

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, political attitudes, 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
1st Advisor: Prof. Mark Kayser, PhD; 2nd Advisor: Prof. Simon Hug,
PhD (Université de Genève); 3rd 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) “Forecasting”, 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

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>

Reported in *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*.

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>

Reported in Focus Online.

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

“Instrumental or procedural democrats? The evolution of procedural preferences after democratization” (with Claudia Landwehr, Johannes-Gutenberg University Mainz) – *under review*

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

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

“The antecedents of habitual voting. Evidence from a regression discontinuity design” (with Thorsten Faas, Freie Universität Berlin, Sigrid Roßteutscher, Goethe University Frankfurt, and Armin Schäfer, University of Münster)

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

“Unequal participation: direct democracy’s unresolved dilemma?”

PROJECTS

“The effect of enfranchisement and temporary disenfranchisement adolescents and young adults” (with Thorsten Faas, Free University of Berlin, Sigrid Roßteutscher, Goethe-University Frankfurt and Armin Schäfer, University of Münster)
Three-wave panel study of 3500 adolescents in Schleswig-Holstein covering the state and federal election 2017 as well as municipal elections in 2018.

OTHER
PUBLICATIONS
(SELECTION)

“Fakescience - eine Warnung vor dem Hashtag.” Opinion piece in Tagesspiegel Causa, 21 July 2018

“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

“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

“Direkte Demokratie” [Direct Democracy] (Bachelor), 2018.

“Natürliche Experimente in der Politikwissenschaft” [Natural experiments in political science] (Master), 2018.

“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)

1-day workshop “Introduction to ggplot2” (Postgraduate), 2018.

1-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^AT_EX, HTML, CSS, Markdown

German (mother tongue), English (C2), French (B1)

- CONFERENCES
- 2018 EPSA Annual Conference^P, ECPR Joint Sessions^{P,d}, ECPR General Conference^{P,d,c}, MPSA Annual Conference^{P,d,c}, PSA Annual International Conference^P
 - 2017 DVPW AK Handlungs- und Entscheidungstheorie (HET) [working group on decision theory]^P, DVPW Sektion Methoden [section on political methodology]^P, EPOP^P, EPSA^P, Netherlands Institute of Government (NIG)^{P,d}
 - 2016 3-Länder-Tagung^P, DVPW AK HET^P, DVPW AK Wahlen [German Political Science Association's working group on elections]^P, ECPR^{P,d}, ECPR Graduate Student Conference^{P,d,c}, EPSA^P, MPSA^P, Swiss Political Science Association (SPSA)^P
 - 2015 "Democracy: A Citizen Perspective" – Åbo Akademi^P, DVPW AK Wahlen^P, DVPW Sektion Methoden^P, ECPR Joint Sessions^{P,d}, EPOP^P, EPSA^P
 - 2014 DVPW AK Wahlen^P, ECPR^P, ECPR Graduate Student Conference^{P,c}
 - 2013 3-Länder-Tagung^P
- ^P Presenter, ^d Discussant, ^c Chair
- 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 School for Transnational Studies
 - 2013 ECPR Summer School (Political Game Theory, 2013)
 - 2011 ECPR Summer School (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, Political Science, Regional & Federal Studies, Soziale Welt (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**
- Freie Universität Berlin**
Deputy member of the Doctoral Board, 2018 –
- 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.
- 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.
- MEDIA**
- Contributions, interviews and expert opinions for, among others, Allgemeine Zeitung, El Espanol, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Maischberger, mitmischen.de, signalundrauschen.de, Tagesspiegel, Washington Post
- FURTHER EXPERIENCE**
- CorrelAid**
Founding member of a non-profit organization active in data science for social good which won the Telefonica Foundation’s “Think Big Pro” award, the prize of the Council of the University of Konstanz, a “startsocial” stipend, an “Open Transfer” stipend and the “Engagementpreis” of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation.
Board member 2015 – 2018.
Volunteer 2018 – today
www.correlaid.org
- EUROLAB at GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, Cologne**
Visiting researcher. 12/2014
- Deutscher Bundestag (German Parliament)**
Parliamentary aide to Sven-Christian Kindler, Member of the German Parliament, 2012 – 2013.