

CORNELIUS ERFORT

Post-doctoral Researcher • Witten/Herdecke University

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CURRENT POSITION

since Sep 2024

Post-doctoral Researcher

WITTEN/HERDECKE UNIVERSITY

Research Project *Election Forecasts for the German Federal Election 2025* — zweitstimme.org.

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Sep 2021 – Aug 2024

Doctoral Researcher

HERTIE SCHOOL & HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN
Research Training Group *DYNAMICS*.

Oct 2023 – Aug 2024

Doctoral Researcher

HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN
Research Project *MINISTERIALLOBBY*.

May 2021 – Jul 2022

Doctoral Researcher

HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN & FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN
Cluster of Excellence *SCRIPTS*.

Dec 2016 – Apr 2021

Student Assistant

HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN
Chair of Comparative Political Behavior.

May 2015 – Mar 2017

Student Assistant

TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN
Institute of Machine Tools and Production.

EDUCATION

Sep 2021 – Mar 2025

PhD in Political Science (*summa cum laude*)

HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN

Dissertation: *Political Parties' Voter Targeting and Campaign Communication Strategies*.

Committee: Heike Klüver, Anselm Hager, Hanna Schwander (all Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), Mark A. Kayser (Hertie School), Sara B. Hobolt (LSE).

Sep 2023 – Dec 2023

Research Visit, Department of Government

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Supervisor: Prof. Sara B. Hobolt.

Oct 2019 – May 2021

M.A. in Social Sciences (*Grade 1.0*) — HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN.

Sep 2020 – Dec 2020

Exchange Program (declined due to pandemic) — NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, CHICAGO.

- Oct 2015 – Mar 2019 **B.A. in Social Sciences** (Grade 1.6) — HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN.
- Aug 2017 – Dec 2017 **Exchange Program**, Mexico City — CENTRO DE INVESTIGACIÓN Y DOCENCIA ECONÓMICAS (CIDE).
- Oct 2011 – Jul 2015 **B.Sc. in Industrial Engineering & Management** (Grade 2.3) — TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

[Google Scholar profile.](#)

- forthcoming **Gendered Targeting: Do Parties Tailor Their Campaign Ads to Women?**
Cornelius Erfort. *The Journal of Politics*. [↗](#)
- forthcoming **Parties' Issue Responsiveness Between Elections**
Cornelius Erfort, Lukas F. Stoetzer, and Heike Klüver. *West European Politics*.
[↗](#)
- forthcoming **How Swing Model Assumptions Shape Vote-to-Seat Predictions**
Cornelius Erfort, Thomas Gschwend, Lukas F. Stoetzer, and Simon Munzert.
Electoral Studies.
- 2026 **The 2026 Europe Report of the Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change: Narrowing Window for Decisive Health Action**
Hedi K. Kriit et al. *The Lancet Public Health*. [↗](#)
- 2025 **Buying Voter Support for Unpopular Policies: Evidence from German Nuclear Power Plants**
Cornelius Erfort, António Valentim, and Heike Klüver. *Electoral Studies*. [↗](#)
- 2025 **An Election Forecasting Model for Subnational Elections**
Lukas F. Stoetzer, Cornelius Erfort, Hannah Rajski, Thomas Gschwend, Simon Munzert, and Elias Koch. *Electoral Studies*. [↗](#)
- 2025 **The Zweitstimme Forecast for the German Federal Election 2025: Coalition Majorities and Vacant Districts**
Cornelius Erfort, Lukas F. Stoetzer, Thomas Gschwend, Elias Koch, Simon Munzert, and Hannah Rajski. *PS: Political Science & Politics*. [↗](#)
- 2024 **Targeting Voters Online: How Parties' Campaigns Differ**
Cornelius Erfort. *Electoral Studies*. [↗](#)
- 2023 **The PARTYPRESS Database: A New Comparative Database of Parties' Press Releases**
Cornelius Erfort, Lukas F. Stoetzer, and Heike Klüver. *Research & Politics*. [↗](#)

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Who Becomes a Lobbyist? Comparative Evidence from the US and Germany**
with Jan Stuckatz, Felix Hartmann, and Heike Klüver.
- Do Politicians Respond to Hostility? Evidence from Germany**
with Elias Koch.

When and How do Political Parties Respond to Extreme Weather Events?
with Zachary P. Dickson.

Stacking Election Forecasts
with Lukas F. Stoetzer.

How Should We Communicate Election Polls?
with Elias Koch, Linus Hagemann, Simon Munzert, Hannah Rajski, Thomas Gschwend, and Lukas F. Stoetzer.

Can an Interactive Dashboard Teach Polling Literacy? Evidence from a Large-Scale Experiment
with Simon Munzert, Linus Hagemann, Elias Koch, Hannah Rajski, Thomas Gschwend, and Lukas F. Stoetzer.

Measuring Protest Through News Articles: Validating Manual and Semi-Supervised Methods Using Government Data. [↗](#)

OTHER PROJECTS

- 2021 **Election Dataset Germany 1953–2021**
County-level results made comparable over time using areal weighted interpolation. [🔄](#)
- 2017 **erststimme2017.de**
Prediction of the district vote at the German Elections 2017.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- 2026 LSE Climate and Political Behaviour Workshop.
- 2025 MZES Social Science Data Lab.
- 2025 Lunchtalk — Arbeitskreis *Wahlen und politische Einstellungen*, DVPW.
- 2025 APSA.
- 2025 MPSA.
- 2024 DVPW.
- 2024 Transformations of Democracy Junior Scholars Workshop, WZB Berlin.
- 2022–25 EPSA (2022, 2023, 2024, 2025).

SERVICE TO THE DISCIPLINE

- Reviewer *The Journal of Politics* (JOP); *Political Science Research and Methods* (PSRM); *Electoral Studies*; *European Journal of Political Research* (EJPR); *Political Research Exchange* (PRX); *Party Politics*; *Environmental Politics*; *Comparative European Politics*; *Politische Vierteljahresschrift* (PVS).
- 2022 **Student Representative**, Research Training Group DYNAMICS.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2025, 2026	Automated Web Data Collection PhD workshop. Research Training Group DYNAMICS, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin May 2025; April 2026. Instructor. 
2023, 2025, 2026	Issue Agendas, Text Classification, and Transformer Models Guest lectures, M.A., Department of Social Sciences, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin January 2023; February 2025; February 2026.
2023	Automated Web Data Collection and Text as Data B.A., Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Lecturer. 
2022	Comparative Politics and International Relations B.A., Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Lecturer.

FUNDING & AWARDS

2025	LSE Seed Research Fund (with Zach Dickson) — GBP 9,600.
2020	Fulbright Travel Grant (declined due to pandemic) — EUR ~2,000. DAAD PROMOS Scholarship USA (declined due to pandemic) — EUR ~3,000.
2017	DAAD PROMOS Scholarship Mexico — EUR ~3,000.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

2024	New Directions in Causal Inference , by Prof. Ryan T. Moore, Ph.D. (American University). DYNAMICS Graduate Program, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.
2023	Image Analysis , by Prof. Michelle Torres (UCLA); Good Scientific Practice , by Dr. Christian Dumpitak (iGrad); Data Protection in PhD Projects , by Oliver Watteler (GESIS).
2022	Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis . <i>Causal Inference and Experiments in the Social Sciences</i> , by Prof. Ryan T. Moore, Ph.D. (American University).
2021	Online Experiments , by Dr. Amalia Alvarez-Benjumea (MPI); Survey Experiments , by Sofia Breitenstein (UAB); Spatial Data Analysis , by Prof. Dr. Karsten Donnay (UZH); Beyond Counting Words: Working with Word Embeddings , by Prof. Dr. Damian Trilling (UvA).

LANGUAGES & TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages	German (native); English (advanced, TOEFL iBT 112/130); Spanish (fluent, UNIcert II).
Programming	R, Python, Git/GitHub, Stata.
Typesetting	\LaTeX , MS Office.
Other	Web scraping, data visualization, quantitative text analysis, automated image analysis.

Last updated June 12, 2026.