

# Mike Cowburn

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## Academic Experience

### European University Viadrina

Postdoctoral Researcher 2023–present

I am a postdoctoral researcher at the European New School of Digital Studies working alongside Prof. Dr. Ulrike Klinger. My research focuses on intra-party factions, candidate selection processes, and political communication in the digital era. My responsibilities include teaching two courses each semester and serving as the co-PI of the Digital Campaigns & Elections (DiCE) Lab ([www.dicelab.eu](http://www.dicelab.eu)).

### Freie Universität Berlin

Ph.D. Political Science *summa cum laude* 2019–2022

*Dissertation:* Partisan Polarization in Congressional Nominations: How Ideological & Factional Primaries Influence Candidate Positions

*Committee:* Christian Lammert (chair), Sean M. Theriault, Rachel M. Blum, Curd B. Knüpfer, Thorsten Faas, David Bosold (defended 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022)

MA North American Studies 1,0 2017–2019

*Major:* Political Science *Minor:* Cultural Studies

### University of Exeter

BA Politics 2:1 2005–2008

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## Research Interests

Topics: Political Parties, Intra-Party Factions, Political Communication, Candidate Selection, Election Campaigns, Right-Wing Radicalization.

Methods: Causal Inference, Quantitative Methods, Mixed Methods, Text-as-Data.

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## Books

**Cowburn, Mike.** Forthcoming (September 2024). *Party Transformation in Congressional Primaries: Faction and Ideology in the Twenty-First Century*. Cambridge University Press. <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/party-transformation-in-congressional-primaries/4348B1A5589E4B230847AB647EDC9B0F>

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## Peer-Reviewed Publications

Blum, Rachel M., **Mike Cowburn**, and Seth Masket. 2024. “Who Decides? Media, Maga, Money, and Mentions in the 2022 Republican Primaries”. *Political Research Quarterly*. 0(0): 1-19 <https://doi.org/10.1177/10659129241268820>

Rosa, Christoph and **Mike Cowburn**. 2024. “Review of F-R-O-G Telegram Scraper”. *Mobile Media & Communication*. First View. 1–4. <https://doi.org/10.1177/20501579241244977>

**Cowburn, Mike**, and Marius Sältzer. 2024. “Partisan Communication in Two-Stage Elections: The Effect of Primaries on Intra-Campaign Positional Shifts in Congressional Elections”. *Political Science Research & Methods*. First View. 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.1017/psrm.2023.62>

- Cowburn, Mike**, and Curd B. Knüpfer. 2024. "The Emerging Fault Line of Alternative News: Intra-Party Division in Republican Representatives' Media Engagement." *Party Politics*. 30(2): 319–333. <https://doi.org/10.1177/13540688231157579>
- Blum, Rachel M., and **Mike Cowburn**. 2024. "How Local Factions Pressure Parties: Activist Groups & Primary Contests in the Tea Party Era." *British Journal of Political Science*. 54(1): 88–109. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007123423000224>
- Cowburn, Mike**, and Rebecca Kerr. 2023. "Inclusivity and Decentralisation of Candidate Selectorates: Factional Consequences for Centre-Left Parties in England, Germany, and the United States." *Political Research Quarterly*. 72(1): 292–307. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10659129221081213>
- Cowburn, Mike**, and Michael T. Oswald. 2020. "Legislator Adoption of the Fake News Label: Ideological Differences in Republican Representative Use on Twitter." *The Forum* 18(3): 389–413. <https://doi.org/10.1515/for-2020-2015>
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## Book Chapters

- Cowburn, Mike**. 2024. "Factional Change and Continuity in the 2022 House Primaries." in Renata Duda and Maciej Turek (eds.) *The Crossroads Election: European Perspectives on the 2022 Midterm Elections in the United States*. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003440895-7>
- Cowburn, Mike**. 2022. "Experience Narratives and Populist Rhetoric in U.S. House Primaries." in Michael T. Oswald (ed.) *The Palgrave Handbook of Populism*. Palgrave Macmillan. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-80803-7\\_26](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-80803-7_26)
- Cowburn, Mike**. 2020. "The Transformation of the Congressional Primary." in Michael T. Oswald (ed.) *Mobilization, Representation and Responsiveness in The American Democracy*. Palgrave Macmillan. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-24792-8\\_5](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-24792-8_5)
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## In Progress

