learning for Text Analysis in Python, GESIS Fall course
- Quantitative Political Analysis II - Causal Inference, PhD Seminar NYU

- 2021 – Quantitative Political Analysis III - MLE, Bayesian, Machine Learning, PhD Seminar NYU
  - Measurements in Social Sciences, Workshop EUI
  - Survey Analysis and Experiments, Workshop EUI
- 2020 – Computational Text Analysis, Workshop EUI
  - Python Programming for Social Scientists, ECPR Summer School
  - Sequence Analysis in the Social Sciences, Workshop EUI
  - Introduction to Machine Learning for Social Science, Workshop EUI
  - Multilevel Data Analysis, Workshop EUI
  - Causal Inference, Seminar EUI
- 2019 – Theory and Methodology of Discourse Analysis, Workshop EUI
- 2018 – A Primer to Web Scraping with R, Workshop Cologne Center for Comparative Politics (CCCP)

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### Conferences and Presentations

- 2024 – Workshop: Conceptualization of Protest Camp Logistics – Berlin, 14.-15. March
- 2023 – WZB-Workshop: Analysing protest in the digital age – Berlin, 7. - 8. December
  - EPSA – Glasgow
  - ECPR Joint Sessions – Toulouse
  - MPSA – Chicago
- 2022 – EUI Political Behaviour Colloquium – Florence
  - CIVICA Data Science Days – Florence
  - ECPR General Conference - Innsbruck
  - EPSA - Prague
  - NYU Comparative Politics Workshop – New York City
- 2021 – ECPR General Conference - Virtual Event
  - ECPR Standing Group on Parliaments Conference - Virtual Event
  - Populism in power and its socioeconomic policies in Europe, Scuola Normale Superiore – Virtual Event
- 2020 – CIVICA PhD Conference: *Challenges to Democracy in the EU* – Virtual Event

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### Invited Talks

- 2024 – Text-As-Data Reading Group – Virtual Event, 10. January
- 2023 – Talk at “Protest und Widerstand Workshop”, MA Research Project, University Würzburg – DAM Frankfurt, 8. October
- 2022 – Lunch Talk – Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf, 1. December

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## Professional Memberships and Service

Reviewer Party Politics, Politics of the Low Countries, Political Research Exchange  
Service to – Observer in PhD Programme Selection Procedure (cohorts 2020, 2021,  
Discipline 2023), European University Institute,  
– Panel Organizer and Chair, ECPR Standing Group on Parliaments  
Conference, 2021  
– Chair, EPSA Glasgow, 2023

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## Software Skills

Advanced R,  $\LaTeX$   
Basic STATA, Python, Qualtrics

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## Languages

German Native  
English Fluent, C1  
Italian Basic, A2

March, 2024