

Visions in Methodology 2026

Host: Asya Magazinnik

Hertie School

Friedrichstrasse 180, Berlin 10117

Thursday, May 28

12:00 – 3:00 PM: Registration Open

3:00 – 3:15 PM: Opening Remarks

Asya Magazinnik (Organizer of VIM 2026) and Emily Ritter (VIM President)

3:30 – 5:00 PM: Research Session 1

Panel A: Social Media

Isolde Hegemann (Department of Government, London School of Economics)

Trumped by AI: Effects of Fact-Checking Interventions on Online Engagement with Political Misinformation among Republicans

Erin York (Vanderbilt University)

Unexpected Voices: How Cultural Agents Reshape Political Communication

Laura Bronner (ETH Zürich)

Automated Pre-Moderation Reduces Toxicity Without Hurting Engagement: Evidence from a Randomized Field Experiment in Newspaper Comment Sections

Discussant: Simon Munzert (Hertie School)

Panel B: Geospatial Analysis & Local Politics

Charlotte Kuberka (London School of Economics and Political Science)

Opposition to Climate Policy or Opposition to the Cities: What Determines Rural Climate Policy Preferences?

Stephanie Zonszein (UC Berkeley)

Niches and Vacuums: Field Experiments on Community Media and Latino Political Engagement

Asli Ceren Cinar (Trinity College Dublin)

Identity Claims in Political Speech

Discussant: Elisa Wirsching (London School of Economics and Political Science)

5:15 – 6:15 PM: Keynote: Adeline Lo (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Friday, May 29

8:00 – 9:00 AM: Breakfast

9:00 – 10:30 AM: Research Session 2

Panel A: Experimental Design

Burcu Kolcak (Princeton University)

An Iterative Conjoint Framework for Studying Political Judgment: Tracing Identity-Based Anchoring in Candidate Evaluation Over Time

Alessandra Stampi-Bombelli (University of Zurich)

Targeted Outreach and Citizenship Take-Up: Experimental Evidence from a Two-Phase Field Experiment in Switzerland

Molly Offer-Westort (University of Chicago)

Data-Driven Hypotheses and Experimental Designs for Theory Testing and Theory Building

Discussant: Drew Dimmery (Hertie School)

10:45 – 12:15 PM: Research Session 3

Panel A: Causal Inference

Joohye Jeong (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

Experimental Stimuli Augmentation via LLMs: Addressing Internal and External Validity

Ekin Dursun (Yale University)

Instrumental Variables for Emotion Experiments: A Design Framework and Empirical Test

Myla Burton (University of Illinois)

Null Worlds: Rethinking Reference Distributions

Shiyao Liu (Peking University)

Imputing Missing Data: When and Why from an Over-Control Perspective

Discussant: Macartan Humphreys (WZB)

Panel B: Applied Survey Research

Linette Lim (University College Dublin)

How Does Propaganda Framing Shape Behavioural Intentions Towards International Journalists? Evidence from China

Amanda Weiss (Cornell University)

Welcome to the Dark Side: Quantifying the Consequences of Negative Content and Sensitive Topics on Surveys

Jennifer Oser (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)

Meaningful Latent Class Analysis: Essential Statistical Frameworks and Best Practices for the Applied Researcher

Discussant: Oliver Lang (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

12:30 – 2:30 PM: Lunch and Poster Session

2:30 – 4:00 PM: Research Session 4

Panel A: Machine Learning for Conflict Research

Melanie Sauter (University of Mannheim)

Protecting Civilians in Inter-Communal Conflict Through Remote Sensing of Climate Impacts

Zoe Sigman (Hertie School)

Measuring the Hidden Population of Migrant Deaths on the United States-Mexico Border: A Multiple Systems Estimation Approach

Sara Kallis (University of Zurich)

Measuring What We Don't Know: Uncertainty Quantification for Human Rights Text Data

Discussant: Julian Wucherpfennig (Hertie School)

Panel B: Network Analysis

Yinxuan Wang (New York University)

Measuring Elite Networks from Biographical Texts: A Two-Layer Latent Space Model

Julia Leschke (University College London)

Spatial Exposure to Out-Groups Revisited: How Context and Measurement of Exposure to Refugees can Explain Radical Right Voting

Jenn Larson (Vanderbilt University)

