



DYNAMICS

Research Training Group

NEWSLETTER

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“The Dynamics of
Demography, Democratic
Processes and Public
Policy“

DFG Research Training Group
DYNAMICS
Department of Social Sciences
dynamics.office@hu-berlin.de

Dear DYNAMICS Community,

As we bid farewell to 2023 and welcome the new year, it's a perfect time to reflect on the incredible journey we've had together. One of the highlights of this year has been the successful renewal of our Research Training Group and the acquisition of funding from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) for a second funding period, opening up unprecedented opportunities for more doctoral researchers, collaboration and excellent research. First and foremost, we extend our deepest gratitude to every member of our vibrant community. Your passion for research, commitment, and collaborative spirit have not only shaped our Research Training Group, but also impressed the reviewers. Your support has been instrumental in making this success a reality.

We are very excited to welcome Prof. Anita Gohdes from the Hertie School and Prof. Anselm Hager from Humboldt-University Berlin as new Principal Investigators in the second funding period. It was also a great pleasure to welcome the Einstein BUA/Oxford Visiting Fellow Prof. Tarik Abou-Chadi and his colleagues in Berlin who joined DYNAMICS in the fall.

As we embark on this new chapter, let us continue to nurture a culture of curiosity, collaboration, and excellence. Here's to a future filled with excellent research!

*Warm regards,
The DYNAMICS Team*

The Einstein Research Group



In September 2023, the DYNAMICS Research Training Group welcomed three new associated researchers, who form Tarik Abou-Chadi's Einstein Visiting Fellowship Group. The Einstein Fellowships are an initiative of the University of Oxford and the Berlin University Alliance, which give well-established scientists from abroad the opportunity to cooperate with a Berlin host to set up their own research group. The programme aims to foster collaborations between internationally leading scholars and create perspectives for early career researchers.

In addition to Tarik Abou-Chadi, who is Associate Professor at the University of Oxford, the group is comprised of Markus Kollberg, as a post-doctoral researcher, and Francesco Raffaelli, who is currently pursuing a PhD at Oxford.

In the project, the group investigates how parties' programmatic appeals in this changing environment affect support among different social groups. A core idea for understanding these different support patterns is the concept of a

trade-off. Simply put, if a party appeals to one electoral group, it might alienate another one. In a multi-issue and multi-party space where parties must form new electoral alliances, the idea of trade-offs has become commonplace in how researchers think about dynamics of political competition.

Throughout the next three years, the group aims to conduct several large-scale surveys and experiments and will generate insights from computational text analysis. The project will contribute to a better understanding of how parties' programmatic profiles affect their electoral support and to what extent different positions create electoral trade-offs. It also has important implications for the broader public debate around how programmatic and communicative decisions affect the electoral fortunes of political parties.

You can learn more about the group's work on their webpage: <https://www.sowi.hu-berlin.de/en/dynamics/einst>

Prof. Dr. Tarik Abou-Chadi

Tarik Abou-Chadi is Associate Professor in European Union and Comparative European Politics at the Department of Politics and International Relations and Professorial Fellow at Nuffield College. He received his PhD in political science from Humboldt University Berlin in 2015.

His research focuses on elections, political parties, and the transformation of political

competition and democratic representation in post-industrial societies. Before joining the University of Oxford, he was an Assistant Professor at the University of Zurich.

From 2023 to 2026, Tarik Abou-Chadi is an [“Einstein BUA/Oxford Visiting Fellow”](#), leading a research project on [“Electoral Trade-Offs in Post-Industrial Societies”](#) at Humboldt University Berlin.

Dr. Markus Kollberg

Markus Kollberg is a Post-Doctoral Researcher at Humboldt University Berlin. He received his PhD from University College London (UCL) in 2023. During his PhD, he was a visiting researcher at Yale University and the University of Vienna.

His research interests lie at the intersection of comparative political behaviour, party

politics, and political communication.

Previously, Markus has worked as a freelance journalist for various media outlets covering German, British and International Politics. He regularly organizes and teaches civic education workshops in Germany and Eastern Europe.

Francesco Raffaelli

Francesco is a doctoral student at the Department of Politics and International Relations of the University of Oxford. He is currently working as Researcher in Einstein Research Group at Humboldt University Berlin, being attached to RTG DYNAMICS and to the Chair of Political Behaviour. Before graduate school, Francesco obtained a BSc in

Economic and Social Sciences and a MSc in Politics and Policy Analysis from Bocconi University, Milan. During his Masters, Francesco worked as Research Assistant at the Baffi-Carefin Centre and the Dondena Centre at Bocconi University. He briefly interned at the DIME Unit, at the World Bank in 2019.

Reports from abroad: What our Doctoral Researchers tell us about their research stays around the world

Jan Einhoff: Finnish Centre for Pensions, Helsinki



The Eläketurvakeskus "reindeer" and me posing for the obligatory farewell photo with every visiting researcher at the Centre.



Still thinking about these saffron and pistachio buns...

The Finnish Centre for Pensions, the statutory but independent body that oversees Finland's earnings-related pension system, may not be an obvious place for a PhD research visit. In late 2022, however, I was lucky enough to spend five wonderful weeks at the Centre, whose official Finnish name "Eläketurvakeskus" I am still unable pronounce. During my short time in Helsinki, I could advance on my own work but also learned about many aspects of Finnish life that I was happy to take back home.

