

# Young Scholars in Computational Social Science

19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

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**Universität  
Zürich**<sup>UZH</sup>



**Digital Society Initiative**

## Organisational Details

Welcome to the first “Young Scholars in Computational Social Science” workshop by the Computational Methods Working Group at the University of Zurich!

The main event consists of presentations by a variety of young scholars who will talk about their ongoing research projects in the field of Computational Social Science. Grouped into 5 panels, the presentations cover a variety of different topics and bring together social scientists from different research fields such as for example Political Science, Communication Science, Informatics, or International Relations. Presenters will also have the chance to meet one-on-one with one of the invited experts to discuss specific challenges, problems, and opportunities. In this regard, we thank Sophie Mützel, Annie Waldherr, Ken Benoit, and Christoph Stadtfeld for their willingness to serve as expert respondents to the presentations as well as to offer valuable inputs during the one-on-one meetings.

Due to the current circumstances, the event will take place digitally via Zoom. To join the presentations, please send an email to [csmethods@ikmz.uzh.ch](mailto:csmethods@ikmz.uzh.ch) and we will provide you with the necessary information to join the Zoom meeting.

Lastly, we want to thank the Graduate School of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Zurich and the Digital Society Initiative for supporting this event financially through different grants.

We hope that this event will stimulate fruitful discussions about the respective research projects and serve as a networking opportunity by bringing together young scholars from different fields and geographical areas.

The organising committee,  
Anna Staender, Nico Pfiffner & Valerie Hase  
*Computational Methods Working Group, University of Zurich*

## Schedule Overview

### Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> November

09:00-09:15	Welcome
09:15-11:00	Panel 1: Text as data – Measurement approaches in political science
11:00-11:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:15-13:00	Panel 2: Practical applications & mixed methods approaches
13:00-14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:00-15:45	Panel 3: Tracing data & media usage patterns
15:45-16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:00-18:00	Social event

### Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> November

09:15-11:00	Panel 4: Network analysis & social networks
11:00-11:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:15-13:00	Panel 5: CSS methods – Empirical applications across disciplines
13:00	Goodbye

# Presentation Schedule

## Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> November

### 09:00-09:15 **Welcome**

Anna Staender, Nico Pfiffner & Valerie Hase  
*Computational Methods Working Group, University of Zurich*

### 09:15-11:00 **Panel 1: Text as data – Measurement approaches in political science**

Chair: Theresa Gessler (University of Zurich)

09:15-09:50	<p><b>A semi-supervised method for annotating multidimensional concepts in political science</b> Dror Markus &amp; Guy Mor <i>Hebrew University of Jerusalem</i></p> <p>Expert response: Ken Benoit</p>
09:50-10:25	<p><b>More negative, more emotional? Emotional rhetoric among political elites across time</b> Christian Pipal <i>University of Amsterdam</i></p> <p>Expert response: Ken Benoit</p>
10:25-11:00	<p><b>Beyond valence and beyond a bag-of-words: Creating dictionary and word embeddings models to measure discrete emotional appeals in German political communication</b> Tobias Widmann <i>European University Institute</i></p> <p>Expert response: Ken Benoit</p>

### 11:00-11:15 **Coffee break**

**Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> November****11:15-13:00 Panel 2: Practical applications & mixed methods approaches**

Chair: Nico Pfiffner (University of Zurich)

11:15-11:50	<b>The use of machine learning methods for online communication research</b> Anke Stoll <i>University of Düsseldorf</i> Expert response: Annie Waldherr
11:50-12:25	<b>Diversity-optimized political news recommender system for online and social media platforms</b> Lucien Heitz <i>University of Zurich</i> Expert response: Annie Waldherr
12:25-13:00	<b>Combining people-meter data with an automated content analysis of subtitles: A computational approach to television news consumption</b> Susan Vermeer <i>University of Amsterdam</i> Expert response: Annie Waldherr

**13:00-14:00 Lunch break**

**Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> November**

**14:00-15:45**    **Panel 3: Tracing data & media usage patterns**  
Chair: Ivo Bantel (University of Zurich)

14:00-14:35	<b>Something built, something borrowed, something new? Choosing different approaches to study news use with tracking data</b> Lisa Merten <i>Leibniz-Institut for Media Research   Hans-Bredow-Institut</i>  Expert response: Sophie Mützel
14:35-15:10	<b>The role of algorithmic recommendations and interpersonal relationships for individual media use</b> Nico Pfiffner <i>University of Zurich</i>  Expert response: Sophie Mützel
15:10-15:45	<b>Combining digital traces and survey data to study media effects: A mobile lab approach</b> Felicia Loecherbach <i>VU Amsterdam</i>  Expert response: Sophie Mützel

**15:45-16:00**    **Coffee break**

**16:00-18:00**    **Social event**

## Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> November

### 09:15-11:00 Panel 4: Network analysis & social networks

Chair: Lara Kobilke (University of Zurich)

09:15-09:50 **Understanding social distribution networks of Chinese state-backed media – A causal network inference approach to explaining social influence among propaganda spreaders on twitter**

Marcel Schliebs

*University of Oxford*

Expert response: Christoph Stadtfeld

09:50-10:25 **Rewiring social networks for collective intelligence**

Jason Burton

*University of London*

Expert response: Christoph Stadtfeld

10:25-11:00 **Repost and like: Securitization theory in the digital age**

Natalia Umansky

*University College Dublin*

Expert response: Christoph Stadtfeld

### 11:00-11:15 Coffee break

**Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> November**

**11:15-13:00**    **Panel 5: CSS Methods – Empirical applications across disciplines**  
Chair: Anna Staender (University of Zurich)

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|-------------|--|
| 11:15-11:50 | <b>Networked gender bias? Gendered discourse hegemony in networked public spheres</b><br>Miriam Siemon<br><i>FU Berlin</i><br><br>Expert response: Sophie Mützel |
| 11:50-12:25 | <b>Press-party parallelism in the digital sphere. Evidence from Austria</b><br>Manuel Mayrl<br><i>University of Innsbruck</i><br><br>Expert response: Ken Benoit |
| 12:25-13:00 | <b>Deliberation in international organizations: The benefits and limits of arguing</b><br>Timon Forster<br><i>FU Berlin</i><br><br>Expert response: Ken Benoit   |

**13:00**        **Goodbye**