

DR. ALEKSANDRA URMAN

✉urman@ifi.uzh.ch  Google Scholar Profile

EDUCATION

PhD (Dr. rer. soc.), *summa cum laude*

June 2018- May 2020

Institute of Communication and Media Studies
University of Bern

Dissertation: "Polarisation on Social Media in Different National Contexts"

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Silke Adam; Second Reviewer: Prof. Dr. Peter Van Aelst

MA in Political Science

2016-2017

Central European University

Specialization in Political Research Methodology and Social Analysis

Certificate of Postgraduate Studies in Comparative Political Analysis

MA Thesis: "Opposition in Putin's Russia: Resisting Propaganda"

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Oana Lup; Second Reviewer: Prof. Dr. Lea Sgier

BA in Asian Studies

2012-2016

Higher School of Economics

Exchange Program

Fall 2015

Kookmin University, South Korea

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Postdoctoral Researcher

Since September 2020

Social Computing Group, Department of Informatics
University of Zurich

Postdoctoral Researcher

July 2020 - June 2021

Institute of Communication and Media Studies
University of Bern

Research Assistant

June 2018 - June 2020

Institute of Communication and Media Studies
University of Bern

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

37. **Urman, A.**, Smirnov, I., Lasser, J. (Status: Minor revision) **The Right to Audit Algorithms: A Critical Reflection.** EPJ Data Science. <https://doi.org/10.1140/epjds/s13688-024-00454-5>
36. **Urman, A.**, Hannak, A., Makhortykh, M. (Accepted, Forthcoming) **User Attitudes to Content Moderation in Web Search.** Accepted at CSCW 2024. Preprint of the accepted version is available at <https://arxiv.org/abs/2310.03458>
35. Maier, M., Adam, S., Gil Lopez, T., Makhortykh, M., Bromme, L., Christner, C., de Leon, E., **Urman, A.** (Accepted, Forthcoming) **Populist radical-right attitudes, political involvement and selective information consumption: who tunes out and who prefers attitude-consonant information.** Mass Communication and Society.
34. Blassnig, S., Mitova, E., Strikovic, E., **Urman, A.**, Esser, F., Hannak, A., de Vreese, C. (2024) **A balancing act: How media professionals perceive the implementation of news recommender systems.** Digital Journalism. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21670811.2023.2293933>
33. Mitova, E., Blassnig, S., Strikovic, E., **Urman, A.**, Esser, F., de Vreese, C. (2023) **Exploring Users' Desire for Transparency and Control in News Recommender Systems: A Five-Nation Study.** Journalism. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14648849231222099>

