

# 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 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](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

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 (2024). *Party Transformation in Congressional Primaries: Faction and Ideology in the Twenty-First Century*. Cambridge University Press. [Under Contract].

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## 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>
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## 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](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 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].
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## 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.
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## 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

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## 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. <a href="https://socialmediaandpolitics.org/right-wing-alternative-media-social-media-engagement-congress-republican-party-twitter/">https://socialmediaandpolitics.org/right-wing-alternative-media-social-media-engagement-congress-republican-party-twitter/</a>
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, <a href="https://usso.uk/usso-cast/">https://usso.uk/usso-cast/</a>
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-wahlsystem-briefwahl-interview">https://fluter.de/us-wahlsystem-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

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

### Freie Universität Berlin

32513	<a href="#">U.S. Political Parties in a Partisan Era</a> (MA)	Winter 2021/22
32503	<a href="#">Polarization in U.S. Politics</a> (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,  $\text{\LaTeX}$ , 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

Professor of North American Politics & Policy  
John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies  
Freie Universität Berlin  
[christian.lammert@fu-berlin.de](mailto:christian.lammert@fu-berlin.de)

### Ulrike Klinger

Chair for Digital Democracy  
European New School of Digital Studies  
European University Viadrina  
[klinger@europa-uni.de](mailto:klinger@europa-uni.de)

### Sean M. Theriault

Professor of Political Science  
Department of Government  
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### Rachel M. Blum

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Department of Political Science  
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