

Mike Cowburn

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 [cowburn86](https://twitter.com/cowburn86)

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 political parties, factions, and political communication in the digital era. I teach two MA-level courses each semester and serve as the co-PI of the Digital Campaigns & Elections (DiCE) Lab (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

MA North American Studies *1,0* 2017–2019

Major: Political Science *Minor:* Cultural Studies

University of Exeter

BA Politics *2:1* 2005–2008

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.

Books

Cowburn, Mike. Forthcoming. *Party Transformation in Congressional Primaries*. Cambridge University Press. [Under Contract].

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Cowburn, Mike and Marius Sältzer. Forthcoming. “Partisan Communication in Two-Stage Elections: The Effect of Primaries on Intra-Campaign Positional Shifts in Congressional Elections”. *Political Science Research & Methods*. [Pre-print](#).

Blum, Rachel M. and **Mike Cowburn**. 2023. “How Local Factions Pressure Parties: Activist Groups & Primary Contests in the Tea Party Era.” *British Journal of Political Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007123423000224>

Cowburn, Mike and Curd B. Knüpfer. 2023. “The Emerging Fault Line of Alternative News: Intra-Party Division in Republican Representatives’ Media Engagement.” *Party Politics*. 0(0): 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.1177/13540688231157579>

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>

Book Chapters

Cowburn, Mike. Forthcoming. “Factional Change and Continuity in the 2022 House Primaries.” in Maciej Turek (ed.) *The Crossroads Election: 2022 Midterm Elections and American Politics*. Routledge.

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

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

In Progress

Gomez, Gabriel and **Mike Cowburn**. “Hispanic Support for Donald Trump in 2020: The Centrality of Race & White Identity” [Under Review]. [Pre-print](#).

Cowburn, Mike and Meredith Conroy. “Where do Women Win Primaries? Candidate Gender, District Partisanship, and Congressional Nomination” [Under Review]. [Pre-print](#).

Blum, Rachel M., **Mike Cowburn**, and Seth Masket. “Who Decides? Media, Maga, Money, and Mentions in the 2022 Republican Primaries” [Under Review]. [Pre-print](#).

Cowburn, Mike and Sean M. Theriault. “Preventative Polarization: Republican Senators’ Adaptation in the Tea Party Era” [Under Review]. [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]. [Pre-print](#).

Knüpfer, Curd, Yunkang Yang, and **Mike Cowburn**. “Tracing Information Flows Between Right-Wing Alternative News Sites and Republican Members of Congress” [Working Paper].

Cowburn, Mike, Ulrike Klinger, Dylan Paltra, and Marius Sältzer. “Communicating Faction in the *Alternative für Deutschland*: Party & Movement Connections on the German Far-Right” [Working Paper].

Commentary & Analysis

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.

Selected Conference Presentations

APSA: 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023

MPSA: 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023

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

Invited Talks & Media

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”, <i>Social Media and Politics Podcast</i> . 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”, <i>Ringvorlesung</i> , 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, https://fluter.de/us-wahlssystem-briefwahl-interview [in German]
09/2020	“Ein Ausblick auf die Kongress-, Gouverneurs- und einzelstaatlichen Wahlen: Gelingen 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

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

Awards & Grants

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

Teaching

European University Viadrina

ENS-2352	Quantitative Methods for Social Science (MA)	Winter 2023/24
ENS-2353	Empirical Research Design & Writing in Social Science (MA)	Winter 2023/24
ENS-2312	Media & Democracy (MA)	Summer 2023
ENS-2313	Political Parties in the Digital Era (MA)	Summer 2023
	MA Thesis Supervisor	2023–present

Freie Universität Berlin

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

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)

Miscellaneous

Software: Stata, Zotero, \LaTeX , R
 Languages: English (native), German (B2)

Selected Non-Academic Employment

Account Director	Ideal (www.ideal.co.uk)	2010–2017
Administrative Assistant	Liberty (www.libertyhumanrights.org.uk)	2008–2009

References

Christian Lammert

Professor of North American Politics & Policy
John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies
Freie Universität Berlin
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Sean M. Theriault

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Ulrike Klinger

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Rachel M. Blum

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