

# Giuliano Formisano

Nuffield College, University of Oxford, OX1 1NF, Oxford (UK)  
giuliano.formisano@nuffield.ox.ac.uk — <https://giulianoformisano.github.io/>

*Last Update: March 13, 2024*

## EDUCATION

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- **University of Oxford** Oxford, UK  
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD); Social Data Science *Sept 2021 - Present*  
**Courses:** Data Analytics, Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing, Networks, Statistics  
**Thesis:** Three Essays on Polarisation. Integrated thesis on Transfer Learning and Network science
  - **Yale University** - Department of Politics New Haven, USA  
Visiting Scholar; Advisor: Prof Joshua Kalla *January 2024 - April 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 *March 2023 - April 2023*
- **University of Oxford** Oxford, UK  
Master of Philosophy (MPhil); Political Science *Oct 2019 - June 2021*  
**Courses:** Comparative Government, Political Economy, Machine Learning, Advanced Statistics  
**Thesis:** How does spread polarisation on Twitter? A computational analysis of Matteo Salvini's rhetoric (2013-2019)
- **University of Exeter** Exeter, UK  
Bachelor of Arts (BA); Politics and International Relations *Sept 2016 - June 2019*  
**Courses:** Comparative Politics, Political Psychology, Classical Political Ideas, Research Design  
**Thesis:** The rise of nationalist parties in Italy and France after Maastricht: A comparative analysis of the Lega Nord and Front National communication

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATION(S)

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- 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.

## ONGOING RESEARCH

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- **Giuliano, F.**, Friedrichs, F., Schaffner, F., & Stoehr, N. (Under Review) A Machine Learning Approach to Analysing Populist and Governmental Rhetoric during the Coronavirus Pandemic.
- Clemente, A.\* & **Formisano, G.\*** (Working Paper) Mind the Bricks: Fairness Beliefs and local housing inequality in the UK. *Presented at 2023 APSA and EPSA Conferences.*
- Valentim, V.\* & **Formisano, G.\*** (Work in Progress) Calling out unacceptable rhetoric on social media.
- Whitefield, S., Kosmidis, S., & **Formisano, G.** (Work in Progress) Programmatic and Emotional Appeals of Illiberal Parties.
- **Formisano, G.**, Froio, C., & Castelli-Gattinara, P. (Work in Progress) Protest Event Analysis: A Supervised NLP Approach.
- Novelli, C., **Formisano, G.**, Juneja, P., Sandri, G., Floridi, L. (Work in Progress) Artificial Intelligence for the Internal Democracy of Political Parties.
- Errichiello, E.\* & **Formisano, G.\*** (Work in Progress) Securitizing Muslim migrants in Western Europe: A computational analysis of elite and non-elite actors' communication on Twitter in European terror attacks.
- Saunders, C., **Formisano, G.**, Lavender, L., & Palmer, A. (Working Paper) Affective Polarisation: Imagined or Real? A Discourse Analysis of the Debate About Bovine TB and Badger Culling.

\*Authors have equally contributed.

## PRESENTATIONS, CONFERENCES, AND TALKS

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2024. Harnessing Large Language Models in Political Science Research Workshop, Trinity College Dublin (Presenter)

2023. American Political Science Association Conference (Presenter), European Political Science Association Conference (Presenter), Theory Research Cluster, London School of Economics (Presenter), Research in Progress seminar series, Department of Politics, University of Oxford (Discussant)

2022. European Political Science Association Conference (Discussant and Presenter), DPhil Work in Progress Workshop, Department of Politics, University of Oxford (Presenter), DPhil Seminar, Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford (Presenter), PhD Work in Progress Seminar, European University Institute (Presenter), 17th Annual Doctoral Conference, Central European University (Presenter)

2020-2021. Oxford University Italian Society Talks, Interview Series: Enrico Letta (ex-Italian PM), Marco Cappato (ex-MEP), Beatrice Vio (Paralympic Champion), Giuseppe Civati (ex-MP), Andrew Howe (Athlete), Marco Montemagno (Entrepreneur)

## TEACHING

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

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- **AuthLib Project; CEU Democracy Institute & EU Horizon 2020** Oxford, UK
  - Research Assistant; Advisors: Prof(s) Stephen Whitefield & Spyros Kosmidis *Dec 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 *June 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 Assitant; Advisor: Prof Spyros Kosmidis *April 2022 - June 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 *April 2022 - June 2022*  
Built large Twitter posts dataset, applied and validated sentiment analyses for multilingual text.  
Research Assistant; Advisor: Prof Joerg Friedrichs *Sept 2020 - Dec 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 Assitant; Advisor: Prof Clare Saunders *May 2018 - Aug 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

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- **Piave Digital Agency** Remote, Bologna, IT  
*Dec 2022 - Feb 2023*  
Research Associate  
Collected and analysed public opinion data on Stefano Bonaccini (Current President of Emilia Romagna regional council) during the Democratic Party's leadership elections.
- **DREAMANDO Ltd** Remote, Paris, FRA  
*Oct 2020 - Present*  
Co-Founder & Lead Developer  
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.

## HONOURS AND AWARDS

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- Nuffield College - Yale Exchange Programme (Tuition fees) *January 2024 - April 2024*
- ESRC Overseas Institutional Visit Fund (Yale University) *January 2024 - April 2024*
- ESRC and Nuffield College Travel Grants (2022-2023 EPSA, 2023 APSA) *2022; 2023*
- ESRC Advanced Quantitative Scholarship (Tuition fees and stipend) *Oct 2021 - Oct 2024*
- Nuffield College Research Scholarship (College Fees) *Oct 2021 - Oct 2024*
- Victor Wiseman Prize - Winner for the highest grade overall and for dissertation *June 2019*

## LANGUAGES AND SKILLS

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- **Languages:** Italian (native), English (Bilingual), French and Spanish (Professional Proficiency)
- **Coding:** Python, R, SPSS, PHP, HTML, CSS
- **Key libraries:** Pytorch, Tensorflow, Scikit, Keras, NLTK, NetworkX, Pandas, Numpy
- **Platforms:** Anaconda, VSCode, RStudio, AWS, Git/GitHub, Google Workspace
- **Publishing:** Git/GitHub, Rmarkdown, Jupyter Notebooks, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, DataVerse

## REFERENCES

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- Prof Spyros Kosmidis, Politics Department, University of Oxford: [spyros.kosmidis@politics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:spyros.kosmidis@politics.ox.ac.uk).
- Prof Ralph Schroeder, Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford: [ralph.schroeder@oii.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ralph.schroeder@oii.ox.ac.uk).
- Prof Joerg Friedrichs, International Development, University of Oxford: [joerg.friedrichs@qeh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:joerg.friedrichs@qeh.ox.ac.uk).