- Gomez, Gabriel, Amanda Sahar D'Urso, and **Mike Cowburn**. "Hispanic Support for Donald Trump: In-Group Favoritism or Out-Group Animus?" [Revise & Resubmit, *Political Behavior*]. [Pre-print](#).
- Cowburn, Mike**, and Sean M. Theriault. "Preventative Polarization: Republican Senators' Adaptation in the Tea Party Era" [Revise & Resubmit, *American Politics Research*]. [Pre-print](#).
- Cowburn, Mike**, and Meredith Conroy. "Where do Women Win Primaries? Candidate Gender, District Partisanship, and U.S. Congressional Nomination" [Under Review, *Politics & Gender*]. [Pre-print](#).
- Cowburn, Mike**, Ulrike Klinger, and Anders Olof Larsson. "Campaigning in the Age of Platforms: A Longitudinal Analysis of German Parties & Politicians" [Under Review, *Political Communication*, accepted by the editors for a special edition]. [Pre-print](#).
- Peißker, Antonia, **Mike Cowburn**, and Ulrike Klinger. "Disinformation Resilience in Backsliding Democracies: Media Capture & Civil Society in the Visegrád Group" [Under Review, *International Journal of Press/Politics*]. [Pre-print](#).
- Dahn, Christina, **Mike Cowburn**, Marius Sältzer, and Ulrike Klinger. "Who's Afraid of the Constitutional Court? The Discursive Effect of Banning Political Organizations" [Working Paper].
- Knüpfer, Curd B., Yunkang Yang, and **Mike Cowburn**. "Mouthpiece or Mobilizers? Right-Wing Media, Republican Elites, and 'Critical Race Theory'" [Working Paper].
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## Commentary & Analysis

- Cowburn, Mike.** 2024. “The 2024 Elections: Primary Elections Show Just How Factionalized the Democratic and Republican Parties Have Become.” LSE United States Politics & Policy Blog
- Cowburn, Mike,** and Marius Sältzer. 2024. “Winning Primary Candidates Don’t Moderate their Political Positions, Increasing Polarization in Congress.” LSE United States Politics & Policy Blog.
- Blum, Rachel M., and **Mike Cowburn.** 2023. “The Long Shadow of the Tea Party and the Republican Party’s Shift to the Right.” LSE United States Politics & Policy Blog.
- Cowburn, Mike,** and Curd Knüpfer. 2023. “Far-Right News Sites have been Radicalizing Republican Politicians and are Dividing the Party.” LSE United States Politics & Policy Blog.
- Cowburn, Mike.** 2022. “The 2022 Midterms: A Turning Point for the Democratic and Republican Parties in Congress.” LSE United States Politics & Policy Blog.
- Cowburn, Mike.** 2020. “Not Just the Presidency: Congressional Primaries 2020.” Atlantische Akademie.
- Cowburn, Mike.** 2020. “Fostering Engagement in Primaries and Caucuses.” APSA PoliticalScienceNow.
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## Selected Conference Presentations

APSA:	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
MPSA:	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
EPSA:	2020, 2021, 2022, 2024
ECPR:	2020, 2023
PSA:	2021
DGfA:	2020, 2021
ECREA PolComm:	2023
ECREA:	2024

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## Invited Talks & Media

- 02/2023 Deutsche Welle News, discussant of South Carolina primaries and U.S. intra-party politics
- 11/2023 “Party Transformation in Congressional Primaries”, Current Issues in North American & Cultural Studies Lecture Series, Universität Bonn
- 08/2023 “From Tea Parties to Storming the Capitol: How Trump and Far-Right Media Helped Radicalize the GOP”, Atlantische Akademie Summer School
- 06/2023 “Communicating Research Using Digital Resources”, Freie Universität Berlin
- 11/2022 “Polis Kocht! – U.S. Midterm Event”, Polis 180
- 11/2022 “Whose Party is it Anyway?”, Atlantische Akademie 2022 Atlantic Forum
- 08/2022 “Intra-Party Politics in a Partisan Era”, Atlantische Akademie Summer School
- 11/2021 “Right-Wing Alternative Media and Republican Party Social Media Engagement”, *Social Media and Politics Podcast*. Michael Bossetta. Episode 136. <https://socialmediaandpolitics.org/right-wing-alternative-media-social-media-engagement-congress-republican-party-twitter/>
- 11/2021 “Republican Party Factionalism as a Response to Racial & Economic Inequality”, North American Studies Lecture Series, Freie Universität Berlin
- 04/2021 “Polarization, Congressional Primaries, and Fake News” U.S. Studies Online, USSOcast Podcast, <https://usso.uk/usso-cast/>
- 03/2021 “The State of the Parties and Their Future Under the Biden Presidency”, Atlantische Akademie Teachers’ Seminar

11/2020	“US-Wahl 2020” (“US Election 2020”) CouchFM Election Night TV & Radio Coverage, Berlin
11/2020	“Kongresswahl 2020”, Amerikawählt! Wahlabend 2020 (“Congressional Election 2020”), Atlantische Akademie Election Evening
11/2020	“US Election System & Postal Voting”, Fluter Magazine, <a href="https://fluter.de/us-wahlssystem-briefwahl-interview">https://fluter.de/us-wahlssystem-briefwahl-interview</a> [in German]
09/2020	“Ein Ausblick auf die Kongress-, Gouverneurs- und einzelstaatlichen Wahlen: Gelingt den Demokraten die Rückeroberung des Senats und weiterer Einzelstaaten?” (“A look ahead to the congressional, gubernatorial, and state elections: will the Democrats succeed in retaking the Senate and other states?”), America Decides: 2020 Election Series, Bonn University
06/2019	“Demokratie unter Beschuss? Donald Trump und der Populismus”, (“Democracy Under Attack? Donald Trump and Populism”) Tolerantes Brandenburg Series

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## Other Training

07/2022	Data Science Summer School, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin <i>Courses:</i> Introduction to Python
08/2021	Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis, Virtual <i>Courses:</i> Advanced Quantitative Data Analysis
08/2021	Summer School of the ECPR Standing Group on Political Parties, Aarhus University
07/2021	Data Science Summer School, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin <i>Courses:</i> Intro to R Programming, Data Visualization with R, Research Design & Causal Analysis with R
03/2021	ECPR Virtual Winter School in Methods and Techniques, Virtual <i>Courses:</i> The Statistics of Causal Inference
03/2021	Applied Statistics Workshop Series, NTNU Business School, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim
07/2020	Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis, Virtual <i>Courses:</i> Applied Regression, Advanced Stata Programming

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## Awards & Grants

2024	Unite America travel grant to attend the Primary Election Research Symposium, Washington D.C.
2023	Ernst-Reuter-Preise for best doctoral dissertation at the Freie Universität Berlin, finalist
2022	APSA Political Communication Section’s Executive Committee Travel Funding
2022	APSA Travel Grant
10–12/2021	STIBET Doctorate Promotion of the Deutsche Akademische Austauschdienst (DAAD) three-month stipend (October to December 2021)
2021	APSA Political Communication Section’s Executive Committee Travel Funding
2021	APSA Travel Grant
2021	Virginia Gray Graduate Research Grant from the APSA Political Organizations and Parties (POP) Section
2021	John Sullivan Award for Best Graduate Student Paper in the APSA Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior (EPOVB) Section
2019–2022	Freie Universität Berlin Graduate School of North American Studies (GSNAS) forty-month Doctoral Research Stipend, including Annual Travel Grant

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## Teaching

### European University Viadrina

ENS-2401	<a href="#">Introduction to U.S. Politics</a>	Summer 2024
ENS-2402	<a href="#">Politics &amp; Football (Soccer)</a>	Summer 2024
ENS-2352	<a href="#">Quantitative Methods for Social Science</a>	Winter 2023/24
ENS-2353	<a href="#">Empirical Research Design &amp; Writing in Social Science</a>	Winter 2023/24
ENS-2312	<a href="#">Media &amp; Democracy</a>	Summer 2023
ENS-2313	<a href="#">Political Parties in the Digital Era</a>	Summer 2023
	MA Thesis Supervisor	2023–present

### Freie Universität Berlin

32513	<a href="#">U.S. Political Parties in a Partisan Era</a>	Winter 2021/22
32503	<a href="#">Polarization in U.S. Politics</a>	Summer 2019
32000T	Understanding North America B: Political Science (Tutor)	Summer 2019
32000T	Understanding North America B: Political Science (Tutor)	Summer 2018
	BA Thesis Supervisor	2019–2023
	MA Thesis Supervisor	2020–2023

### University of Exeter

EDU3014	Learning for Teaching (with in-school placement)	2007–2008
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## Professional Association Memberships

American Political Science Association (APSA)  
Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)  
European Political Science Association (EPSA)  
European Consortium of Political Research (ECPR)  
Political Studies Association (PSA)  
European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA)

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## Reviewer Service

American Journal of Political Science, British Journal of Political Science, Electoral Studies, Journal of Elections Public Opinion & Parties, Journal of Politics, Journal of Information Technology & Politics, Legislative Studies Quarterly, Migration Studies Quarterly, Mobile Media & Communication.

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## Miscellaneous

Software: Stata, Zotero,  $\text{\LaTeX}$ , R  
Languages: English (native), German (B2)

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## Selected Non-Academic Employment

Account Director	Ideal ( <a href="http://www.ideal.co.uk">www.ideal.co.uk</a> )	2010–2017
Administrative Assistant	Liberty ( <a href="http://www.libertyhumanrights.org.uk">www.libertyhumanrights.org.uk</a> )	2008–2009

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## References

### **Christian Lammert**

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### **Ulrike Klinger**

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European New School of Digital Studies  
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### **Sean M. Theriault**

Professor of Political Science  
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### **Rachel M. Blum**

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