One impression I bring back home is that of the excellent research at the Centre, which is always relevant to policy discussions in Finland, but often ends up being published in English-language academic journals. The Centre is also one of the few institutions that produce research specifically in the area of my dissertation project and a well-known place where you can connect with members of the small community of sociologists working on pensions and retirement. I am particularly grateful for the opportunity to exchange with my hosts Katie Kuitto and Aart-Jan Riekhoff, both senior researchers whose work I had read and cited even before I knew about the Centre. I also had the opportunity to present and discuss my own work, for example at the Finnish Social Policy Conference in Tampere where much research focused on welfare and social issues not only in Finland, but from across Europe.

Research visits are not just about academic work, of course, and what also left a lasting impression on me was the atmosphere at the Centre, which was welcoming, collaborative, and friendly. I found the work atmosphere to be highly productive while at the same time, working hours were taken seriously. Colleagues were also happy to socialise outside of work – the weekly crossword puzzles and exercise clubs open to everyone at the Centre and our expedition to an indoor volleyball beach are just a few examples among many.

I will also surely remember many warm impressions of Finnish people and the life in Finland in general. I experienced a lot of kindness, had a try at the famous saunas (though I did not dare to join the post-sauna dip in the freezing Baltic), and learned to value the many cafés with their typical saffron and cinnamon buns and strong black. All of this more than made up for the at times dark and icy weather.

Although I was a little sad to leave in the end, I bring back home all of these and more heartfelt impressions. Fortunately, we also agreed to stay in touch by working on a paper together and with Katie and Aart-Jan visiting Berlin one day. I am very much looking forward!

Emily Frank: University of Amsterdam

This past fall, I spent October and November on a research stay at the University of Amsterdam (UvA) political science department. Both academically and personally, this was a very fulfilling experience, and I would highly recommend a visit there. I chose the UvA because my research on refugees and social policy is quite close to the work of several scholars there, and indeed it proved to be a really fruitful environment for exchange on migration research: there are loads of people working on migration broadly and several groups dedicated to presenting and exchanging on research projects. Over two months I had the opportunity to present in three different groups and have three meetings with my host professor (many thanks to Floris Vermeulen).

The UvA is a really friendly and open place to work. While starting out in a new place is always lonely, spending time in the office and attending events eventually led to new friendships, especially with the other visiting PhDs, and I think these will be some of the most significant memories of my time in Amsterdam.

Of course, the city of Amsterdam is amazing: every street is beautiful, and somehow this city has an especially high number of extremely cozy-looking corner cafes. I saw tons of art that I wanted to make sure I saw at least once in my lifetime, including lots of Van Gogh, Rembrandt, Girl with the Pearl Earring (in The Hague, which is an hour away). Overall, this research stay was certainly an opportunity for professional growth, but also a new personal adventure.



Cornelius Erfort: London School of Economics and Political Science



A cool autumn day in the heart of London. This is how my research stay unfolded at the LSE Department of Government this year. Professor Sara Hobolt was so kind to host me at the LSE and to welcome me into the Political Behaviour Group at the department, a truly vibrant place with many great scholars.

In the first week, I got the chance to present my work at the Political Behaviour Work-in-Progress seminar, a great opportunity for the political behaviouralists at the department to get feedback for their ongoing work. Perhaps, one could say that Thursdays are the most important days at the department where everyone gets together. Most seminar series like the Political Behaviour series are held on Thursdays where invited scholars from around the world present their work. The seminars are traditionally followed by socializing over a pint or two at the LSE pub Ye Old White Horse.

London also has a lot to offer beyond the academic bubble, and the hustle and bustle of Central London really makes you realize that you are far away from DYNAMICS' Luisenstrasse campus.

As my fellow DYNAMICS student Ana was doing a research stay at the Department of Sociology in Oxford, I seized the opportunity to visit her there. And I was happy to also meet another DYNAMICS colleague, Stefania, who was also doing a short research stay in London.

Looking back, my research stay was a great experience. Getting a glimpse of the fascinating work of others and getting feedback on my own work have left a lasting impact on me. I hope to see the new friends I made again soon – perhaps at EPSA in Cologne in summer 2024.

Vincent Ramos: University of California-Berkeley

I had the privilege of visiting the Department of Demography at the University of California-Berkeley in the Spring 2023 semester, hosted by Joshua Goldstein. Known for its historical role in the promotion of free speech, open debate, and academic freedom, the university is beautifully situated between the Berkeley Hills and the San Francisco Bay and is ideal for strolls and hikes. On both personal and professional fronts, my stay could not have been better, thanks to the support and hospitality of my host department, other members of the Berkeley community, and of course, family members in and around the Bay Area.

In one internal event, Berkeley's Demography department characterized itself as "small but mighty", perhaps owing to the relatively small number of full-time faculty. During my stay, professors and other current graduate students have a strong focus on formal demography, mortality, and migration, among others. Since these themes are not directly related to my research, I learned a lot of new ideas from attending seminars and meeting folks over lunch or coffee. I benefitted from helpful comments when I presented work in progress at their Graduate Student Brownbag. Equally enriching was learning about their work, especially those using novel register data of death records in the US (CenSoc project).