32. Mitova, E., Blassnig, S., Strikovic, E., **Urman, A.**, Esser, F., de Vreese, C. (2023) **When worlds collide: Editorial, business, and tech logics in the adoption of news recommender systems.** Journalism Studies. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1461670X.2023.2260504>
31. Ulloa, R., Makhortykh, M., **Urman, A.**, Kulshrestha, J. (2023). **Novelty in news search: a longitudinal study of the 2020 US elections.** Social Science Computer Review. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08944393231195471>.
30. **Urman, A.**, Makhortykh, M. (2023) **You Are How (and Where) You Search? Comparative Analysis of Web Search behavior Using Web Tracking Data.** Journal of Computational Social Science. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42001-023-00208-9>.
29. Gil Lopez, T., de Leon, E., Christner, C., Makhortykh, M. **Urman, A.**, Adam, S., Maier, M. (2023) **Do (not!) track me: Relationship between Willingness to Participate and Sample Composition in Online Information Behavior Tracking Research.** Social Science Computer Review. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08944393231156634>
28. **Urman, A.**, Makhortykh, M. (2023) **How transparent are transparency reports? Comparative analysis of transparency reporting across online platforms.** Telecommunications Policy. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.telpol.2022.102477>
27. Makhortykh, M., **Urman, A.**, Ulloa, R. (2022). **Memory, counter-memory, and denialism: How search engines deal with Holodomor-related memory wars.** Memory Studies. <https://doi.org/10.1177/17506980221133732>
26. Mitova, E., Blassnig, S., Strikovic, E., **Urman, A.**, Hannak, A., de Vreese, C., Esser, F. (2022). **News Recommender Systems: A Programmatic Research Review.** Annals of the International Communication Association. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23808985.2022.2142149>
25. Adam, S., **Urman, A.**, Arlt, D., Gil Lopez, T., Makhortykh, M., Maier, M. (2022). **Media trust and the COVID-19 pandemic: An analysis of short-term trust changes, their ideological drivers and consequences in Switzerland.** Communication Research. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00936502221127484>
24. **Urman, A.**, Makhortykh, M., Ulloa, R., Kulshrestha, J. (2022). **Where the Earth is flat and 9/11 is an inside job: A comparative algorithm audit of conspiratorial information in web search results.** Telematics and Informatics. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tele.2022.101860>
23. **Urman, A.**, Katz, S. (2022). **Online publicity and outcomes of individual politically salient criminal cases in an authoritarian regime: evidence from Russia.** Political Research Exchange. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2474736X.2022.2095920>
22. **Urman, A.**, Makhortykh, M. (2022). **"Foreign Beauties Want to Meet You": the sexualization of women in Google's organic and sponsored text search results.** New Media and Society. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14614448221099536>
21. Ulloa, R., Richter, A., Makhortykh, M., **Urman, A.**, Kacperski, C. (2022). **Representativeness and Face-ism: Gender Bias in Image Search.** New Media and Society. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14614448221100699>
20. Sipka, A., Hannak, A., **Urman, A.** (2022). **Comparing the Language of QAnon-related content on Parler, Gab, and Twitter.** Web Science Conference, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3501247.3531550>
19. Ulloa, R., Makhortykh, M., **Urman, A.** (2022). **Scaling up Search Engine Audits: Practical Insights for Algorithm Auditing.** Journal of Information Science. <https://doi.org/10.1177/01655515221093029>
18. Boeker, M., **Urman, A.** (2022). **An Empirical Investigation of Personalization Factors on TikTok.** WWW '22: Proceedings of the ACM Web Conference 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3485447.3512102>
17. **Urman, A.**, Makhortykh, M., Ulloa, R. (2022). **Auditing the representation of migrants in image web search results.** Humanities and Social Sciences Communications. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-022-01144-1>
16. Makhortykh, M., **Urman, A.**, Münch, F., Heldt, A., Dreyer, S., Kettemann, M. (2022). **Not all who are bots are evil: A cross-platform analysis of automated agent governance.** New Media and Society. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14614448221079035>

