

# Arndt Leininger

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*I am a post-doctoral research fellow at the chair for Political Sociology of Germany at Freie Universität Berlin. My areas of research are political sociology, comparative politics and applied quantitative methods. I am interested in direct democracy, political participation, election forecasting, and electoral studies more broadly.*

**CURRENT APPOINTMENT**      **Freie Universität Berlin**  
Research fellow at the chair for Political Sociology of Germany, 04/2018 –

**PAST APPOINTMENT**      **Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz**  
Research fellow at the chairs for Public Policy and Methods, 08/2016 –  
03/2018

**EDUCATION**      **Hertie School of Governance, Berlin**  
PhD in Governance, 2017  
1<sup>st</sup> Advisor: Prof. Mark Kayser, PhD; 2<sup>nd</sup> Advisor: Prof. Simon Hug,  
PhD (Université de Genève); 3<sup>rd</sup> Advisor: Prof. Dr. Bernhard Weßels  
(Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin / Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)  
Dissertation: *“Direct Democracy and Representative Government”*

**London School of Economics and Political Science**  
MSc Political Science and Political Economy, 2012

**Freie Universität Berlin**  
B.A. Political Science, 2011  
*Erasmus semester at Sciences Po Paris, 09/2010 – 02/2011.*

**PUBLICATIONS**      Leininger, Arndt (2018) “Prognosemodelle“, In: Claudius Wagemann,  
Achim Goerres and Markus Siewert (Ed.) *“Handbuch Methoden der  
Politikwissenschaft”*, Wiesbaden: VS Springer, online first.  
[https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-658-16937-4\\_36-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-658-16937-4_36-1)

Leininger, Arndt, Lukas Rudolph and Steffen Zittlau (2018) “How to  
increase turnout in low salience elections. Quasi-experimental evidence on  
the effect of simultaneous second-order elections on political  
participation” in: *Political Science Research and Methods*, 6(3), pp.  
509-526. <https://doi.org/10.1017/psrm.2016.38> (online first in 2016)

Haußner, Stefan and Arndt Leininger (2018) “Die Erfolge der AfD und die Wahlbeteiligung: Gibt es einen Zusammenhang?” in: *Zeitschrift für Parlamentsfragen*, 49(1), pp. 69-90.  
<https://doi.org/10.5771/0340-1758-2018-1-69>

Leininger, Arndt and Mark A. Kayser (2017) “Eine länderbasierte Prognose zur Bundestagswahl 2017” in: *Politische Vierteljahresschrift*, 58(3), pp. 407-417. <https://doi.org/10.5771/0032-3470-2017-3>

Kayser, Mark A. and Arndt Leininger (2017) “A Länder-based Forecast of the 2017 German Bundestag Election” in: *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 50(3), pp. 689-692. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S1049096517000427>  
*Reported in Bloomberg, Politico and Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung among others.*

Leininger, Arndt and Lea Heyne (2017) “How representative are referendums? Evidence from 20 years of Swiss referendums” in: *Electoral Studies*, 48, pp. 84-97. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.electstud.2017.05.006>

Kayser, Mark A. and Arndt Leininger (2016) “A Predictive Test of Voters’ Economic Benchmarking: The 2013 German Bundestag Election” in: *German Politics*, 25(1), pp. 106-130.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09644008.2015.1129531>

Leininger, Arndt (2015) “Wissenschaftliche Wahlprognosen - Alternative oder Ergänzung zu Umfragen?” in: *Zeitschrift für Parlamentsfragen*, 46(4), pp. 675-691. <https://doi.org/10.5771/0340-1758-2015-4-675>

Kayser, Mark A. and Arndt Leininger (2015) “Vintage Errors: Do Real-Time Economic Data Improve Election Forecasts?” in: *Research & Politics*, 2(3). <https://doi.org/10.1177/2053168015589624>

Leininger, Arndt (2015) “Direct Democracy in Europe. Promises and Pitfalls” in: *Global Policy*, 6(S1), pp. 17-27.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/1758-5899.12224>

WORKING  
PAPERS

“Do Populist Parties Increase Turnout? Evidence from over 40 Years of Electoral History in 31 European Democracies” (with Maurits Meijers, Radboud University, Nijmegen)

