

Mike Farjam

Computational Social Scientist · Senior Research Associate, University of Hamburg

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Academic positions

2024-present	Senior Research Associate , University of Hamburg, Chair of Communication Studies, Climate and Science Communication. Research, teaching, and coordination of the Volkswagen Foundation program on media and polarization.
2021-2023	Senior Researcher , Lund University. Researcher and coordinator in Horizon 2020 PROTECT; computational analysis of migration discourse and digital communication.
2018-2020	Senior Lecturer , Linnaeus University. Research, teaching, supervision, and coordination of the international Master's program in Applied Social Analysis.
2016-2018	Postdoctoral Researcher , Linnaeus University. Quantitative, experimental, and computational social science.

Education

2013-2016	Dr. rer. pol. in Economics, summa cum laude , Friedrich Schiller University Jena / International Max Planck Research School. Dissertation: <i>Games against the machine: Interacting with artificial economic agents</i> .
2008-2013	M.Sc. and B.Sc. Artificial Intelligence , Radboud University Nijmegen. Training including machine learning, cognitive science, and agent-based modeling.
2007-2011	B.Sc. Psychology , Radboud University Nijmegen.

Fellowships & visiting positions

04-06/2026	Fellow , Centre for Advanced Internet Studies (CAIS), Bochum.
2024 & 2025	Visiting Professor , University of Milan; PhD course on Bayesian statistics.
2023	Fellow , The New Institute, Hamburg; <i>Depolarizing Public Debates</i> .
2015	Visiting Researcher , Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Selected competitive funding

2025-2028	Volkswagen Foundation, <i>Media and Polarization in Europe: How Journalism can Support Democratic Debates</i> . Co-applicant and project coordinator; own share €270,000; total project volume about €1 million.
2024-2025	Volkswagen Foundation, <i>Political Polarization and Journalistic Practices: Adding Fuel to the Fire?</i> Co-applicant and project coordinator; own share €100,000; total project volume €200,000.
2018-2020	Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, <i>Modeling institutional dynamics in commons</i> . Co-applicant; own share €80,000; total project volume €430,000.

Research profile

Integrative computational social science; digital political and societal communication; natural language processing and large language models; polarization and societal conflict; experiments and causal inference; comparative research; integration of digital traces with survey and behavioral evidence.

Selected publications

- 2026 Farjam, M., Meyer, H., Dutceac Segesten, A., & Brüggemann, M. **The polarized talk least about polarization: Polarization discourses in tabloids and broadsheets from UK, Germany and Sweden.** *Journalism*, online first.
- 2026 Farjam, M., & Meyer, H. **From Antagonistic Talk to Cooperative Acts: The Effect of Polarization Cues on Newspaper Audiences.** *Political Behavior*, online first.
- 2026 Lohkamp, M., Farjam, M., & Brüggemann, M. **Assessing Threat and Efficacy: Ideological Influences in Climate Change Reporting in US and German Newspapers (2006-2023).** *Environmental Communication*, 20(6), 1060-1074.
- 2025/26 Farjam, M., Meyer, H., & Lohkamp, M. **A Practical Guide and Case Study on How to Instruct LLMs for Automated Coding During Content Analysis.** *Social Science Computer Review*, 44(3), 488-502.
- 2024 Farjam, M., & Dutceac Segesten, A. **The re-mediation of legacy and new media on Twitter: A six-language comparison of the European social media discourse on migration.** *Social Science Computer Review*, 42(5), 1136-1159.
- 2024 Bravo, G., & Farjam, M. **Do you really believe that? The effect of economic incentives on the acceptance of real-world data in a polarized context.** *Royal Society Open Science*, 11, 240252.

Teaching & supervision

- 2,300+ hours University teaching at Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD levels in Germany, Sweden, and Italy. Courses include Experimental Political Science, Bayesian Statistics, Quantitative Data Analysis in R, Quantitative Methods I & II, Experimental Methods, and Programming in NetLogo.
- Supervision 12 Master's theses supervised; current co-supervision of one PhD student. Formal pedagogical qualifications: 15 ECTS Higher Education Teacher Training and 15 ECTS Supervision of Postgraduates.

Academic leadership & service

- 2021-present Academic Editor, *PLOS ONE* (Social Sciences), handling peer review and editorial decisions.
- 2017-2020 Coordinator of the international Master's program in Applied Social Analysis; member of the doctoral supervision college and program board at Linnaeus University.

Methods

Computational text analysis · NLP · large language models · machine learning · digital trace data · experiments · surveys · causal inference · Bayesian statistics · agent-based modeling · comparative research · reproducible computational workflows.