

# Dr. Teresa Völker

WZB Berlin Social Science Center  
Reichpietschufer 50, 10785 Berlin

Phone: +49 30 25491 143

Email: [teresa.voelker@wzb.eu](mailto:teresa.voelker@wzb.eu)

[Website](#) / [Bluesky](#) / [LinkedIn](#) / [Google Scholar](#)

## Academic positions

- 2024-current POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW at WZB Berlin Social Science Center,  
[Center for Civil Society Research](#)
- 2022-current GUEST LECTURER at Freie Universität, Department of Political and Social Sciences
- 01-07/2026 VISITING SCHOLAR at Harvard University,  
[Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies](#), hosted by Prof. Daniel Ziblatt
- 04-06/2025 VISITING RESEARCH FELLOW at Sciences Po Paris,  
[Centre for European Studies and Comparative Politics \(CEE\)](#)
- 2020-2024 DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW at WZB Berlin Social Science Center, Research consortium  
'[Political Protest and Radicalization in Germany \(MOTRA\)](#)'
- 04-05/2022 VISITING RESEARCHER at the University of Oslo , [Center for Research on Extremism \(C-REX\)](#)
- 2019-2020 RESEARCH FELLOW at Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society, Berlin
- 2018-2019 RESEARCH ASSISTANT at Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society, Berlin
- 2016-2017 TEACHING ASSISTANT at Hertie School of Governance, Berlin
- 2016 RESEARCH ASSISTANT at Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf

## Education

- 2020-2024 PHD in Political Sociology, Freie Universität Berlin  
*summa cum laude, German Political Science Association Best Dissertation Award 2025*  
Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Swen Hutter, Prof. Dr. Caterina Froio  
Committee: Prof. Dr. Thorsten Faas, Prof. Dr. Barbara Pfetsch, Prof. Dr. Mirjam Dageförde
- 2016-2019 MASTER OF ARTS in Social Sciences, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
- 2018 VISITING STUDENT in European Studies, King's College London
- 2012-2016 BACHELOR OF ARTS in Political Science, Communication and Sociology, Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf
- 2014-2015 VISITING STUDENT in Political Science, Università degli Studi di Milano

## Awards & competitive grants

|           |                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2025-26   | Merit Fellowship 2025/26, Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, Harvard University, 41,500\$                                                                                         |
| 2025      | Shortlisted (Top 3) for Tenure-Track Professor position in Computational Social/Political Science, Center for Critical Computational Studies, Goethe University Frankfurt                     |
| 2025      | Award Best Dissertation 2025, German Political Science Association, (DVPW), 500€                                                                                                              |
| 2024-25   | GRANT <i>WZB wirkt</i> , "Wirksam gegen Rechtsaußen", research project on civil society organisations and far-right threats, 10,000€, (together with Hans Jonas Gunzelmann, Christin Jänicke) |
| 2025      | FINALIST Deutscher Studienpreis Körber Stiftung (German Dissertation Award) 2025                                                                                                              |
| 2025-2026 | PROFiL-PROGRAMME for women in research and teaching, Berlin University Alliance                                                                                                               |
| 2025      | NOMINEE by the Department of Political and Social Sciences, Freie Universität Berlin for the Ernst Reuter Preis (Dissertation Award)                                                          |
| 2024      | NOMINEE by the WZB Berlin Social Science Center for the Leibniz Dissertation Award 2024                                                                                                       |
| 2022      | <a href="#">Friends of the WZB Award</a> for excellent research of general societal relevance, 1,000€                                                                                         |
| 2018      | ERASMUS SCHOLARSHIP for research stay at King's College London, 2,500€                                                                                                                        |
| 2014-15   | ERASMUS SCHOLARSHIP for research stay at Università degli Studi di Milano, 1,400€                                                                                                             |

## Publications

### BOOK

- [1] Völker, Teresa, 'Discursive Mainstreaming: How the Far Right Reshapes Public Debates' (full manuscript, under contract, Oxford University Press)

### PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- [6] Völker, Teresa (2026). 'Lone Wolves or Collective Threats? The Effect of Right-Wing and Islamist Violence on Public Perception' *European Societies*. [doi.org/10.1162/EUSO.a.142](https://doi.org/10.1162/EUSO.a.142)
- [5] Völker, Teresa (2026). 'How the Media Cordon Sanitaire Crumbles: Lessons from Germany' *Political Research Exchange*. [doi.org/10.1080/2474736X.2026.2621808](https://doi.org/10.1080/2474736X.2026.2621808)
- [4] Saldivia Gonzatti, Daniel and Teresa Völker (2025). 'Far-Right Agenda Setting: How the Far Right influences the Political Mainstream'. *European Journal of Political Research*. [doi:10.1017/S1475676525100066](https://doi.org/10.1017/S1475676525100066)
- [3] Völker, Teresa and Daniel Saldivia Gonzatti (2024). 'Discourse Networks of the Far Right: How Far-Right Actors become Mainstream in Public Debates'. *Political Communication*. [doi.org/10.1080/10584609.2024.2308601](https://doi.org/10.1080/10584609.2024.2308601)
- [2] Völker, Teresa (2024), 'How terrorist attacks distort public debates: a comparative study of right-wing and Islamist extremism'. *Journal of European Public Policy*. [doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2023.2269194](https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2023.2269194)
- [1] Völker, Teresa (2019), 'Deliberative Democracy in the Age of Social Media', *Revista Publicum* 5(2). [doi.org/10.12957/publicum.2019.47202](https://doi.org/10.12957/publicum.2019.47202)

#### WORKING PAPERS

- [7] Völker, Teresa, 'Civil Society Strategies Against the Far Right' (with Swen Hutter, Christin Jänicke, Jonas Gunzelmann) (*under review*)
- [6] Völker, Teresa, 'When Democracy Defends Itself: Institutional Trust after a Thwarted Far-Right Coup Attempt in Germany' (with Lennart Schürmann) (*under review*)
- [5] Völker, Teresa, 'Political Violence and Partisan Reactions on Polarised Debates' (with Daniel Saldivia Gonzatti) (*full draft*)
- [4] Völker, Teresa, 'The Cordon Sanitaire as an Electoral Issue: Party Strategies in Election Campaigns' (with Sophia Hunger, Theresa Gessler) (*full draft*)
- [3] Völker, Teresa, 'Eroding Checks and Balances: Far-Right Parties and the Challenge to Liberal Democracy' (with Caterina Froio, Elena Cossu) (*full draft*)
- [2] Völker, Teresa, 'Radicalisation Process of Islamist and Right-wing Extremists' (with Eylem Kanol), (*full draft*)
- [1] Völker, Teresa, 'Studying parties and their communication in the traditional media'. In: Caroline Close and Thomas Legein (eds.), *Researching Party Politics: Data, Methods, and (Good) Practices*. (*full draft*)

#### CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDITED VOLUMES

- [5] Völker, Teresa (2025), 'Civil Society and Democracy' (with Jonas Gunzelmann, Swen Hutter). In: List, R.A., Anheier, H.K., Toepler, S. (eds) *International Encyclopedia of Civil Society*. [Springer](#)
- [4] Völker, Teresa (2025), 'Politischer Protest und Radikalisierung', (with Swen Hutter, Eylem Kanol, Daniel Saldivia Gonzatti, Lennart Schürmann,) [MOTRA-Monitor 2024](#).
- [3] Völker, Teresa (2023), 'Politischer Protest und Radikalisierung', (with Swen Hutter, Eylem Kanol, Daniel Saldivia Gonzatti, Lennart Schürmann, Ruud Koopmans) [MOTRA-Monitor 2022](#).
- [2] Völker, Teresa (2022), 'Politischer Protest und Radikalisierung', (with Edgar Grande, Swen Hutter, Ruud Koopmans, Sophia Hunger, Eylem Kanol, Daniel Saldivia Gonzatti), [MOTRA-Monitor 2021](#).
- [1] Völker, Teresa (2021), 'Politischer Protest und Radikalisierung', (with Edgar Grande, Swen Hutter, Ruud Koopmans, Sophia Hunger, Eylem Kanol, Daniel Saldivia Gonzatti), [MOTRA-Monitor 2020](#).

#### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- [8] Völker, Teresa (2025), 'Wirksam gegen Rechtsaußen: Eine systematische Analyse zivilgesellschaftlicher Strategien gegen die extreme Rechte' (with Christin Jänicke, Jonas Gunzelmann, Swen Hutter). [WZB Policy Brief](#)
- [7] Völker, Teresa (2025), 'Die Normalisierung der extremen Rechten und wie demokratische Parteien und Medien dazu beitragen'. [DVPW Blog](#)

- [6] Völker, Teresa (2025), 'Civil Society and Democracy' (with Jonas Gunzelmann, Swen Hutter). In: List, R.A., Anheier, H.K., Toepler, S. (eds) International Encyclopedia of Civil Society. [Springer](#)
- [5] Völker, Teresa (2025), 'Strategien, Krisen, Lernprozesse. Die Medien und der Aufstieg der äußersten Rechten.' (with Mika Bauer) [WZB Mitteilungen](#) (187).
- [4] Völker, Teresa (2024), 'Extrem normal. Die zunehmende Sichtbarkeit der äußersten Rechten' [WZB Mitteilungen](#) (183).
- [3] Völker, Teresa (2023), 'The Drivers of Far-Right Mainstreaming in Public Debates', [OxPol - The Oxford University Politics Blog](#), 13.12.2024.
- [2] Völker, Teresa (2022), 'Terror und Öffentlichkeit. Auf rechtsextreme und islamistische Anschläge wird unterschiedlich reagiert' [WZB Mitteilungen](#) (176).
- [1] Völker, Teresa (2021), 'Der Verlust der Vielfalt. Die Corona-Proteste in Deutschland werden durch eine radikale Minderheit geprägt'. [WZB Mitteilungen](#), (with Sophia Hunger, Daniel Saldivia Gonzatti) [WZB Mitteilungen](#) (172).

#### SOFTWARE AND DATASETS

- [3] Völker, Teresa (2023), '[Discourse Network Analysis of Public Debates](#)', (with Daniel Saldivia Gonzatti), *OSF*
- [2] Völker, Teresa (2023), '[Terrorism Debate Data \(TDD\)](#)', (*Harvard Dataverse*)
- [1] Völker, Teresa (2021), 'PolDem Coding Tool, Version 1' (with Sophia Hunger, Swen Hutter, Jan Dix, Johannes Müller), annotation tool for text analysis (*Gitlab*)

## Teaching

- 2025-2026 INSTRUCTOR, MASTER SEMINAR 'Democratic Backsliding and Resilience', Department of Political and Social Sciences Freie Universität Berlin, (2 hrs, weekly, one semester)
- 2024-2025 INSTRUCTOR, GUEST LECTURE, 'Media Debates and Terrorist Attacks', Lecture Series [European Journalism Fellowship](#), Freie Universität Berlin, (2 hrs, once per year)
- 2025 INSTRUCTOR, GUEST LECTURE, 'Rechtsextreme Inhalte in den (sozialen) Medien – Verbreitung und wirksame Gegenstrategien', Ringvorlesung „Wie umgehen mit dem Rechtsextremismus?“, Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder), (2 hours)
- 2025 INSTRUCTOR, GUEST LECTURE, 'Demokratie in Krisenzeiten', Lecture Series 'Demokratie stärken', Technische Universität Berlin, (2 hours)
- 2024 INSTRUCTOR, MASTER COLLOQUIUM Department of Political and Social Sciences Freie Universität Berlin, (2 hrs, weekly, one semester, co-taught)
- 2024 INSTRUCTOR, GUEST LECTURE 'Automated Text Analysis and Network Analysis Combined', Social Data Laboratory (Soda Lab), Social Data Science and Computational Social Science, Universität Bremen (2 hrs)
- 2024 INSTRUCTOR, GUEST LECTURE, BACHELOR 'Introduction to Political Communication' at Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), (2 hrs)

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| 2024      | INSTRUCTOR, GUEST SEMINAR in public schools as part of the WZB school project <a href="#">denk!mal: Freiheitsbilder junger Menschen</a> , (8 hrs)               |
| 2022-2023 | INSTRUCTOR, MASTER RESEARCH SEMINAR 'Dynamics of Protest Politics', Freie Universität Berlin, (4 hrs, weekly, one semester, co-taught )                         |
| 2023      | INSTRUCTOR, GUEST SEMINAR, BACHELOR SEMINAR 'Die Demokratie und ihre aktuellen Herausforderungen', LMU München, Politische Institutionen in Deutschland (4 hrs) |
| 2022      | CERTIFICATE OF TRAINING: Teaching in higher education qualification, WZB Berlin                                                                                 |
| 2016-2017 | TEACHING ASSISTANT, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin, Prof. Dr. Andrea Römmele                                                                               |
| 2015-2016 | TEACHING ASSISTANT, Heinrich-Heine-Universität, Düsseldorf, Prof. Eva Heidbreder, Prof Hartwig Hummel                                                           |