15. de Leon, E., Makhortykh, M., Gil Lopez, T., **Urman A.**, Adam, S. (2022). **News, Threats, and Trust: How COVID-19 News Shaped Political Trust, and How Threat Perceptions Conditioned This Relationship.** The International Journal of Press/Politics. <https://doi.org/10.1177/19401612221087179>
14. Makhortykh, M., **Urman, A.**, Wijermars, M. (2022). **A story of (non)compliance, bias, and conspiracies: How Google and Yandex represented Smart Voting during the 2021 parliamentary elections in Russia.** Harvard Kennedy School Misinformation Review. <https://doi.org/10.37016/mr-2020-94>
13. **Urman, A.**, Katz S. (2022). **What they do in the shadows: examining the far-right networks on Telegram.** Information, Communication & Society. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369118X.2020.1803946>
12. **Urman, A.**, Ionescu, S., Garcia, D., Hannak, A. (2022). **The Politicization of Medical Preprints on Twitter during the Early Stages of COVID-19 Pandemic.** Journal of Quantitative Description: Digital Media. <https://doi.org/10.51685/jqd.2022.003>
11. Makhortykh, M., **Urman, A.**, Gil Lopez T., Ulloa R. (2021). **To track or not to track: Examining perceptions of online tracking for information behavior research.** Internet Research. <https://doi.org/10.1108/INTR-01-2021-0074>
10. **Urman, A.**, Ho, J.C., Katz, S. (2021). **Analyzing protest mobilization on Telegram: the case of 2019 Anti-Extradition Bill movement in Hong Kong.** PLOS One. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0256675>
9. Makhortykh, M., **Urman, A.**, Ulloa, R. (2021). **Hey, Google, is this what the Holocaust looked like? Auditing algorithmic curation of visual historical content on Web search engines.** First Monday. <https://dx.doi.org/10.5210/fm.v26i10.11562>
8. **Urman, A.**, Makhortykh, M., Ulloa, R. (2021). **The Matter of Chance: Auditing Web Search Results Related to the 2020 U. S. Presidential Primary Elections Across Six Search Engines.** Social Science Computer Review. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08944393211006863>
7. Christner C., **Urman, A.**, Adam S., Maier M. (2021). **Automated Tracking Approaches for Studying Online Media Use: A Critical Review and Recommendations.** Communication Methods and Measures. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08944393211006863>
6. Makhortykh, M., **Urman, A.**, Ulloa, R. (2021). **Detecting race and gender bias in visual representation of AI on web search engines.** In L. Boratto, S. Faralli, M. Marras, G. Stilo (Eds.), Advances in Bias and Fairness in Information Retrieval (pp. 36–50). Springer International Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-78818-6_5
5. **Urman, A.**, Makhortykh, M., Ulloa, R. (2021). **Auditing source diversity bias in video search results using virtual agents.** Third Workshop on Fairness, Accountability, Transparency, Ethics and Society on the Web (FATES). Companion proceedings of the 2021 Web Conference. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3442442.3452306>
4. **Urman, A.**, Makhortykh, M. (2021). **There can be only one truth: Ideological segregation and online news communities in Ukraine.** Global Media and Communication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/17427665211009930>
3. Makhortykh, M., **Urman, A.**, Ulloa, R. (2020). **How search engines disseminate information about the coronavirus and why they can do better.** Harvard Kennedy School Misinformation Review. <https://doi.org/10.37016/mr-2020-017>
2. **Urman, A.** (2020). **Context matters: political polarization on Twitter from a comparative perspective.** Media, Culture and Society. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0163443719876541>
1. **Urman, A.** (2019). **News Consumption of Russian Vkontakte Users: Polarization and News Avoidance.** International Journal Of Communication, 13, 25. <https://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/view/11161>

RESEARCH FUNDING

- Examining Politically-relevant Bias in Large Language Models (LLMs) in the Swiss context, 11086CHF** 2024
Lead PI. Co-PIs Prof. Dr. Fabrizio Gilardi (UZH), Dr. Daniel Vogler (UZH)
Digital Society Initiative
- COST Action What are Opinions? Integrating Theory and Methods for Automatically Analyzing Opinionated Communication (OPINION)** 2022-2026
Secondary Proposer, Management Committee Member (Switzerland)
European Union
- Research Grant, Algorithmic Content Selection in Switzerland - a study of Google and YouTube, 69364CHF** 2022
Co-Investigator
Federal Office of Communications, Switzerland
- Research Grant, An Overview of the Swiss Political Telegram User Communities and their Role in the Distribution of Toxic Speech, 46160CHF** June 2021-July 2022
PI
Federal Office of Communications, Switzerland
- Research Grant, Algorithmic curation of (political) information and related biases, 2800CHF** 2020
PI
Förderverein Kommunikations-und Medienwissenschaft der Universität Bern
- Research Grant, Leveraging Bluetooth Device Beacons to Study Human Mobility, 2600EUR** September 2019
Co-Investigator, Post-SICSS Project Grant
SICSS Bamberg supported by Alfred P. Sloan & Russell Sage Foundations

AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Fellowship, Reporting and AI, ca. 1000EUR** December 2022
Junior Fellow
Leuven Institute of Advanced Studies, KU Leuven, Belgium
- EuroCSS Datathon Challenge Winner** September 2019
EuroCSS 2019, ETH Zurich
- Full grant for participation in SICSS Bamberg** August 2019
Covered tuition and housing
Alfred P. Sloan & Russell Sage Foundations
- Top Student Paper Award, ICA** May 2019
Political Communication Division of International Communication Association, ICA Annual Conference
- CEU Master's Scholarship** 2016-2017
Covered tuition fees (12000 EUR), housing and a monthly stipend of 50000 HUF
- Jaguar-Landrover Scholarship for Extracurricular Activities, 1000 USD** Spring 2015
Higher School of Economics & Jaguar-Landrover, Moscow
- HSE Merit-based Scholarship, 100% of Tuition Fees, ca. 7000 USD per year** 2012-2016
Higher School of Economics, Moscow

TEACHING

PAST COURSES

Introduction to Computational Social Science with Applications in R. Instructor, course designer (together with Dr. Max Pellert), 2023 Fall Seminar in Computational Social Science, 1-week block course, GESIS, Mannheim.

Social Computing. Instructor, course co-designer. Undergraduate Course, University of Zurich, Spring 2023.

Social Media and Politics. Instructor, course co-designer (co-taught together with Michael Reiss). DSI Excellence Program Course, University of Zurich, Spring 2023.

Computational Text Analysis from Basic to Advanced Techniques. Instructor, course designer (together with Dr. Max Pellert). February 2023, 4-day workshop for Doctoral and Postdoctoral Researchers, GESIS, Germany.

Big Data and Machine Learning for Social Science Research. Instructor, course designer. Short course within the Doctoral program in Political Science for Western Switzerland (CUSO), University of Geneva (Geneva, October 2022). Course evaluations not collected by the organizers.

Introduction to Computational Social Science with Applications in R. Instructor, course designer (together with Dr. Max Pellert); 2021, 2022 Fall Seminars in Computational Social Science, 1-week block course, GESIS (Mannheim, 2022; Virtual due to COVID-19 in 2021). Average student satisfaction with the course: 4.31 out of 5 (2022), 4.09 out of 5 (2021); Average level of agreement with the statement "I learned a lot in this course": 4.57 out of 5 (2022); 4.32 (2021).

Blame it on the internet? How the world wide web changed the world in three decades. Instructor, course designer; Spring Semester 2021, Undergraduate course, University of Bern (taught virtually due to COVID-19 pandemic). No course evaluations available due to technical error in the online system for evaluations.

Political Communication and the Internet. Instructor, course designer; Fall Semester 2019, Undergraduate course, University of Bern. Average teaching evaluation score: 4.75 out of 5.

Machine Learning for Social Science Research. Instructor, course designer; Fall Semester 2019, Open to BA and MA students, University of Bern. Average teaching evaluation score: 4.69 out of 5.

Introduction to R for Communication Research. Instructor (with Dr. Ueli Reber, Dr. Tom Haeussler, Dr. Marlene Kammerer); Fall Semester 2019; 2020, Block course, University of Bern.

Social Media Analysis Using R. Instructor, course designer; Fall Semester 2018, Undergraduate course, University of Bern. Average teaching evaluation score: 4.2 out of 5.

CONFIRMED UPCOMING COURSES

Big Data: Data Collection, Scraping and APIs in R. Instructor, course designer; June 2024, 3rd Summer School in Social Research Methods (3SRM), MethodsNET, Radboud University, Netherlands

STUDENT SUPERVISION

MSc Thesis: "Multilingual evaluation of social biases in LLM-based chatbots" - Department of Informatics, University of Zurich (2024 - Current)

BSc Thesis: "Examining gender and ethnic biases in professional representation within text-to-image generative AI tools" - Department of Informatics, University of Zurich (2024 - Current)

BSc Thesis: "Examining Nationality-based Representation Inequalities in ChatGPT" - Department of Informatics, University of Zurich (2023 - Current)

MSc Thesis: "Evaluating Biases in Conversational AI Systems" - Department of Informatics, University of Zurich; Co-supervised with Dr. Zachary Roman (2023 - 2024)