“Is there an economic vote in referendums? The case of the 2016 Italian constitutional referendum”

“Critical or instrumental democrats? Germans’ conceptions of democracy a quarter century after reunification” (with Claudia Landwehr, Johannes-Gutenberg University Mainz)

“The Consequences of Increasing Turnout in Low-Salience Elections: Evidence from Concurrent Elections in Germany” (with Lukas Rudolph, LMU Munich)

“The Elusive Effect of Referendums on Democratic Satisfaction”

“Popular Support for Direct Democracy in Europe: Critical but not Compensatory”

“The Impact of Group Identity on Coalition Building” (with Denise Laroze, Universidad de Santiago and David Hugh-Jones, University of East Anglia)

PROJECTS

“The effect of enfranchisement, temporary disenfranchisement and participation on youth turnout” (with Thorsten Faas, Free University of Berlin, Sigrid Roßteutscher, Goethe-University Frankfurt and Armin Schäfer, University of Osnabrück)

*Three-wave panel study of 3500 adolescents in Schleswig-Holstein covering the state and federal election 2017 as well as municipal elections in 2018.*

“Resilience and political participation” (with Claudia Landwehr, University of Mainz)

*Survey experiment embedded in the Gutenberg Brain Study*

POPULAR  
SCIENCE  
(SELECTION)

“Am Scheideweg - Sind die Grünen nur eine Partei des Westens?” (with Julian Zuber, Hertie School of Governance), Tagesspiegel Causa, 8 November 2017

“Zu jung zum Wählen?” (with Thorsten Faas, Sigrid Roßteutscher and Armin Schäfer), Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 8 September 2017

“Eine strukturelle Prognose für die Bundestagswahl 2017” (with Mark A. Kayser), Hertie School Debate, 14 June 2017

“A far-right party just won seats in three German state parliaments. Here’s why.”, The Washington Post’s The Monkey Cage, 22 March 2016

“Direct democracy is ill-fitted to engaging the politically disengaged, but popular with more active citizens”, LSE Democratic Audit UK, 30 July 2015

AWARDS AND  
SCHOLARSHIPS

**Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship**  
2016. Declined.

**Junior Research Fellowship, Merton College, University of Oxford**

2016. Shortlisted.

**Doctoral scholarship, Heinrich Böll Foundation**  
2013 – 2016.

**Student scholarship, Heinrich Böll Foundation**  
2009 – 2012.

TEACHING

**Freie Universität Berlin**

‘Einführung in die Wahlforschung’ [Introduction to electoral studies] (Bachelor), 2018.

‘Politische Ökonomie des Parteienwettbewerbs’ [Political Economy of Party Competition] (Bachelor), 2018.

Playing Politics (Bachelor), 2013.

Introduction to Political Science (Bachelor, teaching assistant), 2013.

**Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin (WZB)**

2-day workshop “Introduction to R” (Postgraduate), 2017.

**Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz**

Political Economy of Elections (Master), 2017, 2018.

Statistik I [Stats I] (Bachelor), 2017.

‘Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft’ [Economy and Society] (Bachelor), 2016, 2017.

‘Kleingruppe Statistik II’ [Stats II lab] (Bachelor), 2016, 2017.

**Vienna University of Economics and Business**

2-day workshop “R Statistical Software in Action for Newcomers” (Postgraduate), 2016, 2018.

**Hertie School of Governance**

2-day workshop “Introduction to R” (Master), 2017, 2018.

Statistics II: Time Series, Panel Data and Limited Dependent Variables (with R) (Master, co-taught), 2016.

Research Design (Master), 2015.

Applied Quantitative Methods (Master, teaching assistant), 2013, 2014, 2015.

**Essex Summer School**

Advanced quantitative data analysis (Teaching assistant to Vera Troeger, University of Warwick), 2015.