While I had planned to spend most of my time there working on my dissertation projects, I realized soon after the semester started that it would be more productive to fully make the most out of what the University had to offer. As a large university, it has plenty of course options, visiting lectures, research centers, and even cultural and student events. I attended two courses—Economic Demography and Sociology of Labour and devoted ample time on weekly readings and problem sets. These courses gave me a sense of how to more effectively design courses but also, and more importantly, provided a stronger foundation of the themes that I deal with in my research and their antecedents in the literature—employment uncertainty, fertility, and collective action, among others.

I am additionally grateful for the generosity of other professors in offering consultation hours and institutes that hosted my presentations. I thank the Institute of Research on Labour and Employment (IRLE) and the Center for Southeast Asia Studies (CSEAS) for their productive engagement and David Harding (Sociology), Heather Haveman (Sociology), Jesse Rothstein (Public Policy), and Sydnee Caldwell (Economics) for their time and careful feedback on my ongoing projects.

As a member of the Berkeley community during that term, I was likewise able to participate and present at the All-UC Demography Conference at the University of California—Irvine, it was a rather intimate interdisciplinary conference of demographers, sociologists, economists, and public health scholars and was useful for graduate students like me. It was nice to put faces behind the names in seminal papers I read during my studies including Ronald Lee's 2002



article on a historical account of the global demographic transition and Shelly Lundberg's article on intra-household bargaining and employment responses to partners' unemployment (e.g. the "Added Worker Effect") were memorable, so meeting them in person was fun.

On a personal note, my stay at Berkeley was even more special because of the proximity of aunts, uncles, and cousins in the area. Many of them migrated from the Philippines to the US when I was very young, so it was nice to reconnect and spend weekends and special occasions with them. Other personal experiences I enjoyed while at Berkeley include watching sports events, eating Mexican food, and walking around nearby cities. To our future doctoral researchers planning a research stay abroad, I can only highly recommend a stay at Berkeley (or in any university for that matter) where you will not only advance your research but also enjoy new experiences! I thank the DYNAMICS RTG — our Managing Director Charlotte, and my supervisors Michaela and Mark, for all the support!

Ana Karalashvili: University of Oxford

My semester-long visit to the Sociology Department at the University of Oxford was an extraordinary journey, immersing me fully into the vibrant academic life there. From the get-go, the peers and academic staff gave me a warm welcome. I quickly found myself in the exciting whirlwind of networking events. These ranged from lunch meetings and informal pub get-togethers to the more formal High Table Dinners. Not just social events, these were wonderful opportunities for engaging in casual chats with both young and established scholars in Sociology and Demography. One of the highlights of my Oxford experience was being part of the weekly reading group, led by my host Professor of Sociology, Christiaan Monden. This group brought together an enthusiastic mix of doctoral and postdoctoral researchers in sociology and demography from Oxford and beyond.

During my presentation, I received very helpful feedback from fellow researchers, who work on similar topics and employed similar methodologies. Also, I had the opportunity to discuss in detail my proposal and future work with Prof. Monden, who has since served as an external supervisor of my doctoral thesis.

The intellectual heart of Oxford is its Weekly Seminars across various departments and colleges. Here, scholars, both local and international, present and discuss their ongoing work. I was particularly drawn to the Nuffield College Sociology Seminars, where the majority of the works focused on employing causal methodological frameworks to explore different aspects of social inequalities. Equally fascinating were the seminars hosted by the Social Policy Research Department, concentrating on finding practical solutions to these issues. The Sociology Department's weekly seminars were also really interesting. Here, scholars not only discussed their research findings but also shared personal stories about their journeys with their research topics and questions. These stories resonated with my journey as a researcher with all of its uncertainties and aspirations.

