

# TIMO SPRANG

I am a research associate at the chair of Political Science with a Focus on Education Policy/Political Socialization Research at Goethe University. I am interested in parliamentary opposition, coalition dynamics and the links between economic and political inequality.



## CURRENT POSITION

Present  
|  
Apr. 2024

### Research Associate

University of Frankfurt

📍 Frankfurt, DE

- Head: Prof. Julian Garritzmann
- Teaching classes on political system design, political inequality, and research methods
- Research on parliamentary opposition, coalition dynamics and radicalism



## EDUCATION

Mar. 2024  
|  
Oct. 2021

### M.A., Empirical Democracy Research

University of Mainz

📍 Mainz, DE

- GPA: 1.0 (with honors)
- Thesis: Pick Your Poison — Policy Payoff Proportionality in European Government Coalitions
- In the German academic system, 1.0 is the best possible grade on a scale running to 5.0.

Sep. 2021  
|  
Oct. 2018

### B.A., Communication Science

University of Mainz

📍 Mainz, DE

- GPA: 1.6
- Thesis: Entering the European Parliament with a Smile — A Content Analysis of the Facebook Campaign for the European Elections of Die PARTEI

Sep. 2021  
|  
Oct. 2016

### B.A., Political Science

University of Mainz

📍 Mainz, DE

- GPA: 1.8
- Thesis: Oasis in the Authoritarian Desert — The Unlikely Case of the Mongolian Democracy



## CONTACT

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📍 60323 Frankfurt am Main

🖱 [timo-sprang.net](http://timo-sprang.net)

🐦 [timo\\_sprang](https://twitter.com/timo_sprang)

🔊 [tisprang](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtisp18v3838383838383838)

## SKILLS

Highly skilled in R and experienced in other statistical software like Stata (advanced), SPSS and Python. Full experience with MS Office and Quarto as well as some experience with LaTeX and HTML. Accustomed to the use of literature management software like Zotero and Citavi. Skilled in graphical editing with GIMP, Scribus, and Avid.

## LANGUAGES

I am a native German speaker. I am also fluent in English and have advanced knowledge of French.



## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Mar. 2024  
|  
Sep. 2022

### Research Assistant

Chair of Comparative Politics

📍 University of Mainz

- Head: Prof. Armin Schäfer
- Assistance in quantitative research on political equality, (descriptive) representation, and responsiveness
- Literature research and database management

Mar. 2024  
|  
Oct. 2021

### Research Assistant

Chair of German Politics and Political Sociology

📍 University of Mainz

- Head: Prof. Kai Arzheimer
- Assistance in quantitative and qualitative research on the (German) populist radical right, electoral integrity, and digital politics
- Technical and content-related teaching assistance

Oct. 2023  
|  
May 2023

### Research Assistant

GerCaMP Project

📍 University of Mainz

- Coordinator: Dr. Lea Elsässer
- Quantitative content analysis of German MP's biographical backgrounds before entering parliament
- Exploration and implementation of automated content analysis methods



## PUBLICATIONS

2025

### Radical Weakness — Do Radical Parties Receive Fewer Ministries?

Comparative Political Studies

- Accepted for Publication

2024

### Oppression of Catholics in Prussia Does Not Explain Spatial Differences in Support for the Radical Right in Germany. A Critique of Haffert (2022)

Electoral Studies

- With Kai Arzheimer and Theresa Bernemann

2024

### Unterstützung für demokratische Werte, Prozesse und Institutionen in der Polizei und Bevölkerung

Innere Sicherheit und Demokratische Resilienz. Bedingungen und Wechselwirkungen polizeilichen Handelns in der pluralen Gesellschaft [INSIDER]. Abschlussbericht der Polizeistudie für das Land Rheinland-Pfalz. Conny Antoni, Kai Arzheimer & Martin Endreß (Ed.)

- With Kai Arzheimer, René Selbach, Lucas Schwarz and Julian Degler

SUMMARY. My research has been published in peer reviewed journals and has been used for policy counselling.



## ONGOING RESEARCH

Present  
|  
Jan. 2025

- **The Concept, Clusters, and Consequences of Parliamentary Opposition**  
Dissertation Project
  - First Supervisor: Julian Garritzmann
  - Second Supervisor: Thomas Zittel

**SUMMARY.** In my cumulative dissertation, I analyse the institutional structure of parliamentary opposition. Using state of the art AI, I aim to increase transparency by explicitly identifying legal underpinnings.



