

Dr. Sebastian Stier

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Areas of specialization

Political Communication • Comparative Politics • Political Behavior • Party Politics • Populism • Democratization • Digital Media • Automated Text Analysis • Computational Social Science

Academic career

2016-present	<i>Senior Researcher (permanent position)</i> GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, Cologne
2018/2019	<i>Substitute Professor (Professurvertretung)</i> University of Duisburg-Essen, Institute of Political Science
2017	<i>Interim Team Leader</i> GESIS, Team Social Analytics & Services
2017	<i>Lecturer</i> Institute of Political Science, Heidelberg University (IPW HD)
8/2017	<i>Visiting Fellow</i> Center for Advanced Internet Studies (CAIS) Bochum
2012-2015	<i>Doctoral Student</i> Graduate School “Policy performance of autocratic and democratic regimes”, IPW HD

Education

2016	DR. RER. POL. in Political Science, Heidelberg University (<i>summa cum laude</i>)
2011	M.A. (MAGISTER) in Political Science, History and Law, Heidelberg University (<i>summa cum laude</i>)

Publications

JOURNAL ARTICLES

forthcoming	Stier, Sebastian, Caterina Froio, and Wolf J. Schünemann. “Going transnational? Candidates’ transnational linkages on Twitter during the 2019 European Parliament elections”. <i>West European Politics</i> .
2020	Stier, Sebastian, Nora Kirkizh, Caterina Froio, and Ralph Schroeder. “Populist attitudes and selective exposure to online news – A cross-country analysis combining web tracking and surveys”. <i>The International Journal of Press/Politics</i> . 25 (3): 426–446.

- 2020 Scharkow, Michael, Frank Mangold, Sebastian Stier, and Johannes Breuer. “How social network sites and other online intermediaries increase exposure to news”. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS)*. 117 (6): 2761–2763.
- 2020 Stier, Sebastian, Johannes Breuer, Pascal Siegers, and Kjerstin Thorson. “Integrating Survey Data and Digital Trace Data: Key issues in developing an emerging field”. *Social Science Computer Review* 38 (5): 503–516. (IF 2.7)
- 2020 Keller, Franziska B., David Schoch, Sebastian Stier, and JungHwan Yang. “Political Astroturfing on Twitter: How to Coordinate a Disinformation Campaign”. *Political Communication* 37 (2): 256–280.
- 2019 Jungherr, Andreas, Ralph Schroeder, and Sebastian Stier. “Digital Media and the Surge of Political Challengers: Explaining the Political Success of Outsiders in the US, Germany and China”. *Social Media + Society* 5 (3).
- 2019 Rau, Jan Philipp, and Sebastian Stier. “Die Echokammer-Hypothese: Fragmentierung der Öffentlichkeit und politische Polarisierung durch digitale Medien? (The Echo Chamber hypothesis: Do digital media lead to a fragmentation of the public sphere and to political polarization?)”. *Zeitschrift für Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft* 13 (3): 399–417.
- 2018 Stier, Sebastian, Arnim Bleier, Haiko Lietz, and Markus Strohmaier. “Election Campaigning on Social Media: Politicians, Audiences and the Mediation of Political Communication on Facebook and Twitter”. *Political Communication* 35 (1): 50–74.
- 2018 Stier, Sebastian, Wolf J. Schünemann, and Stefan Steiger. “Of Activists and Gatekeepers: Temporal and Structural Properties of Policy Networks on Twitter”. *New Media & Society* 20 (5): 1910–1930.
- 2017 Stier, Sebastian, Lisa Posch, Arnim Bleier, and Markus Strohmaier. “When populists become popular: Comparing Facebook use by the right-wing movement Pegida and German political parties”. *Information, Communication & Society* 20 (9): 1365–1388.
- 2017 Stier, Sebastian. “Internet Diffusion and Regime Type: Temporal Patterns in Technology Adoption”. *Telecommunications Policy* 41 (1): 25–34.
- 2016 Schünemann, Wolf J., Stefan Steiger, and Sebastian Stier. “Transnationalisierung politischer Öffentlichkeit über Soziale Medien – ein Politikfeldvergleich” (Is There a Transnationalization of Public Spheres? A Comparison of Two Global Political Issues). *Zeitschrift für Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft* (Suppl) 10: 233–257.
- 2015 Schünemann, Wolf J., Stefan Steiger, and Sebastian Stier. “The Net Neutrality Debate on Twitter”. *Internet Policy Review* 4 (4).
- 2015 Stier, Sebastian. “Political Determinants of E-Government Performance Revisited: Comparing Democracies and Autocracies”. *Government Information Quarterly* 32 (3), 132–148.
- 2015 Stier, Sebastian. “Democracy, Autocracy, and the News: The Impact of Regime Type on Media Freedom”. *Democratization* 22 (7), 1273–1295.