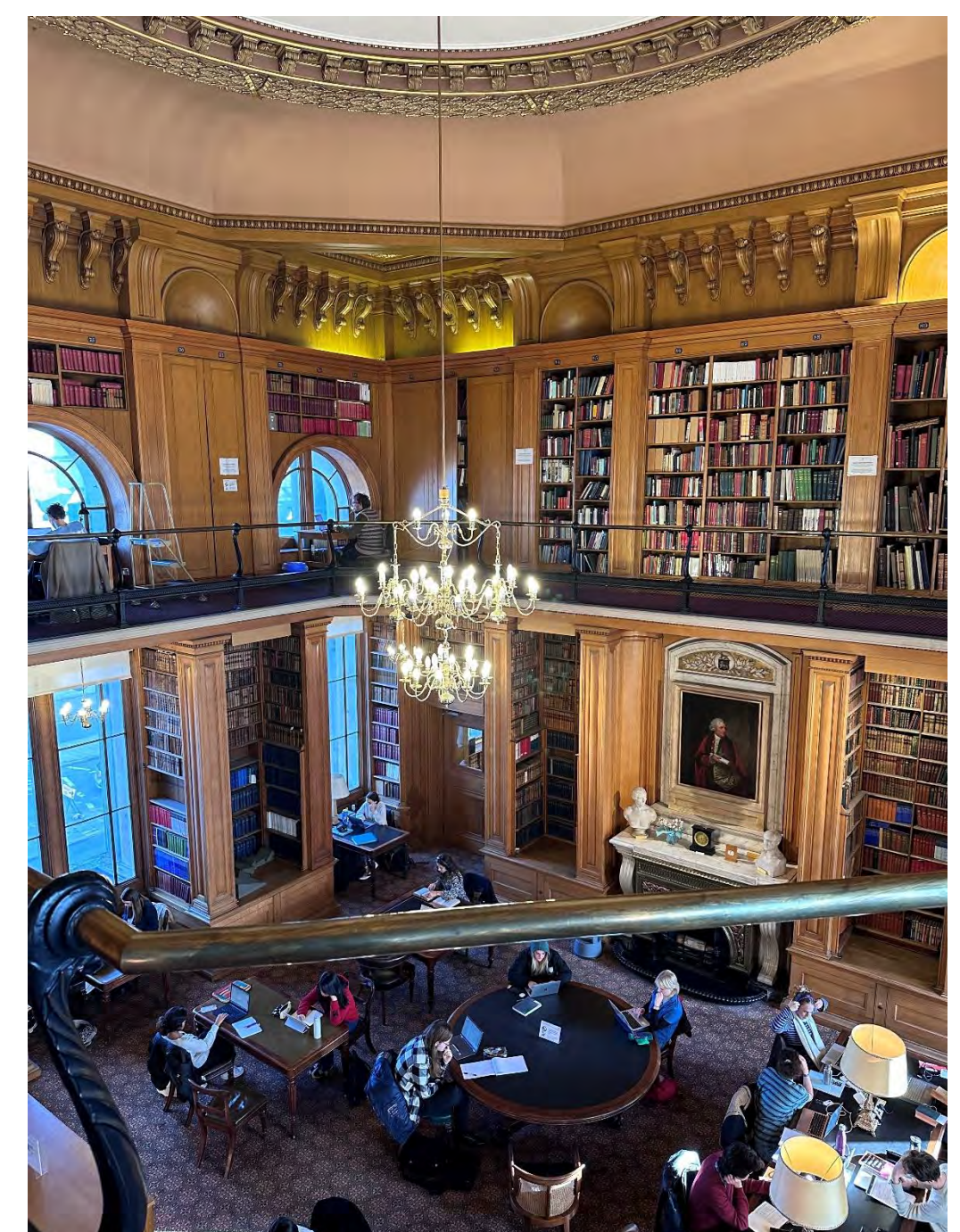
Beyond the academic sphere, Oxford's charm is simply irresistible. Each morning, as I enjoyed a 15-minute bike ride to the Department through the university park, surrounded by stunning green scenery, I found myself reflecting on the day ahead. The university card opened the doors to the historical buildings of the colleges, and granted me access to their events and facilities - from classical music concerts in Merton College to the enchanting Duke Humfrey's Library and the serene Deer Park in Magdalen College. An added treat was that the city's museums are open to everyone, free of charge.

Besides this, Oxford is closely located to London, where my DYNAMICS colleagues were doing their research stays. It was heart-warming to have get-together meetings with them and to show around the city.

The intellectually and socially stimulating environment at Oxford has been very productive in gathering new ideas for my ongoing work. It has also opened avenues for potential collaborations and has given me insights into future paths my work could take both personally and professionally.



Pub meeting with doctoral students. From left to right: Martin Gädecke (Nuffield College doctoral student, formerly Student Assistant at HU Berlin), Stefania (DYNAMICS doctoral student), and myself.



Taylor Institution Library



Chilly morning on the way to the department

Reports from within: What our visiting Doctoral Researchers tell us about their stay in Berlin at DYNAMICS

Konstantin Bogatyrev from Bocconi University

“Visiting DYNAMICS has undoubtedly been one of the highlights of my 2023. Although I could only come in the summer, DYNAMICS amazed me with its lively environment. I had the chance to attend seminars, a guest presentation, and an entire workshop on image analysis. But most importantly, I am grateful to the remarkable DYNAMICS crowd that welcomed me into their office and made Berlin feel like home for my whole visit. Recalling the countless conversations we had, I have learned a lot from you, and I miss you all! If you ever think of a place to visit or work, I wholeheartedly invite you to my department at Bocconi. I hope to see you all soon and wish you the best in your academic endeavours”

Honorata Bogusz from University of Warsaw:

“I spent the first 5 months of 2023 in RTG DYNAMICS. I enjoyed the Research Training Group and my colleagues a lot. Everyone was very friendly and welcoming. During my stay, I had many opportunities to discuss research with other PhD students at Dynamics, for instance during the colloquiums organized by Prof. Michaela Kreyenfeld or the Dynamics Lecture Series. The Career Meetings for women PhD students with female scholars accomplished in social science were also great. Apart from that, I also enjoyed the more informal time spent with other students, e.g. the daily lunch together, the crochet workshop, or the New Year-Bowling event. Overall, my stay was great and I got to see how a research lab other than the one I usually work in functions.”

Dissertation Project “The new political economy of European wage formation” by Joshua Cova

In my cumulative PhD dissertation entitled ‘The new political economy of European wage formation’, I examined, from a comparative political economy standpoint, what recent changes have occurred in the wage-setting practices and policies of different European countries.

Specifically, my thesis focused on examining the political and economic determinants of some of the changes, which have affected the field of European wage formation in the past two decades. The 2008-09 Global Financial Crisis (GFC) and the subsequent Eurozone crisis have significantly accelerated and enhanced the liberalization reforms, which have touched most European economies in the past decades and which have resulted into a series of significant changes in countries’ labour markets. Across most advanced industrialized economies, the institutional influence and the power of social actors has dwindled, trade union membership numbers have gone down and the coverage of collective bargaining agreements has decreased. As social actors, which traditionally were responsible for employment relations have progressively weakened, the state has begun playing a more important role in the regulation of work relations and in the compensation of low-wage work.

