

# Sophia Hunger

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## Current appointment

2020-current RESEARCH FELLOW, WZB Berlin Social Science Center

## Areas of specialization

Political Sociology, Computational Social Science, Political Behaviour, Political Protest, Quantitative Methods, Comparative Political Science, Party Competition

## Education

2017-2020 PH.D. in Social and Political Sciences, European University Institute  
Dissertation: *Is There a Populist Zeitgeist? Coming to Grips With an Elusive Phenomenon*  
Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Hanspeter Kriesi  
Committee: Prof. Dr. Ellen Immergut (EUI), Prof. Dr. Sarah de Lange (University of Amsterdam), Prof. Dr. Heike Klüver (Humboldt University)

2016-2017 M.RES. in Social and Political Sciences, European University Institute

2014-2016 M.SC. in Political Science, University of Copenhagen

2015 VISITING STUDENT, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

2011-2014 B.A. in Anthropology, Ludwig-Maximilian-University Munich

2010-2014 B.A. in Political Science (minor: Economics), Ludwig-Maximilian-University Munich

## Publications

### PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- 2022 Breznau, Nate, et al. *Observing many researchers using the same data and hypothesis reveals a hidden universe of uncertainty*. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 119(44).  
[doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2203150119](https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2203150119)
- Williams, Christopher J. and Sophia Hunger. *How challenger party issue entrepreneurship and mainstream party strategies drive public issue salience: evidence from radical-right parties and the issue of immigration*. European Political Science Review, online first.  
[doi.org/10.1017/S1755773922000297](https://doi.org/10.1017/S1755773922000297)
- Gessler, Theresa and Sophia Hunger. *How the refugee crisis and radical right parties shape party competition on immigration*. Political Science Research and Methods 10(3), 524-544.  
[doi.org/10.1017/psrm.2021.64](https://doi.org/10.1017/psrm.2021.64)
- Hunger, Sophia and Fred Paxton. *What's in a Buzzword? A Systematic Review of the State of Populism Research in Political Science*, Political Science Research and Methods 10(3), 617-633.  
[doi.org/10.1017/psrm.2021.44](https://doi.org/10.1017/psrm.2021.44)
- 2021 Borbáth, Endre, Sophia Hunger, Swen Hutter, and Ioana-Elena Oana. *Civic and Political Engagement during the Multifaceted COVID-19 Crisis*, Swiss Political Science Review 27: 311-324.  
[doi.org/10.1111/spsr.12446](https://doi.org/10.1111/spsr.12446)
- Hunger, Sophia and Swen Hutter. *Fridays for Future in der Corona-Krise*. Forschungsjournal Soziale Bewegungen 34(2): 218-234.  
[doi.org/10.1515/fjsb-2021-0019](https://doi.org/10.1515/fjsb-2021-0019)
- 2018 Hunger, Sophia. *No naturalization, no participation? The influence of citizenship regimes and naturalization on immigrants' political incorporation on national and individual level*, Zeitschrift für Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft 12: 279 – 296.  
[doi.org/10.1007/s12286-017-0373-6](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12286-017-0373-6)

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDITED VOLUMES

- 2021 Hunger, Sophia and Julia Schulte-Cloos. *Outcomes - Government Responsiveness*. In: Bojar, Abel, Swen Hutter, Hanspeter Kriesi, and Theresa Gessler (Eds.): Contentious episodes in the age of austerity. Studying the dynamics of government-challenger interactions, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Kriesi, Hanspeter and Sophia Hunger. *The characteristics of the episodes*. In: Bojar, Abel, Swen Hutter, Hanspeter Kriesi, and Theresa Gessler (Eds.): Contentious episodes in the age of austerity. Studying the dynamics of government-challenger interactions, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Bojar, Abel, Swen Hutter, and Sophia Hunger. *Selecting and coding contentious episodes*. In: Bojar, Abel, Swen Hutter, Hanspeter Kriesi, and Theresa Gessler (Eds.): Contentious episodes in the age of austerity. Studying the dynamics of government-challenger interactions, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Kriesi, Hanspeter, Swen Hutter, Abel Bojar, Argyrios Altiparmakis, Theresa Gessler, Sophia Hunger, Katia Pilati and Julia Schulte-Cloos. *Introduction: A new approach for studying political con-*

*tion – contentious episode analysis*. In: Bojar, Abel, Swen Hutter, Hanspeter Kriesi, and Theresa Gessler (Eds.): *Contentious episodes in the age of austerity. Studying the dynamics of government-challenger interactions*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

2020 Hunger, Sophia and Jasmine Lorenzini. *All quiet on the protest scene? – Action repertoires in Europe during the Great Recession*. In: Kriesi, Hanspeter, Jasmine Lorenzini, Silja Häusermann, Bruno Wueest (Eds.): *Contention in times of crises. Comparing political protest in 30 European countries, 2000-2015*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

#### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

2022 Grande, Edgar, Sophia Hunger, Swen Hutter, Eylem Kanol und Daniel Saldivia Gonzatti. *Der harte Kern der Proteste Viele der mit den Corona-Maßnahmen Unzufriedenen tolerieren Radikalität und Gewalt*. *WZB-Mitteilungen*, (176), pp. 21-24.