MSc Thesis: "Beautiful Switzerland, unfriendly France? Country (mis)representations and stereotypes on TikTok" - Department of Informatics, University of Zurich (2023)

Master's Project: "Search concentration problem in the context of traveling: does Google limit exposure to places "off the beaten path"?" - Department of Informatics, University of Zurich (2023)

MSc Thesis: "Comparative Analysis of Supply and Demand in Chinese Labor Market using Digital Trace Data" - Department of Informatics, University of Zurich; Co-supervised with Azza Bouleimen (2023)

BSc Thesis: "Trust me, I'm a Doctor! - The impact of academic titles on tweet credibility" - Department of Informatics, University of Zurich; Co-supervised with Stefania Ionescu (2022 - 2023)

MSc Thesis: "Auditing Personalization in Google Search Knowledge Panel Elements" - Department of Informatics, University of Zurich (2022-2023)

MSc Thesis: "COVID-19-related Policies and Implications for Tourism Industry as Evidenced through Booking.com Reviews" - Department of Informatics, University of Zurich (2022)

BSc Thesis: "An Interactive Platform for Experimental Research on the Influence of Web Search Results" - Department of Informatics, University of Zurich (2022)

Master's Basic Module: "Biases and Fairness in the Use of Machine Learning for Personalized Nutrition" - Department of Informatics, University of Zurich (2021)

BSc Thesis: "Empirical Analysis of the Recommendation Algorithm of TikTok" - Department of Informatics, University of Zurich (2021). **Awarded University of Zurich Semester Prize Fall 2021 for Best Bachelor Thesis.**

BSc Thesis: "Measuring Differences in Rating Behaviours on Hotel Booking Websites by Demographics" - Department of Informatics, University of Zurich (2021)

BA Thesis: "Persuasion in Online Debates - A Study of the r/changemyview Subreddit" - Department of Social Sciences, University of Bern (2020)

FURTHER EDUCATION

Cybersecurity Professional Certificate Google via Coursera	<i>July 2023</i>
Foundations of Swiss German for German speakers, a semi-intensive course Migros Klubschule	<i>July 2022</i>
Network Science Project ETH Zurich, Switzerland	<i>Spring 2020</i>
Network Modeling ETH Zurich, Switzerland	<i>Fall 2019</i>
Summer Institute in Computational Social Science University of Bamberg, Germany	<i>August 2019</i>
Introduction to Agent-Based Modeling University of Amsterdam, Netherlands	<i>July 2019</i>
Text Mining with R University of Hohenheim, Germany	<i>June 2019</i>
Linguistic Temporal Trajectory Analysis GESIS, Cologne, Germany	<i>December 2018</i>
Global Business Journalism Program Tsinghua University, China	<i>Fall 2017</i>
Course on Research Ethics Panel on Research Ethics, Government of Canada (online)	<i>Spring 2017</i>
Teaching Knowledge Test Certification University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations	<i>May 2013</i>

RELEVANT SKILLS

Research methods: network analysis and modeling, natural language processing, content analysis, machine learning for social science, web scraping, algorithm auditing, data visualization, statistics (basics, regression analysis, multi-level modeling), survey design and administration, focus groups-based research, agent-based modeling, interview-based research, experimental social science research (web-based experiments, survey experiments, field experiments).

Programming: R, Python, SQL.

NON-ARCHIVAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Conferences: ICA 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022; EuroCSS 2019, 2020; AoIR 2020, 2022; IC2S2 2019, 2021, 2023; Sunbelt 2020; DACH21 2020; Digital Societies 2019; ASEES 2021; CES 2023. Full list of presentations is available upon request.

