

# Dylan Paltra

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## Personal Profile

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My name is Dylan, and I am pursuing a PhD in Political Science at the University of Vienna, Department of Government. My research interests lie in the realm of political representation. I am interested in how politicians communicate representative claims in parliament and social media and how citizens receive these. Specifically, I am interested in the two dimensions of political representation **personalization** and **surrogate representation**. On the side of citizens, I am intrigued by the question of what styles of representation they value. To understand these questions, I study legislative speeches of politicians and everything political elites put out online, thereby always trying to use new methods from the field of computational social science.

## Education

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### University of Vienna

PhD in Political Science

Vienna, Austria

October 2023 -

- Working Title: Me or the party? *Investigating the tension between surrogate representation and personalization*
- Supervisor: Assoz. Prof. Christopher Wratil

### University of Zurich

MA in Political Science, Minor Methods-Data-Society (Grade: 5.8)

Zurich, Switzerland

August 2021 - July 2023

- Thesis: The mismatch between citizens perceived bias and actual bias in news coverage (Grade: 6.0)
- Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Karsten Donnay

### University of Mannheim

BA in Political Science, Minor Public Law (Grade: 1.6)

Mannheim, Germany

August 2017 - July 2021

- Thesis: Affective Polarization at German State Elections, 1990 - 2020 (Grade: 1.0)
- Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Schmitt-Beck

## Work Experience

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### ERC Project: "MULTIREP"

Research Assistant

University of Vienna, Austria

October 2023 -

- PI: Assoz. Prof. Christopher Wratil
- Survey Design (development of questionnaire & experiments)
- Quantitative Text Analysis of Open-Ended Survey Answers

### Project: "DigiVox"

Student Research Assistant

University of Zurich, Switzerland

March 2022 - July 2023

- PI: Prof. Dr. Karsten Donnay, Prof. Dr. Eszter Hargittai & Prof. Dr. Lucas Leemann
- Responsible for constructing First Wave of longitudinal Survey Design
- Implementation on Qualtrics
- Supervision of running survey
- Data Wrangling of survey data
- Data Analysis

### Project: "Influence of social media on political reporting"

Student Research Assistant

GESIS Cologne, Germany

June 2021 - December 2021

- PI: Dr. Corinna Oschatz & Prof. Dr. Sebastian Stier
- Building Webcrawler & Parser for different German media outlets
- Building a server-based data base
- Supervision of technical proceedings

### Project: "The Populist Challenge in Parliament"

Student Research Assistant

Humboldt University Berlin,

Germany

September 2021 - December 2021

- PI: Prof. Dr. Jochen Müller
- Responsible for webscraping the wikipedia pages different state parliaments
- Collecting data on every parliamentarian form 1990 - 2020
- Constructing a usable data set for further research

## Project: “The Populist Challenge in Parliament”

MZES Mannheim, Germany

Student Research Assistant

April 2020 - July 2021

- PI: Prof. Dr. Christian Stecker
- Responsible for webscraping the different state parliament databases
- Administration and Supervision of an own Database
- Data manipulation

## Project: “Experiences of Everyday Racism and Media-Mediated Racism in the (Political) Public Sphere”

MZES Mannheim, Germany

Student Research Assistant

November 2020 - February 2021

- PI: Prof. Dr. Marius Sältzer
- Helping in designing a Coding scheme for Tweets
- Helping in developing a semi supervised topic model by building up a dictionary
- Handcoding of Tweets

## Publications and Projects

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2024 - Oschatz, Corinna; Gil-Lopez, Theresa; **Paltra, Dylan**; Stier, Sebastian; Schultz, Tanjev: *Social media posts as source for political news coverage inside and outside election campaigns: Examining effects on deliberative news media quality.* **Journalism. Online First.** <https://doi.org/10.1177/14648849241231698>

Work in Progress:

2024 - **Paltra, Dylan**; Sältzer, Marius; Stecker, Christian: *Affective States - Cultural and Affective Polarization in a Multilevel-Multiparty System.* *Under Review.*

2024 - **Paltra, Dylan**; Cappellina, Bart; Wratil, Christopher; Fernezelyi, Simon ; Ó Hannracháin, Lóránt: *The Citizens' Concept of Representation: Evidence from an Open-Ended Questions Survey.*

## Conferences and Workshops

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07/2023 - Summer Institute in Computational Social Science. *Summer School, Munich, Germany.*

06/2023 - Measuring the mismatch between citizens' perceived and actual bias in news coverage. *EPSA Conference, Glasgow, Scotland.*

04/2023 - Talking about the Weather - Explaining Regional Salience of Climate Change across Time in the German States with Marius Sältzer. *Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Workshop, Remote.*

10/2021 - Candidates and Fringe Candidates on Social Media. *Digital Democracy Workshop, Zurich, Switzerland.*

05/2021 - Affective Polarization Around the World: Measurement, Causes and Consequences. *ECPR Workshop, Remote.*

## Skills

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**Programming** R (baseR, RSelenium, seededIdea, quanteda), Python (Pandas, NumPy, TensorFlow, Beautiful Soup), SQL, Linux.

**Miscellaneous** Shell (Bash), JavaScript,  $\LaTeX$ (Overleaf/R Markdown), Git, Qualtrics, Microsoft Office.

## Languages

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**German** Native

**English** Professional proficiency

**Spanish** Basic

**Swedish** Basic