2021 Hunger, Sophia. *Carrera reñida, largas negociaciones por delante y verdes y liberales como partidos bisagra*. *El País online*.

Hunger, Sophia. *Close Race, Long Negotiations ahead and Greens and Liberals as ‘Kingmakers’*. [Agenda pública - Analistas de la actualidad](#)

Hunger, Sophia, Teresa Völker, and Daniel Saldivia Gonzatti. *Der Verlust der Vielfalt. Die Corona-Proteste in Deutschland werden durch eine radikale Minderheit geprägt*. *WZB-Mitteilungen*, (172), pp. 30-32.

Grande, Edgar, Swen Hutter, Ruud Koopmans, Sophia Hunger, Eylem Kanol, Daniel Saldivia Gonzatti, and Teresa Völker. *Politischer Protest und Radikalisierung*. *MOTRA-Monitor 2020*, pp. 130-147.

Grande, Edgar, Swen Hutter, Sophia Hunger, and Eylem Kanol. *Alles Covidioten? Politische Potenziale des Corona-Protests in Deutschland*. *WZB Discussion Paper. No. ZZ 2021-601*.

2020 Hunger, Sophia and Swen Hutter. *Online Strikes with the Usual Suspects. How Fridays for Future Has Coped with the Covid-19 Pandemic*. [LSE EUROPP Blog - European Politics and Policy](#).

Hunger, Sophia and Swen Hutter. *Protest in der Corona-Krise. Der Netzstreik fürs Klima*. [Coronavirus and Its Societal Impact - Highlights from WZB Research](#).

Hutter, Swen, Endre Borbàth, and Sophia Hunger. *The Political Consequences of Crisis. Lessons Learned from the Great Recession*. [Coronavirus and Its Societal Impact - Highlights from WZB Research](#).

2019 Hunger, Sophia. *Book review: Koen Vossen, The Power of Populism: Gert Wilders and the Party For Freedom in the Netherlands*. [e-Extreme, Newsletter of the ECPR Standing Group on Extremism & Democracy](#).

2018 Hunger, Sophia and Theresa Gessler. *Same same but different? Germany’s way to a new-old grand coalition*. [Blog Post for Party systems and governments observatory](#).

## WORK IN PROGRESS

- forthc. Dennison, James and *Sophia Hunger*. Cleavage politics in the 21st century.
- forthc. Gessler, Theresa and *Sophia Hunger*. The politicization of immigration and far-right party politics in Germany.
- R&R *Hunger, Sophia*, Swen Hutter, and Eylem Kanol. Ready to participate? The mobilisation potential of ‘Corona protests’ in Germany.
- under review *Hunger, Sophia*, Daniel Saldivia Gonzatti, Eylem Kanol, and Swen Hutter. Breeding Grounds for Radicalization: How Past Far-Right Mobilization Shapes Radicalization in the Covid-19 Pandemic, paper draft.
- under review *Hunger, Sophia*. Virtuous people and evil elites? Moralizing frames and normative distinctions in identifying populist discourse. paper draft, full draft.
- in preparation *Hunger, Sophia*, Daniel Saldivia Gonzatti, Eylem Kanol, and Swen Hutter. Better off alone than in bad company? The (de)-mobilizing effect of violence and radical right involvement on protest support and mobilization paper draft, full draft.
- in preparation *Hunger, Sophia* and Jasmine Lorenzini. Renewal of democratic life in times of crises: The great recession as a critical juncture? paper draft, full draft.
- in preparation *Hunger, Sophia*. A contagious zeitgeist? The diffusion of populism in the European Parliament. paper draft, full draft.

## MEDIA & PUBLIC OUTREACH

Contributions, interviews, and expert opinions for *Arte*, *ARD*, *Berliner Tagesspiegel*, *Deutschlandfunk*, *Enorm Magazin*, *El Pais*, *France 24*, *IPG Journal: Journal für Internationale Politik und Gesellschaft*, *L’Express*, *NDR - Norddeutscher Rundfunk*, *rbb - Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg*, *Sueddeutsche Zeitung*, *WDR - Westdeutscher Rundfunk*, *ZDF*.

- 2022 MEDIA TRAINING FOR SOCIAL SCIENTISTS, WZB Berlin.