## Supervision

|            |                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| Since 2019 | SUPERVISION OF MA THESES, STUDENT RESEARCH ASSISTANTS, AND INTERNS (15 SUPERVISEES IN TOTAL), FU BERLIN, WZB, AND HIIG                                                 |
| 2024       | Member of the PhD Examination Committee of Lisa Zehnter, 'Wer ist das Volk? Analyzing and Understanding Populist Political Communication', Humboldt Universität Berlin |

## Invited talks

|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| 2025 | LECTURE 'Mainstreaming the Far Right', Amsterdam Centre for Inequality Studies (AMCIS), Seminar Series, University of Amsterdam<br><br>LECTURE 'Political Violence and Partisan Reactions in Polarised Debates', The State, Political Norms and Political Conflicts, Centre Marc Bloch, Berlin<br><br>LECTURE 'Mainstreaming the Far Right: How Far-Right Actors and Ideas Shape Public Debates', Center for Critical Democracy Studies, American University, Paris |
| 2024 | LECTURE 'Mainstreaming the Far Right: How Far-Right Actors and Ideas Shape Public Debates', Centre d'Etude de la Vie Politique Seminar Series <i>Parties, elections, representation</i> , Université libre de Bruxelles, Brussels                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 2022 | LECTURE 'The Road of the Far Right in Public Debates: from the Margins to the Mainstream?', UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN, DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT, <i>Digital Social Science Core Facility</i> (DIGSSCORE), Bergen                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

## Selected conference & workshop presentations

|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| 2026 | European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) General Conference, Kraków (paper presenter & panel chair); Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference, Chicago (paper presenter); University of Toronto, Workshop (paper presenter); Harvard University, Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, New Research on Europe Seminar, Cambridge (paper presenter); University of Tübingen, Institute for Research on Far-Right Extremism (IRex), |
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- Demokratische Allianzen in digitalen Öffentlichkeiten* (paper presenter), Zukunftszentrum für Deutsche Einheit und Europäische Transformation, workshop, Halle (presenter)
- 2025 European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) General Conference, Thessaloniki (paper presenter & panel organizer); Sciences Po Paris, Book Workshop (presenter & organizer); Weizenbaum Institute for the Networked Society, Workshop *Identification and Classification of Actors on Telegram* (presenter); WZB Conference *The Future of Democracy?* (paper presenter & panel chair); Center for Civil Society Research, Workshop (co-organizer)
- 2024 Council for European Studies (CES) Annual Conference, Lyon (paper presenter & panel chair); German Political Science Association (DVPW) Annual Conference, Göttingen (paper presenter); Hebrew University of Jerusalem/Freie Universität Berlin, Conference (paper presenter); Swansea University, Workshop (paper presenter); Bielefeld University, Conference (paper presenter), Universität Duisburg-Essen, Conference (paper presenter)
- 2023 European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) General Conference, Prague (paper presenter); European Political Science Association (EPSA) Annual Conference, Glasgow (paper presenter & panel discussant); Weizenbaum Institute for the Networked Society, Workshop *Theorizing Publics and the Far Right* (paper presenter); German Centre for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM), Conference (paper presenter)
- 2022 European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) General Conference, Innsbruck (paper presenter & panel chair); European Political Science Association (EPSA) Annual Conference, Prague (paper presenter); ECPR Standing Group on Extremism & Democracy, Summer School, Paris (paper presenter); University of Oslo, C-REX Seminar (paper presenter); Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Political Behavior Workshop (paper presenter)
- Before 2022 Aalborg University/Scuola Normale Superiore, Workshop *Methodological Challenges and Opportunities of Researching Radical Right Communication* (paper presenter); European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) General Conference (paper presenter); Deutsche Vereinigung für Politische Wissenschaft (DVPW) (paper presenter), WZB Berlin Social Science Center, Workshop (panel chair); University College Dublin, Conference *Future Visions for a Democratic Internet* (paper presenter)