In my thesis, I argued that the growing importance of governments in the political economy of wage formation is nowhere clearer to observe than in the politicization of statutory minimum wages: minimum wages have not only progressively become the ‘going rate’ for low-wage employment in a variety of countries displaying different political and economic characteristics, but have also featured prominently in electoral debates. Using state-of-the-art quantitative research methods, I have examined this remarkable transition and have provided empirical evidence contextualizing the transformation of Europe’s low-wage policy space. As I studied European countries specifically, I argued that it is also important to acknowledge the important role played by the EU institutions in structuring member states’ wage-setting systems. This is why one empirical chapter was devoted to the analysis of the growing relevance

of the new European economic governance system in determining member states’ labour markets and wage bargaining mechanisms.

In my first empirical chapter, I elaborated on the political, economic and institutional determinants of minimum wage growth in Europe. By using quantitative text analysis and statistical methods, I showed that the electoral salience of minimum wages has increased in the past two decades. The following chapter built upon the increased politicization of minimum wages, which I found empirical evidence for, by contextualizing the role of minimum wages in different European economies. By building on research in the field of European comparative political economy, which focused on the drivers of aggregate demand, I examined the existence of long-term equilibria between minimum wage growth, taken as proxy for government-determined wage-led growth, and household consumption and exports, the components of aggregate demand.

As the EU institutions have been found to be important actors in driving change in wage-setting mechanisms, I devoted my final paper to an assessment of the wage bargaining preferences of the European Commission within the framework of the new European economic governance. As part of the post-crisis new economic governance, the European Commission issues a set of country-specific recommendations (CSRs) in the area wage bargaining to member states. In this final chapter, I found evidence that recommendations in the field of wage bargaining are mostly decoupled from time-varying economic indicators and are instead tied to ideological preferences related to country-specific institutional factors.

Finally, I concluded by summarizing my results on the changes in the European low-wage policy space as well as my overall contributions to evolving and still far from resolved debates in the literature of the political economy of advanced European capitalist democracies’ wage formation. Stand-alone articles from the dissertation appeared on *European Union Politics* and the *Journal of European Social Policy*.

Dissertation Project “Framing and Voting – The German Immigration Debate and the Effects of News Coverage on Political Preferences” by Nicolai Berk

Persuasion has always been a fascinating topic to me. In my dissertation, I investigated the downstream consequences of one of maybe one of the strongest persuasive treatments ever studied in political science: framing. The large experimental literature on framing effects suggests that citizens form rather limited political preferences, open to severe manipulation. If citizens' attitudes were always so easily malleable for media outlets and political actors, that would not constitute a very meaningful input for the democratic process. My dissertation therefore asks how these experimental findings translate into complex, real-world news environments and whether news frames structure citizens' voting intentions. It provides a clear conceptualization of frames, on which it builds a method to identify news frames automatically.

In order to answer this question, I present original and secondary data, exploring the relationship of news framing, immigration attitudes, and voting intentions. Providing a broad overview of immigration framing in the German news media, I find that neither immigration attention nor framing can explain the rise of the radical-right AfD. Exploiting a change in the immigration framing of Germany's largest tabloid, Bild, I show that framing often has limited effects on crystallized attitudes or voting intentions. The final empirical chapter presents experimental evidence revealing that framing only affects voting intentions among rather uninformed citizens.



My – at least to me - surprising findings contribute to the study of framing and public opinion, suggesting that citizens' attitudes are not as easily manipulated and the power of the news media more limited than often thought. Instead, framing effects take place under highly specific conditions, which are often not fulfilled. The emerging picture of public opinion is one of crystallized and resistant attitudes, which only respond to novel information. In other words: whoever gets to the voter first, wins. Politics, in this view, is a pattern of critical events following upon each other, each presenting a unique opportunity to change the dominant understanding of an issue.

Dissertation Project: “The Indelible Past: The Effects of Authoritarianism on Political Behaviour” by Korinna Lindemann

The third wave of democratisation, beginning in 1970, initially led to a steady increase in the number of democracies. This upward trend hit, however, a roadblock after 2007. Hence, a significant portion of citizens around the globe does not experience life in liberal democracies. Instead, many find themselves in regions where democratic institutions are weakened, and political and individual rights are limited. Citizens in authoritarian regimes experience vastly different political realities than their

counterparts in established democracies. Consequently, my cumulative dissertation explores when and how experiences with authoritarianism matter for how political attitudes and behaviours are formed. Focusing on three different dimensions of ideological political behaviour, I argue throughout my thesis that socialisation under and exposure to authoritarianism can have a persisting effect on ideological political behaviour, even in substantially different political environments. →



My first dissertation paper explores how originating from a (post-) authoritarian regime affects identifying political stances in the ideological space. While open political discussions are common in democracies, they are limited in authoritarian regimes, especially those with much restricted political rights. Consequently, immigrants from such regimes are expected to show lower interest in politics and confidence in their political abilities. As a result, compared to non-immigrants, they should be less likely to identify their stances in the ideological space, particularly on abstract concepts like left-right self-placement, though not necessarily on specific policy preferences such as support for redistribution. The findings indicate that immigrants from (post-) authoritarian regimes are indeed less likely to identify their positions on abstract ideological issues in comparison to non-immigrants, with differences being notably small for specific policy issues. In contrast, immigrants from established democracies map similarly to non-immigrants in the ideological space, except for host country party identification. These results hold implications for the representation of specific immigrant groups in the host country and their electoral potential for different parties.