## SOFTWARE & DATA SETS

- 2022 Gessler, Theresa; Hunger, Sophia *Party Press Releases - Austria, Germany, Switzerland*, [doi.org/10.7910/DVN/TXKO19](https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/TXKO19), Harvard Dataverse, V3.
- 2021 Hunger, Sophia, Teresa Völker, Swen Hutter, Johannes Müller, and Jan Dix. *PolDem Coding Tool, Version 1*.
- 2021 Kriesi, Hanspeter, Wüest, Bruno, Lorenzini, Jasmine, Makarov, Peter, Enggist, Matthias, Rothenhäusler, Klaus, Kurer, Thomas, Häusermann, Silja, Patrice Wangen, Altiparmakis, Argyrios, Borbáth, Endre, Bremer, Björn, Gessler, Theresa, Hunger, Sophia, Hutter, Swen, Schulte-Cloos, Julia, and Wang, Chendi. *PolDem-Protest Dataset 30 European Countries, Version 1*. [www.poldem.eui.eu](http://www.poldem.eui.eu)

## Teaching experience & training

- 2022 RESEARCH SEMINAR (MA SOCIOLOGY) Dynamics of Protest Politics (4 hrs, weekly, one semester, co-taught), Free University of Berlin

- 2021 INSTRUCTOR, METHODS WORKSHOP FOR MEMBERS OF THE JUNGE AKADEMIE: Text-as-data-approaches and automated text analysis (1,5 days, online)
- 2019 INSTRUCTOR, BACHELOR SEMINAR: The study of radical right-wing and populist parties in Western Europe, University of Düsseldorf (32 hours)  
TEACHING ASSISTANT, PH.D. SEMINAR: Introduction to quantitative text analysis, EUI
- 2018 CERTIFICATE: Teaching in higher education, EUI  
INSTRUCTOR, PH.D. SEMINAR: Text as data. An introduction into quantitative text analysis with R Quanteda, EUI (2 day workshop, with Theresa Gessler)
- 2014 TEACHING ASSISTANT, BACHELOR SEMINAR: Image Discourses, Ludwig-Maximilian-University Munich
- Supervision Second supervisor for Master's thesis at the University of Potsdam (2021) and at the Humboldt University of Berlin (2022)

## Conference & workshop presentations

- 2022 ECPR General Conference, Innsbruck  
EPSA Annual General Conference, Prague  
DGS Congress, Bielefeld  
WZB Conference Political Violence and Democratic Backsliding
- 2021 Workshop: The rise of grassroots radicalism and its political effects, WZB  
Workshop: Recent advances in the automated gathering and analysis of protest event data, online  
Workshop: Contentious Interactions: Frontiers in Protest Research, WZB  
ECPR General Conference, online  
DVPW Convention, online
- 2020 Conference for Women in Political Methodology, online  
Workshop: Parties in the electoral cycle, online
- 2019 Quantitative Text Analysis Workshop (QTA-DUB), Dublin  
EPSA Annual General Conference, Belfast  
SISP Convengo 2019, Lecce  
Workshop "Public opinion and how it matters", EUI
- 2018 MPSA Conference, Chicago  
EPSA Annual General Conference, Vienna  
ECPR General Conference, Hamburg  
Conference "The Political Consequences of the Great Recession", EUI
- 2017 LSE Graduate Conference "Populism: Left Right Centre", London  
EPSA Annual General Conference, Milan
- 2016 Author workshop for a special issue of the Zeitschrift für Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft, Leipzig
- 2014 ECPR Graduate Conference, Innsbruck

## Invited talks

- 2022 CONNECTED POLITICS LAB University College Dublin, (online)

- UNIVERSITY OF FRANKFURT, guest lecture on systematic reviews, online
- 2021 POLARIZATION AND VIOLENCE. Talk for the Leibniz-Kolleg at the University of Tübingen
- FRIDAY SEMINAR SERIES, Department of Political Science in the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy at Trinity College Dublin, (online)
- ROUNDTABLE: Still chaos or already awakening? Berlin's future as a major city, Berliner Stadtmuseum
- COLLOQUIUM: Sociological perspectives on the Corona crisis, organized by Jutta Allmendinger and Armin Nassehi (online)
- 2019 DEPARTMENTAL SEMINAR, Department of Social Sciences, University Düsseldorf
- 2018 NOTTE EUROPEA DEI RICERCATORI (European Researchers' Night) – Bright 2018, Florence

## Working experience in funded research projects

- 2020-current RESEARCH FELLOW: Political Protest and Radicalization in Germany (MOTRA)
- set-up of a nationwide, continuous protest monitoring for Germany
  - automatization of coding pipeline using machine learning
  - training and supervision of research assistants
- 2019 COUNTRY EXPERT, euandiz2019, Voting Advice Application for the European Parliament election, EUI
- 2016-2020 DOCTORAL RESEARCHER, ERC Research Program POLCON - Political Conflict in Europe in the Shadow of the Great Recession, EUI
- 2016 RESEARCH ASSISTANT, CONSENSUS project, Ludwig-Maximilian-University Munich
- 2014-2015 RESEARCH ASSISTANT, GovLis Project, University of Copenhagen