Respondents Don't Lead i.i.d. Lives

Discussant: Lena Mangold (Center for Critical Computational Studies, Goethe University Frankfurt)

4:00 – 5:00 PM: Coffee Break

5:00 – 6:00 PM: Keynote: Tara Slough (New York University)

7:30 – 10:00 pm: Dinner

3 Schwestern

Mariannenplatz 2, 10997 Berlin

Saturday, May 30

8:00 – 9:00 AM: Breakfast

9:00 – 10:30 AM: Research Session 5

Panel A: Large Language Models

Nikolina Filiposki (Technical University of Munich)

PolicyLink: Deriving Content Moderation Decisions with Large Language Models

Christine Sheldon (University of Birmingham)

Generative Agent-Based Modelling for Institutional Deliberation: Design Principles from a European Council Simulation

Semra Sevi (University of Toronto)

AI Weakens, But Does Not Strengthen, Political Attitudes

Discussant: TBD

Panel B: Formal Theory + Legislative Politics

Yu Mei (University of Oslo)

The Strategic Value of Public Intelligence

Alice Brocheux (University of Rochester)

Strategic Behavior and the Limits of Algorithmic Gerrymandering Detection

Milena Ang (Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona)

Corrupt Leaders, Undisciplined Parties? How Scandals Foster Partisan Unruliness

Discussant: Korhan Kocak (IE)

10:45 AM – 11:45 PM: Professionalization Panels

12:00 AM – 1:00 PM: Lunch & discussion about the future of VIM

1:00 PM – 1:15 PM: Presentation of poster prize and closing remarks

Poster Presentations

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Poster</i>
Karina Junqueira de Almeida	Puc-Rio	Beyond Technical Neutrality: Mapping Economic and Social Influences in Quality Infrastructure
Susan Smelcer	Wake Forest University	When Agents Escape: Simulating the Inversion of Legislative Control over the Judiciary
Maelle Delouis-Jost	University of Zurich, Department of Sociology	The Army of Unity: Conscription and the Making of Belonging in Reunified Germany
Iasmin Goes	Central European University	You Should (Probably) Not Split Your Sample
Hamna Shakeel	IBA, Karachi	Justice in the Age of Social Media: A Study of Digital Activism on Twitter and Facebook
Hannah Rajski	Mannheim Centre for European Social Research	The Link Between Poll Recall and Citizens' Expectations About Election Outcomes: An Analysis of the 2025 German Federal Election
Humeyra Biricik	University of Oxford	Executive Speeches as an Early-Warning Indicator of Democratic Backsliding
Mara Weber	LSE	Elite Rhetoric and Persistent Stigmatization
Mariana V. Ramirez Bustamante	Charles University	Supporting Out of Fear?: Lessons from a Failed Experiment on Electoral Support for Narco-linked Candidates in Peru
Menglin (Miley) Liu	The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen	An Open-Ended Pandemic? Political and Behavioral Divisions During the Pandemic
Meret Stephan	European University Institute	The Effect of Pro-Migration Protests on Voting Behavior and Political Attitudes
Nikolina Klatt	SCRIPTS Freie Universität Berlin	Who Governs Matters: Anti-Pluralism, Regime Change, and Abortion Law
Nora Chirikure	WZB (Berlin Social Science Center)	Strengthening Inclusive Local Governance and Vertical Social Cohesion in Lebanon
Rebecca Kittel	Free University of Berlin	Only Hot Air? National Parliamentary

	and WZB	Discourse and Its Effect on Public Opinion on the European Union
Johanna Reyes Ortega	UC Berkeley	Between Elite Strategy and Mass Mobilization: Women's Political Empowerment in Anti-Colonial Social Revolutions
Sara Merner	J-PAL Europe	Empowering Women and Girls Against Technologically-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV) in Myanmar
Sina Smid	Bocconi University	The Role of Gender in Attitudes Toward Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Germany
Tatiana Paula da Cruz	UW-Madison	Is It All About Corruption? Unbundling Anti-Elite and Anti-Corruption Appeals in Populist Rhetoric
Carla Vitoria Oliveira Barbosa	University of São Paulo	Brazilian Women Human Rights Defenders at the Forefront of Environmental Protection
Maud Bachelet	University of Geneva	How Can We Explain Responsibility-Sharing Contributions in European Migration Governance