The second paper shifts its attention to the effect of authoritarianism on abstract ideological attitudes. I propose that immigrants socialised in left-wing authoritarian regimes are more likely to distance themselves from the political left and favour right-of-centre parties than their democratic counterparts, as a reaction against their former regime's ideology. In contrast, immigrants socialised in right-wing authoritarian regimes are not expected to carry systematic anti-right biases into host country politics due to the distinct characteristics of the right-wing authoritarian ideology. Focusing on Germany as a host country, my findings reveal that immigrants socialised in left-wing authoritarian regimes are more inclined to support right-of-centre parties than their democratic counterparts. A similar outcome is observed for immigrants socialised in right-wing authoritarian regimes, but only if they come from a country with an extended communist past; otherwise, no substantial differences emerge. No robust patterns appear for left-right self-placement. These results offer insights into how authoritarian regimes can affect behaviour in a different political context.

Finally, the third paper delves into the effect of authoritarianism on attitudes and behaviour towards policies closely connected to the regime. Specifically, it investigates whether negative portrayals of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) can influence preferences for redistribution. Through a novel experimental game, this study reveals that priming participants with negative statements on the GDR does not adversely affect overall support for redistribution. Nevertheless, exploratory analyses indicate that the prime robustly lowers support for redistribution among those participants who were outperformed in the games by their opponents. These results underscore the notion that negative depictions of authoritarian regimes can indeed influence support for related policies, though not uniformly across a given society.

Contributing to various strands of literature, my dissertation highlights that experiences with authoritarianism can affect political behaviour even in new political environments, while emphasising the heterogeneity of these regime effects.

A profile of our Doctoral Researcher Miriam Siglreitmaier written by Nad Porter-Kasbati



Our society is built on the idea that everyone has equal access to education and people can pursue their desired careers regardless of their backgrounds. But to what degree is social mobility actually possible? How does it manifest across generations? And what costs does it come at for those involved?

These are the questions Miriam Siglreitmaier is looking at in her doctoral research. Siglreitmaier is a PhD candidate in the RTG Dynamics research group at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and the Hertie School, where she researches demographic change and intergenerational social mobility.

After focussing on philosophy in her BA at HU Berlin, Siglreitmaier realized that she was craving more of a connection to the real world in her academic work. After years of working theoretically on questions surrounding justice and equality, she felt the desire to ground her work in more empirical questions. "I don't only want to talk about how things should be but also provide ideas and solutions for how things can be changed," she told me. This led her to an MA in social sciences, also at HU Berlin, and eventually to her current position in the Dynamics research group.

Her doctoral research looks at social mobility, with a special interest in how it can unfold across multiple generations and what the costs are for those changing classes. In the first study in her dissertation, she looks at social class in families across three generations and how people move across classes over generations. While most research on social mobility only takes parents and children into consideration, Siglreitmaier wanted to widen the picture to include grandparents. This has allowed her to introduce more nuance to her mapping of mobility trajectories and notice patterns related to how quickly social mobility is achieved.

In the second study, she turns her attention to how the process of upward social mobility can affect the individuals experiencing it. "When we as societies talk about how children from poor backgrounds should have equal opportunities, what people often forget is what the costs can be. It's not like upward mobility is super easy and happens just like that," she explained. Her preliminary findings show that university graduates with lower social origins have more trouble finding appropriate employment after university than their higher class counterparts, which in turn leads to lower levels of health.

In the final study of her dissertation, she will continue to investigate the costs of mobility, this time as they relate to family and partnering behavior. The idea is that upwardly mobile individuals might achieve success in their education and careers at the cost of their family life, in ways that people from more wealthy backgrounds don't experience.

Siglreitmaier has long been drawn to the topic of equal opportunities. That interest was reinforced during an internship at the German Ethics Counsel, where she heard firsthand accounts of people's experiences in foster care. She was struck by the precariousness of the conditions described and set out to increase knowledge and awareness about children growing up in poverty.

"I want to challenge the idea of whether equality of opportunity is possible. And even if it is possible, what are its effects on people?" she asked. Siglreitmaier believes that if the public knew how upward mobility really works, they wouldn't think our current system is just. For example, if people were aware that it takes generations for a family to get ahead and that it comes at a personal cost to those involved, they likely wouldn't be as accepting of the inequalities that result from capitalism. Shedding light on this is a large part of the impact that she hopes to have with her PhD.

Going into the future, Siglreitmaier hopes to continue doing empirical and policy-relevant work in the field of social inequality. Whether she does this inside or outside of academia isn't as material to her, as long as she is contributing to changes in our societal structure and challenging the existence of poverty as a whole. "People should not have to fight to get what they deserve."

Meet our new PhD Candidate: Norma Sarahi Resendez Chavez



Sarahi is a new PhD candidate at DYNAMICS supervised by Prof. Dr. Michaela Kreyenfeld.

Sarahi obtained a bachelor's degree in Economics from Universidad de Monterrey and a Master of Public Policy from the Hertie School. In her master's thesis, Sarahi focused on the impact of caregivers' mental health on the behaviour of children who were investigated by Child Protective Services in the US.