EXTERNAL INVITED TALKS

Methodological approaches to algorithm audits on TikTok February 2024, Guest Lecture, Graduate-level course on Algorithm Auditing, Wellesley College, US (Online)

Big Data and Automated Content Analysis. July 2023, Lecture, First ECPR Summer School on Political Communication, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

Transparency Reporting as Governance Mechanism for Large Online Platforms May 2023, Guest Lecture, Graduate-level course on Platform Governance, University of Zurich

A Glass Screen or a Foggy Mirror: Discussing Algorithmic Transparency in the Global South March 2023, Invited Panel Speaker, Mozilla Festival (MozFest), Online

Telegram in Times of Crisis: Examining Patterns of Use and Strategic Political Communication Across the Globe. February 2023, Guest Lecture for Computational Communication Science Scholars, LMU Munich, Germany (invited by Prof. Dr. Mario Haim's group)

Using Machine Learning for Studying Oral History and Cultural Memory. January 2023, Lecture at Winter School on Oral History and Cultural Memory, University of Insubria, Italy

Studying Russia in the New Reality: Is Computational Social Science a Way Forward? October 2022, Invited Panel Speaker, Aleksanteri Conference, University of Helsinki, Finland

Telegram-focused Research: Methodological Approaches and Challenges. June 3, 2022, Guest Lecture, Technical University of Graz, Austria

Algorithmic Curation of Search Engine Content and Social Biases. June 9, 2022, Guest Lecture, Cutting-edge Communication Research Speaker Series, ASCoR, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

Algorithm Audits in Online Environments: Current Findings, Approaches and Future Research Agenda. June 14, 2022, Guest Lecture, ZeMKI, University of Bremen, Germany

Gender Equitable Futures in Technology: Tackling Bias. November 2021, Invited Speaker at the Panel Discussion, organized by EqualsEU project and TechSec at IHEID, Geneva, Switzerland

The politicization of medical preprints online during the early stages of COVID-19 pandemic. July 2021, Lecture at the "Behavioral Digital Trace Data in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic" Summer School, organized by the Social ComQuant Project

Russian Protests of 2021 on TikTok and Telegram. February 2021, Invited Speaker at the Virtual Event "Navalny and the Kremlin: Politics and Protest in Russia" co-hosted by the Harriman Institute at Columbia University and the New York University Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia, the US

(Un)reliable and (un)interpretable narrators? How search engines represent COVID-19 via text and image search results. December 2020, Guest Lecture together with Dr. Mykola Makhortykh, University of Passau, Germany

Computational Methods for Social Science Research. November 2020, Guest Lecture, University of Fribourg, Switzerland

Auditing Algorithmic Content Curation Using Virtual Agents. November 2020, Guest Lecture together with Dr. Mykola Makhortykh and Dr. Roberto Ulloa, University of Koblenz-Landau, Germany

Online Political Communication on Social Media. April 2020, Guest Lecture, Undergraduate course on Political Processes, Bern University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE, MEMBERSHIPS AND ACADEMIC SELF-GOVERNANCE

Ad-hoc reviewer for the following journals: Information, Communication and Society; Social Media and Society; New Media and Society; Journal of Information Technology and Politics; HKS Misinformation Review; Journal of Communication; International Journal of Communication; Communication Monographs; Social Science Computer Review; SAGE Open; Comunicar; Social Network Analysis and Mining; Political Communication; Science Communication; Social Networks; Applied Network Science; Journal of Computational Social Science; Computational Communication Research; Journal of Quantitative Description: Digital Media; ACM Transactions on Recommender Systems; Media and Communication; Annals of the International Communication Association; American Sociological Review; EPJ Data Science; Journal of Peace Research; Scientific Reports; PNAS Nexus; Computers in Human Behavior; The International Journal of Press/Politics.

Program committee member, reviewer: International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2) 2021, 2023; the Web Conference (WWW) 2023, 2024; International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM) 2022, 2023, 2024; Conference on Fairness, Accountability and Transparency (FAccT) 2023, 2024.

Management committee member representing Switzerland for the COST Action "What are Opinions? Integrating Theory and Methods for Automatically Analyzing Opinionated Communication (OPINION)" (from July 2022 onwards).

Internationalization committee member, Communication and Technology Division, International Communication Association (since June 2022).

Mittelbau Board (a body representing early- and mid-career researchers) member at the Department of Social Sciences of the University of Bern in 2020-2021.

Co-organizer of the Digital Democracy Workshop at the University of Zurich (Fall 2022).