COMPUTING  
AND NATURAL  
LANGUAGES

R, Stata, Python, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, HTML, CSS, Markdown

German (mother tongue), English (C2), French (B2)

- CONFERENCES *2018* EPSA Annual Conference, ECPR Joint Sessions, MPSA Annual Conference, PSA Annual International Conference  
*2017* DVPW AK Handlungs- und Entscheidungstheorie (HET) [working group on decision theory], DVPW Sektion Methoden [section on political methodology], EPOP, EPSA, Netherlands Institute of Government (NIG)  
*2016* 3-Länder-Tagung, DVPW AK HET, DVPW AK Wahlen [German Political Science Association's working group on elections], ECPR, ECPR Graduate Student Conference, EPSA, MPSA, Swiss Political Science Association (SPSA)  
*2015* "Democracy: A Citizen Perspective" – Åbo Akademi, DVPW AK Wahlen, DVPW Sektion Methoden, ECPR Joint Sessions, EPOP, EPSA,  
*2014* DVPW AK Wahlen, ECPR, ECPR Graduate Student Conference  
*2013* 3-Länder-Tagung
- SUMMER SCHOOLS AND WORKSHOPS *2016* Oxford Spring School in Social Science Research Methods (Causal Inference, Data Visualisation, Spatial Data Analysis)  
*2015* Leuven-Montréal Winter School in Elections and Electoral Behavior; Academic English Writing Workshop, Hertie School of Governance  
*2014* EITM Europe Summer Institute, University of Mannheim; University Teaching Course, Berlin Graduate For School Transnational Studies  
*2013 and 2011* ECPR Summer School (Political Game Theory, 2013; Experimental methods, 2011)
- INVITED TALKS *2017* University of Greifswald  
Latvian Institute of International Affairs in Riga  
Central University of Finance and Economics in Beijing  
*2014* University of Mannheim  
*2012* Freie Universität Berlin
- REFEREE American Political Science Review, British Journal of Political Science, Parliamentary Affairs, Regional & Federal Studies, Political Science (verified by Publons)
- MEMBERSHIP APSA, DGfW (German Society for Electoral Studies), DVPW (German Political Science Association), EPSA, MPSA, Ballspielverein Borussia 09 e.V. Dortmund
- ADMINISTRATIVE BOARDS & COMMITTEES **Hertie School of Governance**  
PhD representative on the Alumni Council, 2017 – 2019  
Member of the Academic Senate, 2012 – 2014.
- London School of Economics and Political Science**  
Member of the Student Staff Liaison Committee of the Department of Government. 2011 – 2012.
- Freie Universität Berlin**

Student delegate to the search committee “Juniorprofessorship European Integration”, 2009.

CONSULTING

**The Times** 2017

Advised on implementing my webscraper for wahlrecht.de and poll aggregation model for The Time’s ‘poll of the polls.’

**YouGov Deutschland GmbH** 2017

Advised on implementing YouGov’s MRP-based election poll, pioneered in the US and UK, in Germany.

**signalundrauschen.de** 2017

Developed a webscraper for wahlrecht.de, polling aggregation models and a polls-based forecast. Advised on polling and statistics.

FURTHER  
EXPERIENCE

**CorrelAid**

Founding member and board member of a non-profit organization active in data science for social good which won the Telefonica Foundation’s “Think Big Pro” award, the price of the Council of the University of Konstanz, a “startsocial” stipend, an “Open Transfer” stipend and the “Engagementpreis” of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. 2015 – today.  
[www.correlaid.org](http://www.correlaid.org)

**EUROLAB at GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences,  
Cologne**

Guest researcher. 12/2014

**Deutscher Bundestag (German Parliament)**

Parliamentary aide to Sven-Christian Kindler, Member of the German Parliament, 2012 – 2013.

REFERENCES

**Prof. Mark Kayser, PhD**

Hertie School of Governance  
[kayser@hertie-school.org](mailto:kayser@hertie-school.org)  
*First PhD supervisor and regular  
co-author.*

**Prof. Simon Hug, PhD**

Université de Genève  
[simon.hug@unige.ch](mailto:simon.hug@unige.ch)  
*Second PhD supervisor.*

**Prof. Dr. Bernhard Weßels**

Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin  
(WZB) / Humboldt-Universität zu  
Berlin  
[wessels@wzb.eu](mailto:wessels@wzb.eu)  
*Third PhD supervisor.*

**Prof. Dr. Thorsten Faas**

Freie Universität Berlin  
[thorsten.faas@fu-berlin.de](mailto:thorsten.faas@fu-berlin.de)  
*Chair.*