

# Oliver Rittmann

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## Academic Appointments

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### London School of Economics and Political Science

Assistant Professor, Department of Methodology

2026–

### Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES)

Postdoctoral Fellowship

2025–2026

Lorenz-von-Stein Postdoctoral Fellowship

2024–2025

## Education

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### University of Mannheim

Dr. rer. soc. Political Science

2024

M.A. Political Science

2019

### Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf

B.A. Political Science, Sociology, Communication and Media Studies

2017

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

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6. **Oliver Rittmann**, Dominic Nyhuis, and Tobias Ringwald. 2025. “Gendered Patterns of Parliamentary Attention.” Online first: *The Journal of Politics*.
  - Media Coverage: *ARD, Dlf Nova, SWR, SWR1, SWR3, Zeit Online, stern, Badische Zeitung, Mannheimer Morgen, Rheinpfalz*, among others.
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 Sohnies, 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 Sohnies, 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

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- 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

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- “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: *Tagespiegel*.
- “Der überschätzte Protest der Wählerinnen und Wähler? Einstellungen zur Reform des Bundestagswahlrechts 2025” with Lisa-Marie Müller and Thomas Gschwend.

## Work in Progress

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- “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

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### University of Mannheim

- Thinking Clearly With Data (Seminar, B.A.) 2026
- Political Inequality in Democratic Institutions (Seminar, B.A.) 2026
- 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 consulting for M.A. and Ph.D. level students), University of Mannheim. 2022
- Thesis Supervision: M.A. Data Science (2x), M.A. Social Data Science (1x).

## Workshops

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

## Awards, Grants & Scholarships

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- 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

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### Invited Talks

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

### Conference & Workshop Presentations

- German Political Science Association, Methods Section, Leibniz University Hanover. 2026
- German Political Science Association, Comparative Legislative Studies Section, 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.  
German Political Science Association, Humboldt University Berlin.

2020  
2017

## Professional Service

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

### Academic Self-Administration

- Representative of the academic mid-level staff at the MZES, 2024–2026.
- Coordinator of the MZES Speaker Series, University of Mannheim, Spring & Fall Term 2025.
- 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

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**Programming Languages:** R, Python

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