Oliver Rittmann

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Position

Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES)
Postdoctoral Fellowship   2025–
Lorenz-von-Stein Postdoctoral Fellowship   2024–2025

Education

University of Mannheim

    Ph.D. Political Science (summa cum laude)   2024

        Committee: Thomas Gschwend (supervisor), Michelle Torres, Thomas Bräuninger
        Awards: Lorenz-von-Stein Prize 2024, Bojanovsky Award 2025

    M.A. Political Science (distinction)   2017–2019

Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf

    B.A. Political Science, Sociology, Communication and Media Studies   2014–2017

Peer-Reviewed Publications

6. **Oliver Rittmann**, Dominic Nyhuis, and Tobias Ringwald. 2025. "Gendered Patterns of Parliamentary Attention." Online first: *The Journal of Politics*.

5. **Oliver Rittmann**, Tobias Ringwald, and Dominic Nyhuis. 2025. "Public Opinion and Emphatic Legislative Speech: Evidence from an Automated Video Analysis." *British Journal of Political Science*. 55: 1–21.

4. **Oliver Rittmann**, Marcel Neunhoeffer, and Thomas Gschwend. 2025. "How to Improve the Substantive Interpretation of Regression Results when the Dependent Variable is Logged." *Political Science Research and Methods*. 13(1): 203–211.

3. **Oliver Rittmann**. 2024. "Legislators' Emotional Engagement with Women's Issues: Gendered Patterns of Vocal Pitch in the German Bundestag." *British Journal of Political Science*. 54(3): 937–945.

   – Winner of the Publication of the Year Award 2023 by the Center for Doctoral Studies in Social and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Mannheim.

2. **Oliver Rittmann**, Marie-Lou Sohnius, and Thomas Gschwend. 2023. "Candidate Awareness in Mixed-Member Electoral Systems: A Data-Driven Approach." *Electoral Studies*. 86: 1–13.

   – Media Coverage: *Die Zeit 17/2024*.

1. Marie-Lou Sohnius, Thomas Gschwend, and **Oliver Rittmann**. 2022. "Welche Auswirkungen haben größere Wahlkreise auf das politische Verhalten? Ein empirischer Beitrag zur Wahlrechtsreform." *Politische Vierteljahresschrift*. 63(4): 685–701.

   – Media Coverage: *Westdeutscher Rundfunk, Verfassungsblog*.
   – Discussed during committee hearing in the State Parliament of Baden-Württemberg.

Non-Peer-Reviewed Publications

- Thomas Gschwend, **Oliver Rittmann**, und Lisa-Marie Werner. 2023. "Zwischen Wahlkreisreduzierung und Bürgernähe: Evidenz zur aktuellen Reformdiskussion des Wahlrechts in Baden-Württemberg." *Zeitschrift für Parlamentsfragen.* 54(4): 611–624.
    - Media Coverage: *Zeit Online, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Welt Online, Badische Neueste Nachrichten, Mannheimer Morgen, Stuttgarter Zeitung, Südwestdeutsche Zeitung*, among others.

- Dominic Nyhuis, Tobias Ringwald, **Oliver Rittmann**, Thomas Gschwend, and Rainer Stiefelhagen. "Automated Video Analysis for Social Science Research." In: Engel, U. A. Quan-Haase, S. Xun Liu and L. Lyberg (eds.): *Handbook of Computational Social Science, Vol. 2: Data Science, Statistical Modeling, and Machine Learning Methods.* New York: Routledge. 2021.

Under Review

- "Harnessing GPT for Enhanced Academic Writing: Evidence from a Field Experiment with Early-Career Researchers in the Social Sciences" with Marc Ratkovic, Thomas Gschwend, Leonard Wendering, Kevin Bauer, Anna-Sophie Kurella, Melanie Sauter, and Nicole Schwitter. *Pre-Analysis Plan*.
    - Media Coverage: *Tagesspiegel*.