BOOKS

- 2017 Stier, Sebastian. “Internet und Regimetyt – Netzpolitik und politische Online-Kommunikation in Autokratien und Demokratien” (Internet and Regime Type – Internet Policy and Online Political Communication in Autocracies and Democracies). Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften.

EDITORSHIP

- 2019 Stier, Sebastian, Johannes Breuer, Pascal Siegers, Kjerstin Thorson. “Integrating Survey Data and Digital Trace Data”. Special Issue in *Social Science Computer Review*.

ARTICLES IN REFEREED CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- 2017 Keller, Franziska B., David Schoch, Sebastian Stier, and Junhwang Yang. “How to Manipulate Social Media: Analyzing Political Astroturfing Using Ground Truth Data from South Korea”. In *Proceedings of the 11th International Conference on Weblogs and Social Media*, 564–567.
- 2016 Stier, Sebastian. “Partisan Framing of Political Debates on Twitter”. In *Proceedings of the 8th ACM Conference on Web Science*, 365–366.
- 2016 Stier, Sebastian. “Studying the Role of Elites in U.S. Political Twitter Debates”. In *Proceedings of the 6th Microposts Workshop @WWW 2016*, 43–45.

ARTICLES IN EDITED VOLUMES

- 2020 Stier, Sebastian, Jürgen Maier, and Corinna Oschatz. “Die Nutzung sozialer Medien durch Kandidaten im Bundestagswahlkampf 2017”. In *Wahlen und Wähler – Analysen aus Anlass der Bundestagswahl 2017*, edited by Harald Schoen, and Bernhard Weßels. forthcoming
- 2019 Stier, Sebastian, and Andreas Jungherr. “Digitale Verhaltensdaten und Computational Social Science in der politischen Kommunikationsforschung”. In *Politik in der digitalen Gesellschaft*, edited by Jeanette Hofmann, Norbert Kersting, Claudia Ritzi and Wolf Schünemann, 309–326. Bielefeld: transcript.
- 2019 Stier, Sebastian. “Internetfreiheit in Europa” (Internet Freedom in Europe). In *E-Government und Netzpolitik im europäischen Vergleich*, edited by Wolf J. Schünemann, and Marianne Kneuer, 301–320. Baden-Baden: Nomos.
- 2019 Stegmeier, Jörn, Wolf J. Schünemann, Marcus Müller, Maria Becker, Stefan Steiger, and Sebastian Stier. “Multi-Method Discourse Analysis of Twitter Communication”. In *Quantifying Approaches to Discourse for Social Scientists*, edited by Ronny Scholz, 285–314. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- 2017 Stier, Sebastian. “Political Determinants of Media Freedom”. In *Routledge Companion to Media and Human Rights*, edited by Howard Tumber, and Silvio Waisbord, 149–157. London: Routledge.
- 2015 Stier, Sebastian. “Strukturbedingungen im Online-Wahlkampf: USA und Deutschland im Vergleich” (Structural Conditions in Online Campaigns: Comparing the U.S. and Germany). In *Die US-Präsidentenwahl 2012, Analysen der Politik- und Kommunikationswissenschaft*, edited by Christoph Bieber, and Klaus Kamps, 363–382. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften.

Grants

- 2020 Grant by DAAD-Hong Kong funding line on “Comparing Hidden Propaganda Campaigns Worldwide”. With Franziska B. Keller (HKUST). (10,203€)
- 2019 Social Science One grant on “SHARENEWS: Predicting the shareworthiness of ‘real’ and ‘fake’ news in Europe”. With PI Damian Trilling (University of Amsterdam) and several other project partners. (Total volume 50.000€, 6.000€ for our project part and access to original Facebook data)
- 2018 “What Do ‘the People’ Want? Analysing Online Populist Challenges to Europe”, Project funded by the VolkswagenStiftung (7 of 138 applications accepted). Main applicant, with Ralph Schroeder

- (University of Oxford) and Caterina Froio (Sciences Po, Paris). (Total volume 705,700€, 349,200€ awarded for my project part, a PhD student and data collection)
- 2018 Expert symposium on “Integrating and Analyzing Data From Surveys and Social Media” at CAIS. With Johannes Breuer, Pascal Siegers (15,000€)
- 2017 Project on “Monitoring Topic Saliences in Social Media”. GESIS project funding (competitive). With Fabian Flöck, Arnim Bleier (54,000€)
- 2017 Project on “Integrating Survey Data and Digital Behavioral Data”. GESIS project funding (competitive). With Johannes Breuer, Tobias Gummer, Pascal Siegers (45,000€)
- 2017 Project on “Monitoring Social Media and Mass Media during the ALLBUS”. GESIS project funding (competitive). With Michael Blohm, Oshrat Hochmann (15,500€)
- 2017 CAIS Visiting Fellowship (600€)
- 2012-2015 PhD Scholarship by Landesgraduiertenförderung Baden-Württemberg (41,070€)
- 2012-2019 Various travel grants from DAAD, ECPR, ICA

