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).

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 14ᵗʰ 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

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. 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

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Cowburn, Mike, and Sean M. Theriault. Forthcoming. "Preventative Polarization: Republican Senators' Adaptation in the Tea Party Era." *American Politics Research*. Pre-print.

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

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

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, Amanda Sahar D'Urso, and Mike Cowburn. "Hispanic Support for Donald Trump: In-Group Favoritism or Out-Group Animus?" [Revised & Resubmitted, *Political Behavior*]. Pre-print.

Cowburn, Mike, Ulrike Klinger, and Anders Olof Larsson. "Campaigning in the Age of Platforms: A Longitudinal Analysis of German Parties & Politicians" [Revise & Resubmit, *Political Communication*]. Pre-print.

Cowburn, Mike, and Meredith Conroy. "Where do Women Win Primaries? Candidate Gender, District Partisanship, and U.S. Congressional Nomination" [Under Review, *Journal of Women, Politics & Policy*]. 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, and Marius Sältzer. "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 Megaphone? Right-Wing Media, Republican Elites, and 'Critical Race Theory'" [Working Paper].

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.

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

Invited Talks & Media

10/2024	"The Election and the Media: How Do the Candidates and Parties Communicate?" Race to the White House: The U.S. in an Election Year, Fridtjof-Nansen-Akademie
09/2024	"Party Transformation in Congressional Primaries" (book talk), University of Pennsylvania
07/2024	"The U.S. Election System and Its Challenges", Atlantische Akademie Summer School
02/2024	Deutsche Welle (DW) 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, https://fluter.de/us-wahlsystem-briefwahl-interview [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

Other Training

07/2022	Data Science Summer School, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin *Courses*: Introduction to Python
08/2021	Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis, Virtual *Courses*: 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 *Courses*: 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 *Courses*: 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 *Courses*: Applied Regression, Advanced Stata Programming

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

Teaching

European University Viadrina

ENS-2455	Quantitative Methods for Social Science	Winter 2024/25
ENS-2454	Empirical Research Design & Writing in Social Science	Winter 2024/25
ENS-2401	Introduction to U.S. Politics	Summer 2024
ENS-2402	Politics & Football (Soccer)	Summer 2024
ENS-2352	Quantitative Methods for Social Science	Winter 2023/24
ENS-2353	Empirical Research Design & Writing in Social Science	Winter 2023/24
ENS-2312	Media & Democracy	Summer 2023
ENS-2313	Political Parties in the Digital Era	Summer 2023
	BA Thesis Supervisor	2023–present
	MA Thesis Supervisor	2023–present

Freie Universität Berlin

32513	U.S. Political Parties in a Partisan Era	Winter 2021/22
32503	Polarization in U.S. Politics	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 |

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)

Reviewer Service

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

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
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