

Giuliano Formisano

Department of Political Science, University of Zurich
giuliano.formisano@uzh.ch — <https://giulianoformisano.github.io/>

Last Update: July 21, 2025

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- **University of Zurich - Department of Political Science** Zurich, CH
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Digital Technology & Politics 2025 - Present
- **University of Oxford - Department of Politics & IR** Oxford, UK
Research Associate, AuthLib project 2022 - Present

EDUCATION

- **University of Oxford** Oxford, UK
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD); Social Data Science 2021 - 2025
Courses: Data Analytics, Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing, Networks, Statistics
Thesis: Exploring Online Polarisation in the US: A Computational Social Science Approach
Assessors: Prof Sara Hobolt (LSE), Prof Mohsen Mosleh (Oxford)
 - **Yale University** - Department of Politics New Haven, USA
Visiting Scholar; Advisor: Prof Joshua Kalla Spring 2024
Courses: Applied Machine Learning, Social Network Analysis, Game Theory
 - **Sciences Po, Paris** - Centre for European Studies and Comparative Politics Paris, FRA
Visiting Scholar; Advisors: Dr Joost de Moor & Dr Caterina Froio Spring 2023
- **University of Oxford** Oxford, UK
Master of Philosophy (MPhil); Political Science 2019 - 2021
- **University of Exeter** Exeter, UK
Bachelor of Arts (BA); Politics and International Relations 2016 - 2019

PEER-REVIEWED RESEARCH

2. Novelli, C., **Formisano, G.**, Juneja, P., Sandri, G., & Floridi, L. (2024) Artificial Intelligence for the Internal Democracy of Political Parties. *Minds and Machines*, 34(36), pp. 1-26.
1. Friedrichs, J.*, Stoehr, N.*, & **Formisano, G.*** (2022) Fear-Anger Contests: Governmental and Populist Politics of Emotion. *Online Social Networks and Media*, 32, pp. 1-13.

*Authors have equally contributed.

WORKING PAPERS

6. **Formisano, G.***, Hine, E.*, Juneja, P., Laitila, J., Novelli, C., . . . , & Floridi, L. (Working Paper) Measuring Misinformation on Wikipedia during the 2024 US Presidential Elections. *R&R*.
5. **Formisano, G.**, Friedrichs, F., Schaffner, F., & Stoehr, N. (Working Paper) *Anonymised title*: A Machine Learning Approach to Analysing Populist and Governmental Rhetoric during the Coronavirus Pandemic. *R&R*.
4. Clemente, A.*, & **Formisano, G.*** (Working Paper) Mind the Bricks: Fairness Beliefs and Local Housing Inequality in the UK. *Under Review*.
3. **Formisano, G.**, Froio, C., & Castelli Gattinara, P. (Working Paper) Automating Protest Event Analysis: A Transformer-Based Framework for Multilingual Classification of Newspaper Articles. *Under Review*.
2. **Formisano, G.**, Kosmidis, S., & Theocharis, Y. (Working Paper) Measuring Online Polarisation: Supervised Machine Learning Approach.

1. **Formisano, G.** (Working Paper) The Network Dynamics of Online Polarisation in the US.
Presented at 2025 EPSA Conference.

*Authors have equally contributed.

SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS

3. **Formisano, G.**, & Valentim, V. (Work in Progress) Public Responses to Violations of Different Political Norms.
2. Whitefield, S., Kosmidis, S., & **Formisano, G.** (Work in Progress) Programmatic and Emotional Appeals of Illiberal Parties. *Presented at 2025 EPSA Conference.*
1. Errichiello, E.*, & **Formisano, G.*** (Work in Progress) Digital Bellwethers and Security-Making on Social Media: A Computational Social Science Approach.

*Authors have equally contributed.

CONFERENCES

- European Political Science Association (EPSA): 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025
- American Political Science Association (APSA): 2023, 2024, 2025
- PolMeth Europe: 2025
- CompText: 2025

WORKSHOPS, PRE-CONFERENCES, AND TALKS

- 2025 (past and scheduled):
 - Social and Moral Norms Workshop, University of Oxford (Presenter and Discussant)
 - Representation in Divided Democracies Workshop, ETH Zurich (Discussant)
 - EPSA Pre-Conference in Large Language Models, Madrid (Presenter)
 - APSA Pre-Conference in Political Communication, Vancouver (Presenter)
 - Digital Democracy Workshop, University of Zurich (Presenter)
- 2024:
 - Harnessing LLMs in Political Science Workshop, Trinity College, Dublin (Presenter)
 - Work in Progress Seminar, Data Ethics Center, Yale University (Presenter)
 - AI and Algorithms in Government Conference, Yale University (Attendee)
- 2023:
 - Theory Research Cluster, London School of Economics (Presenter)
 - Research in Progress Seminar, Department of Politics, University of Oxford (Discussant)
 - APSA Pre-Conference in Political Economy, Los Angeles (Presenter)
- 2022:
 - DPhil Seminar, Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford (Presenter)
 - DPhil Work in Progress Workshop, Department of Politics, University of Oxford (Presenter)
 - PhD Work in Progress Seminar, European University Institute (Presenter)
 - 17th Annual Doctoral Conference/Workshop, Central European University (Presenter)