Her professional journey includes contributions as a Research Assistant and, currently, as a Research Associate at the WZB Berlin Social Science Centre, collaborating on the project "Consequences of nonstandard work schedules for parent and child well-being: A multi-country study (NONWELL)," under the leadership of Dr. Jianghong Li, Ph.D. and Prof. Dr. Matthias Pollmann-Schult.

Her research interests include parental working hours, gender dynamics, family structures, and public health policies. More specifically, she uses quantitative methods to investigate the linkage of nonstandard work schedules, family dynamics, and the mental and physical health of parents. Her dissertation will include an analysis of Germany, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia.

Meet our new office team member: Greta Plattner



Greta is the new Student Assistant at DYNAMICS since October this year.

She received two Bachelor's degrees in Sociology and Political Science from the University of Vienna between 2021 and 2023. Between 2020 and 2023, she gained her first experience in academic research as a student assistant at the Department of Government at the University of Vienna alongside her studies.

This Fall she began her Master's studies in Social Science at Humboldt-University in Berlin. Her main research interests include social change, social inequality as well as democratic theory and democratic research.

Appointments

Stefania Molina & Jan Einhoff were elected as Doctoral Student Representatives 2023.

Doctoral student representative on the selection committee will be **Violeta Haas** this year.

Prof. Hanna Schwander will continue as Ombudsperson.

Juliette Corbi will continue as Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities Officer (2023-2024).

Call for Applications!

The Research Training Group 2458 "The Dynamics of Demography, Democratic Processes and Public Policy" (DYNAMICS) invites applications for

10 Doctoral Researcher Positions

DYNAMICS provides doctoral researchers with a unique and internationally competitive three-year PhD programme in cutting-edge quantitative methods and advanced theories of demography, democracy and public policy. It is a joint endeavour of the Department of Social Sciences at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and the Hertie School and funded by the German Research Foundation. Doctoral positions will start in September 2024 and remuneration is based on Grade E13 TVL (75%) of the German Public Salary Scale.

DYNAMICS studies how demographic changes transform democratic processes, how policy decisions are made to address demographic challenges and how public policies influence demographic developments. It also studies how transboundary crises (such as the global financial crises, forced migration, and the Russian invasion of Ukraine) have exacerbated these developments. Dissertation projects should fall into at least one of the three Research Pillars of the Research Training Group:

1. Demography and democratic processes
2. Demography and public policy
3. Public policy and its effect on demographic behaviour

Qualification and requirements

We invite applications by highly qualified graduates from the fields of Political Science, Sociology, Demography, Public Policy, International Relations, or other related Social Sciences who already have a high level of quantitative methods training. Candidates must hold a Master's degree (or equivalent) in one of the aforementioned subjects or be very close to completion.

What we offer

A three-year employment contract with a competitive salary according to salary group E13 TVL (approximately 2700€/month gross), including social security and health insurance

A comprehensive course programme with a unique combination of advanced theoretical courses, cutting-edge quantitative method skills, an interdisciplinary research seminar and an international lecture series

Office space in the heart of Berlin, one of Europe's most exciting cities with an outstanding research environment

Financial support for conferences, summer schools and research stays abroad

Additional training in professional development

Relocation and onboarding support through the DYNAMICS office

Application and further information

The deadline for the submission of your application is **20 January 2024**.

For further information about DYNAMICS, the application process and the required documents, please visit our website: www.dynamics.hu-berlin.de

Scientific Output

Cova, Joshua. 2023. Politicizing the minimum wage: A multilingual text analysis of minimum wages in European electoral manifestos. *Journal of European Social Policy*, Vol. 33, issue 4. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/epub/10.1177/09589287231199561>

Cova, Joshua. 2023. Back to the basics: Applying multilingual dictionary analysis to the Comparative Manifesto Project corpus *Computational Communication Research*, Vol. 5, issue 2. <https://doi.org/10.5117/CCR2023.2.9.COVA>

Ducanes, G., Engblom, A., & Ramos, V. 2023. Informal employment and irregular migration status: A double whammy for migrant workers in Thailand. *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, Vol. 32, issue 2, 234-262. <https://doi.org/10.1177/01171968231188135>

Ellger, Fabio. 2023. The Mobilizing Effect of Affective and Spatial Polarization. Evidence from Europe. *Comparative Political Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00104140231194059>

Ellger, Fabio, Klüver, Heike, & Alberto, Anthea. 2023. The electoral consequences of policy-making in coalition governments. *Research & Politics*, Vol. 10, issue 3. <https://doi.org/10.1177/20531680231188266>

Erfort, Cornelius, Stoetzer, Lukas F., & Klüver, Heike. 2023. The PARTYPRESS Database: A New Comparative Database of Parties Press Releases. *Research and Politics*, Vol. 10, issue 3. <https://doi.org/10.1177/20531680231183512>

Vincent Ramos, Kreyenfeld, Michaela, Konietzka, Dirk, Lambert, Philippe and Vincent Ramos. 2023. Second birth fertility in Germany: Social class, gender, and the role of economic uncertainty. *European Journal of Population*, Vol. 39, issue 5. doi: [10.1007/s10680-023-09656-5](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10680-023-09656-5).