## TEACHING EXPERIENCE


Summer  
2025

- **The Politics of Economic Inequality**  
BA Level Seminar  University of Frankfurt

Summer  
2025

- **Democracy, Parliamentarism and Alternatives**  
BA Level/Teacher Training Seminar  University of Frankfurt

Summer  
2025

- **Causes, Symptoms and Consequences of Political Inequality**  
BA Level/Teacher Training Seminar  University of Frankfurt

Summer  
2025

- **A Jump-Start to Data Analysis with R**  
MA Level Two Day Workshop  University of Frankfurt

Winter  
2024/25

- **Causes, Symptoms and Consequences of Political Inequality**  
BA Level/Teacher Training Seminar  University of Frankfurt

Winter  
2024/25

- **Democracy, Parliamentarism and Alternatives**  
BA Level/Teacher Training Seminar  University of Frankfurt

Winter  
2024/25

- **Methods Primer for Comparative Democracy**  
MA Level Two Day Workshop  University of Frankfurt

Summer  
2024

- **Causes, Symptoms and Consequences of Political Inequality**  
BA Level/Teacher Training Seminar  University of Frankfurt


Summer  
2024

- **Democracy, Parliamentarism and Alternatives**  
BA Level/Teacher Training Seminar  University of Frankfurt




## WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

Jan. 2025

- **Using AI for Text Analysis - Introduction and Advanced Applications**  
Instats  Online
  - By Seraphine Maerz

Jan. 2025

- **Introduction to Data Science with Python**  
GRADE  University of Frankfurt
  - By Jan Bischoff

**TEACHING PORTFOLIO.** System Design, Political Economy, Political Inequality, Economic Inequality, Statistics in R, Quantitative Methods, Data Analysis, Methods of Political Education, Representation, Responsiveness, Survey Design, Data Visualisation, Political Participation, Democratic Innovations

**SUMMARY.** I regularly attend workshops to expand my knowledge about scientific methods and regarding my position as an early career researcher.

|           |  |   |
|-----------|--|---|
| May 2024  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Causal Inference</b></li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>📍 University of Frankfurt</li> </ul> |
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>InFER</li> <li>• By Vicente Valentim</li> </ul>                             |   |
| Dec. 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Causal Graphs</b></li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>📍 University of Frankfurt</li> </ul> |
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>InFER</li> <li>• By Julian Schüssler</li> </ul>                             |   |
| Nov. 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Writing and Publishing Journal Articles</b></li> </ul>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>📍 University of Frankfurt</li> </ul> |
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GRADE</li> <li>• By Noa Milman</li> </ul>                                   |   |
| May 2023  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Reproducible Reports with Quarto</b></li> </ul>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>📍 University of Mainz</li> </ul>     |
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Institute of Political Science</li> <li>• By Julia Schulte-Cloos</li> </ul> |   |



## SERVICES TO THE PROFESSION

|                       |  |   |
|-----------------------|--|---|
|                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Reviewer</b></li> </ul>  |   |
|                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>British Journal of Political Science, Comparative Political Studies</li> </ul>  |   |
| Present   Apr. 2025   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Faculty Council Representative</b></li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>📍 Frankfurt, DE</li> </ul> |
|                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>University of Frankfurt</li> <li>• Early Career Researcher Representative</li> </ul>                                  |   |
| Present   Apr. 2025   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Selection Committee Member</b></li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>📍 Frankfurt, DE</li> </ul> |
|                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>University of Frankfurt</li> <li>• For the MA Programs “Comparative Democracy” and “Political Science”</li> </ul>     |   |
| Dec. 2024   Oct. 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Hiring Committee Member</b></li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>📍 Frankfurt, DE</li> </ul> |
|                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>University of Frankfurt</li> <li>• Professorship for Democracy Research in the European Multi-Level System</li> </ul> |   |



## GRANTS

|           |  |  |
|-----------|--|--|
| Jan. 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Workshop Funding</b></li> </ul>  |  |
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GRADE Frankfurt</li> <li>• Fully funded participation fee (342€) for workshop “Using AI for Text Analysis”</li> </ul> |  |

**SUMMARY.** Besides engaging in peer review, I participate in different positions in academic self-administration.



## OTHER EXPERIENCE

Dec. 2024  
|  
May  
2019

### Tour Guide

Landtag Rheinland-Pfalz

📍 Mainz, DE

- Educational programmes on the state parliament and German political system in German and English

Jan. 2020  
|  
Nov. 2019

### Television Journalist, Intern

SAT.1 Rheinland-Pfalz/Hessen

📍 Mainz/Frankfurt, DE

- Research on regional politics and support of the according video shoots
- Video editing and technical assistance

**SUMMARY.** I also have experience in journalism and in political education.