Co-organizer of a workshop series on the topic of challenges and opportunities of archiving social media data in the context of crisis events (Fall 2022).

Co-organizer of International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2) Datathon, 2021 (together with Prof. Dr. Karsten Donnay).

Member of International Communication Association; Association of Internet Researchers; Digital Society Initiative of the University of Zurich (Communication Community; Democracy Community); Association of Computing Machinery.

ENGAGEMENT OUTSIDE ACADEMIA

Scientific Consultant

Evaluation of information quality within LLM-based chatbots in the context of Swiss elections, AlgorithmWatch CH and AI Forensics. **Final Report**

2023

Franxini Innovation Hub Fellow

Reatch, Switzerland

2023

Invited Expert, Workshop on the Regulation of AI and Large Online Platforms in the EU

Part of Fellowship on Reporting and AI at KU Leuven
European Commission, Brussels, Belgium

December 2022

Invited Lecture "Russian Propaganda and the War in Ukraine"

Within High School Students' Project Week "Extremismus und Verschwörungstheorien"
Gymnasium Freudenberg, Zurich, Switzerland

October 2022

Invited Speaker, Workshop on Hate Speech and Disinformation in Switzerland

Part of Research Grant from the Federal Office of Communications
Federal Office of Communications (BAKOM), Biel, Switzerland

April 2022

MEDIA COVERAGE

QUOTES & INTERVIEWS

Quote: Financial Times, 12.03.2024. [Telegram: social media giant or the new 'dark web'?](#)

Quote: Tages-Anzeiger, 04.02.2024. [Schweizer verbreiten russische Propaganda.](#)

Quote: Wired, 29.11.2023. [Telegram's Bans on Extremist Channels Aren't Really Bans.](#)

Quote: Nature, 19.10.2023. [AI tidies up Wikipedia's references — and boosts reliability.](#)

Quote: Tages-Anzeiger, 17.10.2023. [Schweiz gerät im Wahlkampf ins Visier russischer Desinformation.](#)

Quote: New Scientist, 18.09.2023. [Google Bard AI won't answer questions about Putin asked in Russian.](#)

Quote: Fast Company, 17.05.2023. [Russians' search histories contradict official polling on pro-war sentiment.](#)

Quote: Nature, 13.02.2023. [AI chatbots are coming to search engines – can you trust the results?.](#)

Quote: Fast Company, 11.01.2023. [Big Tech transparency reports are a big mess.](#)

Interview: Data Skeptic Podcast, 21.11.2022. [Measuring web search behavior.](#)

Interview: SRF Einstein, 24.03.2022. [Corona in der Schweiz: Wird die Gesellschaft immer radikaler?.](#)

Interview: BBC Radio 4 (The Digital Human), 21.02.2022. [Banished.](#)

Quote: The Economist, 23.01.2021. [Messaging services are providing a more private internet.](#)

Quote: Wired UK, 14.01.2021. [Trump's mob is on Telegram and they're already getting organised.](#)

OTHER REFERENCES TO MY RESEARCH IN THE MEDIA

My article about political polarization on Twitter was referenced by [FiveThirtyEight](#). Research on Telegram-based activity in Hong Kong during the Anti-ELAB protests of 2019 was mentioned in [The Washington Post](#), and study on the prevalence of conspiratorial content in web search results was covered by [The New York Times](#), [Vice](#), [The Moscow Times](#), [Input](#), [Stern](#) and [Meduza](#). Research on far-right communities on Telegram has been cited by [Le Temps](#). Preprint on the political bias in LLM-based chatbots was covered by [Daily Mail](#), [De Telegraaf](#) and [De Morgen](#).

LANGUAGE SKILLS

English - fluent (C2; Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English), **German** - advanced (C1, Goethe-Zertifikat C1), **French** - intermediate (lower B2), **Russian** - native, **Ukrainian** - intermediate (B2), **Spanish** - pre-intermediate (B1, DELE B1), **Korean** - pre-intermediate (B1), **Italian** - elementary (A2).