Violeta Haas Haas, Violeta, Stoetzer, Lukas, Schleiter, Petra and Heike Klüver. 2023. Can wedge strategies by mainstream parties cross-cut the anti-immigrant far right vote? *Electoral Studies* 83: 102617. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.electstud.2023.102617>

Defenses

24.02.2023 Sarah Schmauk:

Divorce and Economic Well-being. A Life Course Perspective on the Interplay of Work Family Lives in West Germany and Sweden

27.02.2023 Daniele Florean:

Gender role attitudes and marriage timing in Germany

17.10.2023 Tabea Naujoks:

The division of labor in couples with children. A dyadic analysis in the German context

19.10.2023 Tom Arend:

Does the media contribute to the differential policy responsiveness of governments in Western democracies?

19.10.2023 Nicolai Berk:

Framing and Voting - The German Immigration Debate and the Effects of News Coverage on Political Preferences

23.11.2023 Korinna Lindemann:

The Indelible Past: The Effects of Authoritarianism on Political Behaviour

Placements

António Valentim:

Postdoctoral Associate at MacMillan Center, Yale University

Jóhanna Bajarnadóttir:

Postdoctoral Researcher at Humboldt University Berlin

Joshua Cova:

Postdoctoral Researcher at Max-Planck-Institut für Gesellschaftsforschung, Cologne

Daniele Florean:

Postdoctoral Researcher at Goethe University Frankfurt

Nicolai Berk:

Postdoctoral Researcher at Immigration Lab, ETH Zürich

Korinna Lindemann:

Postdoctoral Research Fellow at University of Mannheim

Tabea Naujoks:

Postdoctoral Researcher at University of Rostock

Tom Arend:

Junior Analyst, Statistics and Data Doctorate, OECD Paris

Awards

Tom Arend: Best Paper Written by a Junior Researcher, CIVICA Conference 2023

Violeta Haas: 2nd Place Faculty Prize for Good Teaching, KSBF HU Berlin

Vincent Ramos: Population Association of America (PAA) Poster Winner 2023

Guest Researchers

July 2022 – May 2023

Prof. Felix Elwert, PhD (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

December 2022 – July 2023

Prof. Jonathan Homola, PhD (UCLA)

December 2022 – July 2023

Prof. Michelle Torres, PhD (UCLA)

February 2023 – August 2023

Prof. Elisabeth Bruch, PhD (University of Michigan)

Visiting Doctoral Students

January 2023 – April 2023

Kun Lee (Oxford University)

January 2023 – March 2023

Honorata Bogusz (University of Warsaw)

February 2023 – March 2023

Lisa Herbig (University of Amsterdam)

June 2023 – August 2023

Konstantin Bogatyrev (Bocconi University)

September 2023 – November 2023

Christine Sheldon (University of Oxford)

October 2023 - January 2024

Mirko Wegemann (EUI)

September 2023 – January 2024

Milan Thies (EUI)

October 2023 – March 2024

Jos Van Leeuwen (EUI)

November 2023 – February 2024

Lara Bister (University of Groningen)

DYNAMICS Lecture Series

10.01.2023

Dr. Michal Koreh (Haifa University): The Politics of Social Insurance Sustainability

24.01.2023

Prof. Dr. Corinna Kröber (University of Greifswald): How Men change their substantial Priorities as more Women enter Parliament

18.04.2023

Prof. Dr. Achim Goerres (University Duisburg-Essen): Following Immigrant-Origin Voters through the 2021 Bundestag Campaign: New Insights from the Immigrant German Election Study II

08.05.2023

Prof. Dr. Marie Evertsson (Stockholm University): An equal Transition to Parenthood? Social Transfers and Earnings Development among Couples transitioning to Parenthood in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

23.05.2023

Prof. Michelle Torres, PhD (University of California, Los Angeles): Beyond prediction: Identifying and Accounting for latent Treatments in Images

16.10.2023

Dr. Nicole Hiekel (Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research): Beyond the continuum: A micro-level analysis of the gender equality-fertility nexus in three Nordic countries

12.12.2023

Prof. Phillip M. Ayoub, PhD (University College London): Pride and Prejudice: The Influence of LGBT+Rights Activism in a Socially Conservative Society

Career Talks

30.11.2023

Prof. Dr. Moritz Heß (Hochschule Niederrhein): Life After PhD: Careers at Universities of Applied Sciences in Germany

12.07.2023

Prof. Mark Kayser, PhD, (Hertie School) & Prof. Dr. Johannes Giesecke (HU Berlin): Mentoring Talk on Academic Career Paths and Applications for Postdoc Positions

Women@DYNAMICS: Career Talks for female PhD students

23.01.2023

Prof. Dr. Corinna Kröber (University of Greifswald)

13.03.2023

Prof. Dr. Sarah Carol (University College Dublin)

16.10.2023

Dr. Nicole Hieckel (Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research)

DYNAMICS Workshops

14.03.2023

Oliver Watteler: Data Protection in Research Projects

03.05.2023

Dr. Anne Löchte & Dr. Florian Kronrumpf: How to become a Data Scientist

12.-13.05.2023

Dr. Christopher Gandrud: Programming Methods für Data Retrieval and Management

05.06.2023

Prof. Anna Korteweg, PhD (University of Toronto) & **Dr. Sarah Scuzzarello** (Sussex Centre for Migration Research): Academic Editors' Perspective: Writing and Publishing in Peer-Reviewed Journals

15.-16.06.2023

Dr. Christian Dumpitak (Heine University Düsseldorf): Good Scientific Practice

30.06.2023

Prof. Michelle Torres, PhD (University of California, Los Angeles): Image Recognition