TEACHING

- **University of Zurich, Department of Political Science** Zurich, CH
 - Undergraduate and Graduate Level Courses:
 - Digital Disruption - Politics, Government, and Policy - Course Convenor *Spring 2025*
- **Yale University, Institution for Social and Policy Studies** New Haven, USA
 - Workshop on Fine-tuning, Evaluating and Employing Large Language Models *April 2024*

- **University of Oxford, Oxford Internet Institute** Oxford, UK
- Graduate Level Courses:
 - Digital Social Research Method: Statistics Core - Teaching Assistant *Fall 2022*
 - Digital Era Politics and Government - Teaching Assistant *Spring 2022*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- **AuthLib Project; CEU Democracy Institute & EU Horizon 2020** Oxford, UK
 Research Assistant; Advisors: Prof(s) Stephen Whitefield & Spyros Kosmidis *2022 - Present*
 Constructing a research design to collect a large textual dataset of public opinion, train a machine learning classifier for illiberal behaviour, and analyse data.
- **Sciences Po; Centre for European Studies and Comparative Politics** Remote, Paris, FRA
 Research Assistant; Advisor: Dr Caterina Froio *2022 - Present*
 Developing a machine learning classifier to classify protest events based on a large dataset of human-coded newspaper articles from European multilingual sources.
- **University of Oxford** Oxford, UK
 Research Assistant; Advisor: Prof Spyros Kosmidis *Spring 2022*
 Applied transfer learning to conduct a sentiment analysis based on roBERTa, and designed and implemented sequence classification based on a pre-labelled corpus of 2,000 political tweets.
 Research Assistant; Advisor: Dr Vicente Valentim *Spring 2022*
 Built large Twitter posts dataset, applied and validated sentiment analyses for multilingual text.
 Research Assistant; Advisor: Prof Joerg Friedrichs *Fall 2020*
 Programmed web-scraping tools to build large online electoral datasets. Coded data with pre-trained machine learning classifiers. Analysed data via time-series analyses.
- **University of Exeter** Exeter, UK
 Research Assistant; Advisor: Prof Clare Saunders *2018 - 2019*
 Produced literature review on affective polarisation. Coded and analysed interview transcripts about the 2015 UK Badger Culling policy, involving governmental actors, police, stakeholders and citizens.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **UK Labour Party** Remote, London, UK
 Research Associate *2024 - 2025*
 Collaborated with Labour's Data Science and Communication teams, using machine learning, natural language processing, and causal inference methods.
- **Piave Digital Agency** Remote, Bologna, IT
 Research Associate *2022 - 2023*
 Collected and analysed public opinion data on Stefano Bonaccini (Current President of Emilia Romagna regional council) during the Democratic Party's 2023 leadership elections.
- **DREAMANDO Ltd** Remote, Paris, FRA
 Co-Founder & Lead Developer *2020 - Present*
 Co-founded an educational start-up, leading a team of 20+ students and professionals. Designed and created website and online outputs based on a 6-month market analysis.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- Organised a Workshop on Fine-tuning, Evaluating, and Employing Large Language Models, Yale University (Institution for Social and Policy Studies). *Spring 2024*
- Referee for: *International Journal of Comparative Sociology; Minds & Machines; Journal of Information Technology & Politics.*

HONOURS AND AWARDS

- University of Zurich - Travel Grant (approx. CHF 3,000) *2025*
- Nuffield College - Research Grant (approx. £6,000) *Spring 2025*
- Nuffield College - Yale Exchange Programme (approx. £18,000) *Spring 2024*
- ESRC Overseas Institutional Visit Fund (£4,000) *Spring 2024*
- ESRC and Nuffield College Travel Grants (approx. £9,000) *2022-2025*
2022-2023-2024-2025 EPSA, 2023-2024 APSA
- ESRC Advanced Quantitative Scholarship (Tuition fees and stipend) *2021 - 2025*
- Nuffield College DPhil Scholarship (College fees) *2021 - 2025*
- Victor Wiseman Prize - Winner for the highest grade overall and for dissertation *2019*

LANGUAGES AND SKILLS

- **Languages:** Italian (native), English (Bilingual), French and Spanish (Professional Proficiency)
- **Coding:** Python, R, SQL, SPSS, PHP, HTML, CSS
- **Key libraries:** PyTorch, TensorFlow, scikit, Keras, NLTK, NetworkX, tidyverse, ggplot, dplyr, tidyr
- **Platforms:** Anaconda, VSCode, RStudio, Docker, AWS, Git/GitHub, Google Console & Workspace
- **Publishing:** Git/GitHub, Rmarkdown, Jupyter Notebooks, L^AT_EX, DataVerse

REFERENCES

- Prof Fabrizio Gilardi, Political Science Department, University of Zurich: gilardi@ipz.uzh.ch.
- Prof Spyros Kosmidis, Department of Politics, University of Oxford: spyros.kosmidis@politics.ox.ac.uk.
- Prof Ralph Schroeder, Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford: ralph.schroeder@oii.ox.ac.uk.