## Knowledge Transfer, Policy Advice & Public Outreach

- Since 2023 Manager, WZB Civil Society Advisory Board, facilitating regular exchange between researchers and civil society actors
- 2024–2026 Co-PI, transfer research project *Effective Against the Far Right: Evidence-Based Strategies for Dealing with the Far Right*

### POLICY ADVICE & KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Regular contributions to policy and public debates through scientific policy advice, invited lectures, and expert roundtables, including European Parliament, Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS), Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Stiftung Mercator, and Landeszentrale für politische Bildung Baden-Württemberg, Berlin Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion, Leibniz Association (*Leibniz im Bundestag*)

## MEDIA & PUBLIC OUTREACH

Interviews and expert commentary for, among others: *The Guardian*, *BBC*, *CBC/Radio-Canada*, *Deutsche Welle*, *Der SPIEGEL*, *DIE ZEIT*, *ARD*, *ZDF*, *Deutschlandfunk*, *dpa Deutsche Presse-Agentur*, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*.

Examples SZ Podcast „Auf den Punkt“ Die AfD bestimmt den öffentlichen Diskurs – aber warum?; Deutschlandfunk Podcast Hörsaal: Normalisierung: Wie rechte Politik die Themen setzt; Tagesspiegel: Diskursive Normalisierung der AfD; ZDF Documentary Am Puls - Protest; Politischer Pausenpodcast: Extreme Rechte und Terror; Wiarda Podcast Wissenschaftsfeindlichkeit

## Additional training

2025–2026 PROFiL PROGRAMME, Berlin University Alliance, professionalization programme for women in research and teaching (mentoring, training, and networking), including leadership in academia, higher education management and policy, and third-party funding acquisition; WZB BERLIN SOCIAL SCIENCE CENTER, GitLab workshop

2024 WZB BERLIN SOCIAL SCIENCE CENTER, Project Management; SCICOMM-SUPPORT, Science Communication and Hate Speech

2023 WZB BERLIN SOCIAL SCIENCE CENTER, Media Training for Social Scientists

2022 EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM FOR POLITICAL RESEARCH (ECPR), Standing Group on Extremism & Democracy Summer School, Paris, concepts and methods for research on far-right politics

2021 GESIS, Computational Social Science: Social Network Analysis; FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN, Quantitative Survey Analysis; WZB BERLIN SOCIAL SCIENCE CENTER, R Markdown

2020 EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM FOR POLITICAL RESEARCH (ECPR), Methods School, Quantitative Text Analysis, CEU Budapest (online)

## Language & software skills

Languages German (native), English (fluent), French (advanced), Italian (basic)

Software R, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Gitlab, Markdown, MS-Office, Zotero, CMS

## Academic Service & professional activities

Since 2026 EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM FOR POLITICAL RESEARCH (ECPR), elected Steering Committee member, Standing Group on Extremism & Democracy (500+ members); WZB BERLIN SOCIAL SCIENCE CENTER, elected representative to the Board of Trustees

Since 2024 WZB CENTER FOR CIVIL SOCIETY RESEARCH, coordination of annual reporting and evaluations for Stiftung Mercator, Leibniz Association, and the Center's Advisory Board

2021–23 WZB BERLIN SOCIAL SCIENCE CENTER, elected Academic Council representative for the research unit

2020–21

WZB BERLIN SOCIAL SCIENCE CENTER, elected PhD representative; member of the Leibniz PhD Network

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| Reviewing   | <b>Journals:</b> <i>The Journal of Politics</i> , <i>European Journal of Political Research</i> , <i>Political Communication</i> , <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> , <i>Party Politics</i> , <i>Political Science Research and Methods</i> , <i>Electoral Studies</i> , <i>Political Studies Review</i> , <i>Politische Vierteljahresschrift</i> , <i>Mobilization</i> , <i>Social Movement Studies</i><br><b>Grants:</b> Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique (FNRS) |
| Mentoring   | UNIVERSITÄT LEIPZIG, t.e.a.m. programme for female doctoral researchers; DEZIM, Mentoring Programme                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Since 2018  | Editor, <i>Elephant in the Lab</i> , international science blog journal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Memberships | European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR); European Political Science Society (EPSS); European Political Science Association (EPSA); Council for European Studies (CES); German Political Science Association (DVPW)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |