

# ANNA-SOPHIE KURELLA

Curriculum Vitæ,  
December 23, 2025

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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- 04/2025 -today      **Leibniz Universität Hannover**  
Assistant Professor (Juniorprofessorin) for Analytical Political Theory
- 02/2018 - 03/2025      **Mannheim Centre for European Social Research**  
Postdoctoral Research Fellow and Project Director,  
until 03/2022 fulltime , from 04/2022 to 04/2023 part-time 50%, since 05/2023  
full-time  
Project: "Issue Evolution in Multiparty Systems", funded by the DFG, 2021-  
2024
- 04/2022 - 04/2023      **Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz**  
Research and teaching associate, part-time 50%
- 01/2014 - 01/2018      **Mannheim Centre for European Social Research**  
Doctoral Researcher  
Project: "Spatial models of party competition applied"  
Principal Investigators: Franz Urban Pappi and Thomas Bräuninger, funded  
by the DFG

## EDUCATION

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- 09/2012 - 07/2016      **University of Mannheim**  
PhD in political science (Dr. rer. soc., grade: 1.0)  
Thesis: "Do social cleavage lines shape issue voting and party competition? An  
extension of the spatial model with empirical applications to German elections,  
1980-1994".  
Dissertation Committee: Prof. Franz Urban Pappi, Prof. Thomas Bräuninger,  
Prof. Thomas Gschwend
- 08/2013 - 12/2013      **Washington University in Saint Louis**  
Visiting Ph.D. student
- 09/2010 - 08/2012      **University of Mannheim**  
Master of Arts in Sociology (grade: 1.2 with distinction)
- 10/2006 - 04/2010      **University of Konstanz**  
Bachelor of Arts in Politics and Public Administration (grade: 1.8)
- 09/2008 - 03/2009      **Marmara University**, Istanbul, Turkey  
Visiting student (ERASMUS)

## RESEARCH GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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2026-2029	<b>German Research Foundation.</b> Principal Investigator. Project Title: Countering Polarization: The Borda count as a basis for proportional representation, Grant amount: 537,757 Euro.
2021-2025	<b>German Research Foundation.</b> Principal Investigator. Project Title: Issue Evolution in Multiparty Systems, Grant amount: 234,682 Euro.
2012-2014	<b>PhD Scholarship.</b> Graduate School of Economic and Social Sciences, Universität Mannheim, amount: 22,500 Euro.
08/2013-12/2013	<b>Scholarship</b> for a Research Stay at Washington University in St. Louis. Graduate School of Economic and Social Sciences, Universität Mannheim, amount: 3,400 Euro.

## APPOINTMENTS

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2025	Appointment as Assistant Professor in Analytical Political Theory, Leibniz Universität Hannover
2023	Shortlisted for Assistant Professor in Political Behavior, Sciences Po Paris

## SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

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since 2022	Staff representative at the Mannheim Center for European Social Science
2022 - 2023	Equal opportunities officer at the School of Social Sciences, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz. Tasks: member of selection committees for professorships.
2019-2019	Staff representative at the Mannheim Center for European Social Science
2014-2017	Equal opportunities officer at the School of Social Sciences, University of Mannheim. Tasks: member of selection committees for junior professorships and full professorships, member of the senate commission on equal opportunities.

## REVIEWER

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American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, Journal of Politics, British Journal of Political Science, Public Choice, Electoral Studies, European Journal of Political Research, European Union Politics, Swiss Political Science Review, Party Politics, West European Politics, European Political Science Review, Politische Vierteljahresschrift, Political Studies Review, Frontiers in Political Science

## ORGANIZATION OF WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

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02/2024	<i>Current Perspectives on Party Competition</i> , Workshop at the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research, 8/9 February 2024
07/2019	<i>Recent Advances in the Spatial Model of Party Competition</i> , Workshop at the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research, 26/27 July 2019

Spring term 2022, Organization of the weekly Political Science Seminar Series at the Mannheim  
 Fall term 2018 Center for European Social Research

## ACADEMIC TRAINING AND SKILLS

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02/2017	<i>Center for Tertiary Didactics</i> (HDZ, Mannheim, Germany): ‘Fit für die Lehre I & II’
02/2013	<i>ECPR Winter School</i> (Vienna, Austria): ‘Statistical Modelling of the Spatial Theory of Voting’, by Paul Thurner
06/2012	<i>EITM Europe Summer Institute</i> (Mannheim, Germany): ‘Theoretical and Methodological Foundations’, by Andrew Martin and Randall Calvert
Languages	German (native language), English (very good), French (basic), Spanish (basic)
Software	R, Stata, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X

## TEACHING

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PhD Level	Math for Social Scientists* (Uni Mannheim: 2019)
MA Level	Spatial model of party competition (U Hannover: 2025) Formal Models of Democracy (U Hannover: 2025) Regression Design for Comparative Research (JGU Mainz: 2022, 2023) Math Refresher* (Uni Mannheim: 2019, 2017, 2016, 2014) Game Theory Tutorial* (Uni Mannheim: 2016)
BA Level	Lecture on History of Political Thought (U Hannover: 2025) Lecture on Modern Political Theory (U Hannover: 2025) Issue Voting and Party Competition (Uni Mannheim: 2024, 2025) Tutorial Statistics II (JGU Mainz: 2023) Bridging Theory and Empirics in Comparative Representation (JGU Mainz: 2023) Comparative Representation* (Uni Mannheim: 2023, 2019) Social Choice* (Uni Mannheim: 2018, 2017, 2015) The Political Economy of Democracy (Uni Mannheim: 2022, 2016) Regression Designs for Comparative Research* (Uni Mannheim: 2022, 2021) Academic Research and Writing (Uni Mannheim: 2018)

\* in English

## SUPERVISION

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PhD	Milena Rapp, PhD Thesis: The electoral salience of and party competition on the European integration issue in national, multidimensional policy spaces (ongoing)
BA/MA	BA: 5, MA: 1

### Books

- Pappi, Franz Urban, Anna-Sophie Kurella und Thomas Bräuninger (2021): *Parteienwettbewerb und Wählerverhalten im deutschen Mischwahlsystem*. Springer VS. [Link](#)
- Kurella, Anna-Sophie (2017): *Issue voting and party competition. The Impact of Cleavage Lines on German Elections between 1980-1994*. Cham: Springer. [Link](#)

### Journal Articles (peer reviewed)

- Barbaro, Salvatore and Anna-Sophie Kurella (2026). On the prevalence of the Condorcet Paradox. *Public Choice, online first*. [Link](#)
- Kurella, Anna-Sophie and Milena Rapp (2026). The role of issue salience and competitive advantages in spatial models of political competition. *The Journal of Politics*, 88(2): 000. [Link](#)
- Kurella, Anna-Sophie and Milena Rapp (2025). Unfolding GAL-TAN: the multi-dimensional nature of public opinion in Western Europe. *West European Politics, online first*. [Link](#)
- Kurella, Anna-Sophie (2025). A formal model of political competition with salience. *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, 37(2): 156-175. [Link](#)
- Kurella, Anna-Sophie, Nathalie Giger and Jan Rosset (2024). The impact of electoral decision making on unequal representation: Do poor and rich vote differently? *Electoral Studies*, 89: 102790. [Link](#)
- Kurella, Anna-Sophie and Milena Rapp (2024). Combining voter preferences with party position estimates from different sources for studying voting behavior and representation. *Electoral Studies* 87: 102734. [Link](#)
- Jankowski, Michael, Anna-Sophie Kurella, Christian Stecker, Andreas Blätte, Thomas Bräuninger, Marc Debus, Jochen Müller und suanne Pickel (2022). Die Positionen der Parteien zur Bundestagswahl 2021: Ergebnisse des Open Expert Surveys. *Politische Vierteljahresschrift* 63(1): 53-72. [Link](#)
- Rosset, Jan, and Anna-Sophie Kurella (2021). The electoral roots of unequal representation. A spatial modeling approach to party systems and voting in Western Europe. *European Journal of Political Research* 60(4): 785-806. [Link](#)
- Bräuninger, Thomas, Franz Urban Pappi and Anna-Sophie Kurella (2020). Ja. Die Mehrheitswahlkomponente sollte gestärkt werden. Eine Replik. *Politische Vierteljahresschrift* 61(1): 1-14. [Link](#)
- Pappi, Franz Urban, Anna-Sophie Kurella and Thomas Bräuninger (2019). Die Etablierung neuer Parlamentsparteien. Wählerpräferenzen als Erfolgsfaktor für die Alternative für Deutschland 2017 und die Grünen 1986. *Politische Vierteljahresschrift* 60(2): 273-298. [Link](#)
- Kurella, Anna-Sophie and Jan Rosset (2018). The rise of cultural issues as an opportunity for the right? Insights from the 2015 Swiss election. *Swiss Political Science Review* 24(4): 381-399. [Link](#)
- Kurella, Anna-Sophie, Thomas Bräuninger and Franz Urban Pappi (2018): Centripetal and centrifugal incentives in mixed-member proportional systems. *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 30(3): 306-334. [Link](#)
- Pappi, Franz Urban, Anna-Sophie Kurella and Thomas Bräuninger (2017): Erststimmen generierende Merkmale der Direktkandidaten bei Bundestagswahlen. *Zeitschrift für Politikwissenschaft* 27(3): 305-326. [Link](#)

Kurella, Anna-Sophie and Jan Rosset (2017): Blind spots in the party system: Spatial voting and issue salience if voters face scarce choices. *Electoral Studies* 49: 1-16. [Link](#)

Kurella, Anna-Sophie and Franz Urban Pappi (2015): Combining ideological and policy distances with valence for a model of party competition in Germany 2009. *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 27(1): 86-107. [Link](#)

### Book Chapters

Pappi, Franz Urban and Anna-Sophie Kurella (2024). Regierungszufriedenheit als Motiv der Wieder- und Wechselwahl. Die Bundestagswahlen 2009, 2013, 2017 und 2021 im Vergleich. In: Schoen, H., Weßels, B. (eds) *Wahlen und Wähler*. Springer VS, Wiesbaden. [Link](#)

Pappi, Franz Urban, Anna-Sophie Kurella and Thomas Bräuninger (2018): Die Politikpräferenzen der Wähler und die Wahrnehmung von Parteipositionen als Bedingungen für den Parteienwettbewerb um Wählerstimmen. In Bytzek, Evelyn, Markus Steinbrecher and Ulrich Rosar (Eds.), *Wahrnehmung - Persönlichkeit - Einstellung. Psychologische Theorien und Methoden in der Wahl- und Einstellungsforschung*. Wiesbaden: Springer Fachmedien. [Link](#)

Kurella, Anna-Sophie (2016): Hätten Direktkandidaten der AfD über die 5%-Hürde verholpen? Eine Untersuchung des Kontaminationseffekts im Mischwahlsystem. In Weßels, Bernhard, Harald Schoen and Oscar W. Gabriel (Eds.), *Wahlen und Wähler. Analysen aus Anlass der Bundestagswahl 2013*. Wiesbaden: Springer VS. [Link](#)

Schofield, Norman and Anna-Sophie Kurella (2015): Party Activists in the 2009 German federal elections. In Schofield, Norman and Gonzalo Caballero (Eds.), *Political Economy of Governance: Institutions, Democratic Performance and Elections*. Cham: Springer. [Link](#)

### Technical Reports

Pappi, Franz Urban, Anna-Sophie Kurella and Thomas Bräuninger (2018): Die Beurteilung von Parteien und Kanzlerkandidaten vor den Bundestagswahlen von 1961 bis 2013. Stabilität der Konfliktstruktur bei wechselnder Attraktivität der Parteien und Kanzlerkandidaten. Informationsdienst Soziale Indikatoren/ 60: 20-28. [Link](#)

Pappi, Franz Urban, Anna-Sophie Kurella and Thomas Bräuninger (2016): Die Politikpräferenzen der Wähler und die Wahrnehmung von Parteipositionen als Bedingungen für den Parteienwettbewerb um Wählerstimmen. Working Paper - Mannheim Centre for European Social Research/ No 162.

Pappi, Franz Urban, Nicole Seher and Anna-Sophie Kurella (2013): Wahlprogramme als Quellen für die Politikfeldinteressen deutscher Landtagsparteien. Working Paper - Mannheim Centre for European Social Research/ No 149. [Link](#)

Pappi, Franz Urban, Nicole Seher and Anna-Sophie Kurella (2011): Das Politikangebot deutscher Parteien bei den Bundestagswahlen seit 1976 im dimensionsweisen Vergleich: Gesamtskala und politikfeldspezifische Skalen. Working Paper - Mannheim Centre for European Social Research/ No 142. [Link](#)

### WORK IN PROGRESS

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Barbaro, Salvatore, Anna-Sophie Kurella and Maike Roth. Electoral outcomes versus voters' preferences: On the different tales the data can tell. (R&R at *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties*, Preprint available as GSME Discussion Paper No. 2412)

- Barbaro, Salvatore and Anna-Sophie Kurella. Dichotomous Preferences: Concepts, Measurement, and Evidence. (R&R at *Social Choice and Welfare*, Preprint available at [https://download.uni-mainz.de/RePEc/pdf/Discussion\\_Paper\\_2506.pdf](https://download.uni-mainz.de/RePEc/pdf/Discussion_Paper_2506.pdf))
- Kurella, Anna-Sophie and Lovisa Mundschenk. Optimal party strategies on niche issues: A computational approach to multiparty competition for position and salience (R&R at *Political Science, Research and Methods*)
- Mauerer, Ingrid and Anna-Sophie Kurella. Valence vs. Policy. Explaining Vote Choices for Major, Minor, Moderate, and Extreme Parties. (Submitted, Preprint available at SSRN <https://ssrn.com/abstract=5529478>)
- Kurella, Anna-Sophie and Salvatore Barbaro. On the Polarization Premium for radical parties in PR electoral systems (Submitted, Preprint available as GSME Discussion Paper No. 2410)
- Kurella, Anna-Sophie and Salvatore Barbaro. Condorcet Winners in the Real World: Electoral Systems and Their Impact on Majority Selection (Submitted)
- Kurella, Anna-Sophie. Voting behavior under the Borda rule: a survey experiment in the aftermath of the German federal election 2025
- Kurella, Anna-Sophie. Does representation work where it matters most? A salience-based measure of group-level substantive representation.

#### LIST OF SCIENTIFIC TALKS

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- 2025      Voting behavior under the Borda rule: a survey experiment in the aftermath of the German federal election 2025. Jahrestagung des AK Analytische Politische Theorie der **DVPW**, Mainz, 10-11 October 2025.
- Optimal party strategies on niche issues: A computational approach to multiparty competition for position and salience. **MPSA** Conference, Chicago, IL, USA, 6-9 April 2025.
- 2024      On the Polarization Premium for radical parties in PR electoral systems **APSA** General Conference, Philadelphia, PA, USA, 5-8 September 2024.
- Do PR electoral systems favor polarizing candidates from the right? **EPSA** General Conference, Köln, 4-7 July 2024.
- The structure of West European Policy Spaces: A stable mismatch or increasing alignment between voters and parties? **ECPR Joint Session** "Cleavage Politics in Western Democracies", Leuphana Universität Lüneburg, 25-28 March 2024.
- Optimal party strategies on niche issues: A computational approach to multiparty competition for position and salience. **Workshop** on Current Perspectives on Party Competition, Mannheim Centre for European Social Research, 8-9 February 2024.
- Do PR electoral systems favor polarizing candidates from the right?. **Invited Talk**, Brown Bag Lunch Seminar Series, Economics Department, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, 23 January.
- 2023      A simulation study of parties' policy and salience strategies in the German policy space, 2013-2021. Jahrestagung des AK Analytische Politische Theorie der **DVPW**, Hamburg, 8-9 June 2023.
- Combining voter preferences with party position estimates from different sources for studying voting behavior and representation. Jahrestagung der **DVPW** Sektion Methoden, Göttingen, 5-6 May 2023.

- Salience strategies in a formal model of party competition. **MPSA** Conference, Chicago, IL, USA, 13-16 April 2023.
- 2022 Party system fragmentation and representation. and Combining voter preferences and party positions from different sources. **EPSA** General Conference, Prague, Czech Republic, 23-25 June 2022.
- 2019 Why the recent success of radical right parties does not indicate a right shift in public opinion. **Invited Talk** at the Unequal Democracies Seminar, University of Geneva, Switzerland, 11. April 2019.
- Spill-over effects in the German mixed-member system. **APSA** General Conference, Washington, USA, August 2019.
- The role of salience in the spatial model of party competition. Recent Advances in the Spatial Model of Party Competition, **Workshop** at the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research, Mannheim, Germany, July 2019
- 2017 Valence advantage and the electoral mean. Strategic positioning of German district candidates. **Workshop** on New Developments in Spatial Models of Party Competition, University of Konstanz, Germany, July 2017.
- Using panel fixed effects analysis to estimate the personal incumbency advantage without bias. **MPSA** General Conference, Chicago, USA, April 2017.
- 2016 Centripetal and centrifugal incentives in mixed-member proportional systems. **EPSA** General Conference, Brussels, Belgium.
- Centripetal and centrifugal incentives in mixed-member proportional systems. **GLES** Young Researchers' Network Meeting, Landau, Germany.
- 2015 Vote functions in two-ballot systems and their consequences for party equilibria. **MPSA** General Conference, Chicago, USA.
- 2014 Causes and consequences of heterogeneous issue salience among the electorate. **ECPR** General Conference, Glasgow, UK.
- Party activists in the 2009 German federal election. **Workshop** on Political Economy and Institutions, Baiona, Spain.
- 2013 Combining ideological and policy distances with valence for a model of party competition in Germany 2009. **MPSA** General Conference, Chicago, USA.