## Additional training

- 2022 WORKSHOP: Power Analysis with R and DeclareDesign, WZB Berlin.  
 WORKSHOP: Data Management for Social Scientists - From Files to Databases, WZB Berlin.  
 WORKSHOP: Meta-Analysis in the Social Sciences, WZB Berlin.
- 2021 FALL SEMINAR IN COMPUTATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE: A Practical Introduction to Machine Learning in Python, GESIS.
- 2019 WORKSHOP: Item Response Theory, EUI
- 2018 Zurich Summer School for Women in Political Methodology  
 WORKSHOP: Panel Data Analysis, EUI
- 2017 WORKSHOP: Weighting and Matching in Regression Analysis, EUI  
 ECPR Summer School on Political Parties, University of Nottingham  
 PH.D. TRAINING SCHOOL: Disentangling populism: Reception and effects of populist communication, The National School of Political Science and Public Administration, Bucharest  
 WORKSHOP: Matching Methods, EUI  
 WORKSHOP: Latex for Social Scientists, EUI  
 WORKSHOP: Machine Learning techniques for social science texts and datasets, EUI  
 WORKSHOP: Text Analysis Using R, London School of Economics and Political Science  
 WORKSHOP: Survey Experiments, EUI
- 2016 WORKSHOP: Causal Inference, EUI

- 2014 ECPR Winter School on Methods and Techniques: Quantitative Text Analysis, Bamberg  
 ERASMUS INTENSIVE PROGRAM: Women in Public Relations in Europe, Leeds Metropolitan University  
 SPRING SCHOOL: Sustainable consumption in everyday life?, Ludwig-Maximilian-University Munich

## Scholarships & competitive grants

- 2018 Fellowship & Travel grant, Zurich Summer School for Women in Political Methodology  
 2017 Travel grant, COST Action IS1308 Populist Political Communication in Europe (€700)  
 2016-2020 Doctoral Scholarship of the DAAD (approx. €65,000)  
 2016 ECPR Grant, ECPR Winter School in Methods and Techniques (€300)  
 2014 Luitpoldiana-Foundation, travel grant (€150)  
 2012-2016 Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation, Scholarship covering living expenses (approx. €35,000)  
 2013 DAAD travel grant (€250)

## Academic & other services

- 2022- Co-Organizer [“Summer School for Women in Political Methodology”](#)  
 2022 Section chair [“Conspiring Elites and Disgruntled Masses? Revisiting the Populist and Extremist Challenges to Democracy”](#) (endorsed by the Standing Group for Extremism and Democracy), ECPR General Conference  
 2021- Organizer of [CO:STA](#), the Colloquium for Statistical Analysis at the WZB  
 Academic council representative for research unit, WZB  
 Mentor for PhD students, WZB  
 2021 Workshop organizer for “Contentious Interactions: Frontiers in Protest Research”, 28/29th October, WZB  
 2017–2019 Organizer of the [Political Behaviour Colloquium](#) at the EUI  
 2016-2017 Researcher Representative, Department of Social and Political Science, EUI  
 Member of the Executive Committee, Library Committee  
 2015 Delegate at the Young Conference on Islam, Berlin, Germany  
 2014-2016 Representative of the scholarship holders of the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation in Scandinavia  
 2013-2016 Mentor in the project “Arbeiterkind.de”, a group empowering students with a working class background  
 2012-2014 Student Representative for Political Science at Ludwig-Maximilian-University

## Professional memberships & service

- 2022 MEMBER OF RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft [“Gegen Hass im Netz”](#) (*federal working committee against online hate*)  
 2022 JURY MEMBER, student essay competition: [How does Germany argue? Protest culture today and yesterday.](#)  
 2020 MEMBER OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE: Automated Extraction of Socio-political Events from News – AESPEN Conference  
 2018-current PARTICIPANT: OSSC19 Crowdsourced Replication Initiative

MEMBERSHIPS: European Political Science Association (EPSA), Midwestern Political Science Association (MPSA)

REVIEWER FOR: *European Journal for Political Research*, *Journal of International Migration and Integration*, *Government & Opposition*, *Representation*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Leviathan*, *SAGE Open*, *Environmental Politics*, *European Political Science Review*, *Journal of Elections*, *Public Opinion and Parties*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Political Science Research and Methods*

## **Additional skills**

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|-----------|--|
| Languages | German (native), English (fluent), Danish (intermediate), Italian (intermediate) |
| Software  | Stata, R, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X, Markdown, Python                      |