Work in Progress

- "A Measurement Framework for Computationally Analyzing Politicians' Body Language"
- "Dilemmas of Parliamentary Deliberation: Insights from an Automated Analysis of Plenary Video Footage" with Tilko Swalve, Dominic Nyhuis, and Tobias Ringwald.
- "Measuring Media Slant Through Image Analysis" with Michelle Torres, Chris Arnold, and Andreas Küpfer.
- "What Drives Citizen Support for Electoral Reform? Disentangling Partisan, Local, and Fairness Considerations" with Thomas Gschwend, and Lisa-Marie Müller. *Pre-Analysis Plan*.
- "The Essential Role of Procedural Rules for the Statistical Analysis of Legislative Speech Counts"

Teaching

University of Mannheim
- Quantitative Methods (Tutorial, M.A. & Ph.D.).   2023, 2022, 2021, 2020*, 2019
  Featured: "Herausragende Lehre in der deutschen Politikwissenschaft" on DVPW Blog.
- Advanced Quantitative Methods (Tutorial, M.A. & Ph.D.).   2024, 2023, 2022, 2021
- Data Analysis (Tutorial, B.A.).   2020

Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf
- Analyseverfahren I + II (Tutorial for Lecture, B.A.).   2016/17
- Einführung in die Politikwissenschaft (Tutorial for Lecture, B.A.).   2015/16

Postgraduate Advising
- Oli's Data Lab (Statistical Advising for M.A. and Ph.D. level students),   2022
  University of Mannheim.
- Thesis Supervision: M.A. Data Science (2x).

Workshops
- Computationally Analyzing Politicians' Body Language Using Pose Estimation,   2024
  MZES Social Science Data Lab.
- Efficient Data Management in R,   2020
  MZES Social Science Data Lab (with Denis Cohen, Cosima Meyer, Marcel Neunhoeffer).

Awards, Grants & Scholarships

- Lorenz-von-Stein Prize for the best dissertation in the Social Sciences at the University of Mannheim in 2024 (1000€).
- Bojanovsky Dissertation Award, 2025 (1000€).
- "Publication of the Year Award" by the Center for Doctoral Studies in Social and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Mannheim, 2023 (1000€).
- "GESS Science Speed Dating Prize" by the Graduate School of Economics and Social Sciences at the University of Mannheim, 2021 (with Mirka Henninger, 750€).

Invited Talks & Conference Presentations

Invited Talks

Diversity Week, University of Mannheim: Gendered Patterns of Parliamentary Attention.	10/2025
C-SPAN Video Workshop Series, Purdue University: Deep Learning Methods and Plenary Attention Analysis in Video Research.	03/2023
International Methods Colloquium: Video-as-Data Methods for Political Science Research.	04/2021

Conference & Workshop Presentations

DVPW Research Group on Comparative Legislative Studies, CAU Kiel.	2025
European Political Science Association, Madrid.	2025
European Political Institutions Conference (EPIC), Madrid.	2025
Polmeth Europe, London School of Economics and Political Science.	2025
Image-as-Data Workshop LOOPS, Free University Berlin.	2024
European Political Science Association, Cologne.	2024
German Political Science Association, Methods Section, University of Bamberg.	2024
American Political Science Association, Los Angeles.	2023
European Political Science Association, Glasgow.	2023
PolMeth Europe, King's College London.	2023
GESS Research Day, University of Mannheim.	2022
European Political Science Association, Prague.	2022
International Communication Association, Paris.	2022
Causality in the Social Sciences Workshop, GESIS Mannheim (virtual).	2021
PolMeth, New York University (virtual).	2021
European Political Science Association, University of Cologne (virtual).	2021
PolMeth Europe, University of Hamburg (virtual).	2021
Image-as-Data Workshop, University College Dublin (virtual).	2020
PolMeth, University of Toronto (virtual).	2020
Graduate Conference on Party Research, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf.	2020
German Political Science Association, Humboldt University Berlin.	2017

Professional Service

Referee: *Computational Communication Research, Electoral Studies, Legislative Studies Quarterly, Journal of Computational Social Science, Journal of Law and Courts, Party Politics, Political Communication, Political Science Research and Methods, Political Studies, Politische Vierteljahresschrift, Social Science Computer Review*.

Academic Self-Administration

- Coordinator of the MZES Speaker Series, University of Mannheim, Spring & Fall Term 2025.
- Representative of the academic mid-level staff at the MZES, 2024–.
- Deputy representative of the academic mid-level staff in the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Mannheim, 2023–2024.

Conference Organization

- Local Organizer of the MZES-DVPW "Methods of Political Science" Conference, March 2025.

Hiring Committees

- W3-Professorship for Evidence-Based Political Science Research, University of Mannheim, 2022.

Skills

Programming Languages: R, Python, STATA

Languages: German (native), English (fluent), French (basic)