Awards and list positions

- 2020 Number 2 on list for Junior Professorship “Political Communication” at University of Konstanz
- 2019 ICA Computational Methods Interest Group Best Paper Award (with JungHwan Yang, Franziska Keller und David Schoch)
- 2018 GESIS performance bonus for excellent contributions
- 2016 Number 2 on list for Junior Professorship “Internet and Politics” at University of Hildesheim

Conference organization

- 2019 Session “Linking Surveys and Social Media Data” at ESRA Conference 2018 (co organizer)
- 2018 GESIS Political Science Roundtable (co organizer)
- 2018 Expert symposium on “Integrating and Analyzing Data From Surveys and Social Media” at CAIS (main organizer)
- 2014/2015 Lecture series “Who Governs the Internet?” in winter semester 2014/15 at Heidelberg University (co organizer)

Conference participation

- 2020 ACES Workshop on EP Elections 2019 (P), ECPR (P+P*), EPSA (cancelled), IB-Tagung (P), ICA (P*)
- 2019 APSA CSS Preconference (P*), DVPW and DGPuK PolKomm Conference (P+C), DVPW Section Comparative Politics Conference (P+C), ECPR General Conference (P+P+C+D), EPSA Conference (P*), ESRA Conference (P*), General Online Research Conference (P+P*+C), Harvard Disinformation Workshop (P*), ICA Annual Conference (P*), MPSA Annual Conference (P*), SSCR Workshop “Digital Threats to Democracy” (P*)
- 2018 Communication, Populism and Electoral Choice Conference (P), DGPs (P*), DVPW Kongress (C), ECPR General Conference (P+P+D), ESRA BigSurv Conference (P*), General Online Research Conference (P+C), ICA Annual Conference (P*), MPSA Annual Conference (P*)
- 2017 APSA Annual Meeting (P*), DVPW Section Comparative Politics Conference (P+D), IC2S2 (P+C),

- DVPW Working Group Internet and Politics Conference (P), ICWSM (P*), IPSA Hannover Conference (P+D), MPSA Annual Conference (P*), SVPW Congress (P*), Workshop on “ICT in Authoritarian Regimes” at University St. Gallen (P+D)
- 2016 APSA Annual Meeting (P+P*+C), APSA Political Communication Preconference (P), DVPW Working Group Internet and Politics Conference (P+C), International CSS Workshop Volkswagen Foundation, ECPR General Conference (P), IPSA World Congress (P+C+D), Microposts Workshop @ WWW (P), Web Science Conference (P)
- 2015 ADDA (P*), BISA (P), DiscourseNet Congress (P*), ECPR General Conference (P*)
- 2014 Workshop Internet Governance at Syracuse University, ECPR General Conference (P)
- 2013 MPSA Annual Conference (P), 3-Ländertagung (P)
- P: Presentation; C: Panel chair; D: Discussant; *: Presented by coauthor

Invited talks

- 2020 University of Bern
- 2020 Symposion “Kommunikationsformen von Parteien im digitalen Raum”, University of Düsseldorf
- 2020 University of Manchester
- 2019 Public hearing for TT-Professorship “Political Communication” at the University of Konstanz
- 2018 Kiel Institute for the World Economy
- 2018 Lecture Series “Digital Total” at Ruhr University Bochum and CAIS
- 2018 Hans-Bredow-Institut, Hamburg
- 2017 Lecture Series “Digitale Lebenswelten” at the University of Hildesheim
- 2017 Participation in panel discussion “Web of Justice” at Ilmenau University of Technology
- 2016 Lecture “Web Science” at University of Koblenz-Landau
- 2016 Public Hearing for Junior Professorship “Internet and Politics” at the University of Hildesheim
- 2015 Workshop “Studying the Use of Twitter in Political Communication”, CSS Wintersymposium Cologne

REFEREE

Publons profile

American Political Science Review, Analyse & Kritik, Communication Methods and Measures, Contemporary Politics, Democratization, European Journal of Political Research, European Policy Analysis, German Politics, Government Information Quarterly, IC2S2, ICA, ICWSM, Information, Communication & Society, International Journal of Communication, Journal of Communication, Journal of Information Technology & Politics, Journal of Politics, New Media & Society, PLOS ONE, Policy & Internet, Political Behavior, Political Communication, Public Opinion Quarterly, Schweizerischer Nationalfonds (SNF), Sustainability, The International Journal of Press/Politics, Zeitschrift für Politikwissenschaft, Zeitschrift für Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft

Teaching

I have taught 9 seminars and lectures in comparative politics, political communication, political methodology and introductory courses.

Media coverage and appearances

Bayern 2 Radio, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Deutschlandfunk, FAZ, Handelsblatt, Heise online, MDR Aktuell Radio, Nordwest Zeitung, RAI Südtirol, Süddeutsche Zeitung, SWR Aktuell, Tagesspiegel, WDR Fernsehen

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