

Professor Yannis Theocharis

Chair of Digital Governance
Bavarian School of Public Policy, TUM School of Governance
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[Google Scholar profile](#)

Academic Positions

- 2020-present *Full Professor (W3)* of Digital Governance, Bavarian School of Public Policy/TUM School of Governance, Technical University of Munich (November -)
- 2018-2020 *Professor (W2)* of Communication and Media, Centre for Media, Communication and Information Research, University of Bremen (October 2018-October 2020)
- Interim Professor* of Communication and Media, Centre for Media, Communication and Information Research, University of Bremen (April - September 2018)
- 2017-2018 *Assistant Professor*, Department of Media Studies and Journalism, University of Groningen (Aug 2017 - Mar 2018); *External Fellow*, MZES, University of Mannheim, Germany
- 2016 *Invited Lecturer*, Hertie School of Governance
- 2014-2017 *Research Fellow*, MZES, University of Mannheim (until Jul 2017)
- 2011-2013 *Alexander von Humboldt Postdoctoral Fellow*, MZES, University of Mannheim

Education

- 2006-2010 PhD, Political Science, *University College London (UCL)*, UK
- 2004-2005 MSc in New Media, Information and Society, *London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)*, UK
- 2000-2004 Degree (“Ptychion”, 4 - year Greek equivalent to BSc) in Sociology, *University of Crete*, Greece

Research & Teaching Interests

political participation • political communication • computational social science • digital media • online harassment and platform governance

Peer-Reviewed Publications

MONOGRAPHS

- 2018 **Theocharis, Y.** & van Deth, J.W. (2018) *Political Participation in a Changing World: Conceptual and Empirical Challenges in the Study of Citizen Engagement*. New York: Routledge

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- 2020 **Theocharis, Y.** & Jungherr, A. (forthcoming 2020). ‘Computational Social Science and the Study of Political Communication’, *Political Communication*.
- Kosmidis, S. & **Theocharis, Y.** (2020). ‘Can Social Media Incivility Induce Enthusiasm? Evidence from Survey Experiments’, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 84 (S1): 284–308.
- Fazekas, Z., Popa, S., Schmitt, H., Barberá, P. & **Theocharis, Y.** (forthcoming 2020). ‘Elite-Public Interaction on Twitter: EU Issue Expansion in the Campaign’, *European Journal of Political Research*.
- Theocharis, Y.**, de Moor, J. & van Deth, J.W. (forthcoming 2020). ‘Digitally Networked Participation and Lifestyle Politics as New Modes of Political Participation’, *Policy & Internet*.
- Theocharis, Y.**, Barberá, P., Fazekas, Z. & Popa, S. (2020) ‘The Dynamics of Political Incivility on Twitter’, *Sage Open*, 10 (2).
- Boulianne, S. & **Theocharis, Y.** (2020) ‘Young people, Digital Media and Engagement: A Meta-analysis of Research’, *Social Science Computer Review*, 38 (2): 111-127.
- 2019 Obert, P., **Theocharis, Y.** & van Deth, J.W. (2019) ‘Threats, Chances and Opportunities: Social Capital in Europe in Times of Social and Economic Hardship’, *Policy Studies*, 40 (1): 21-39.
- 2018 **Theocharis, Y.** & van Deth, J.W. (2018) ‘The Continuous Expansion of Citizen Participation: A New Taxonomy’, *European Political Science Review*, 10 (1): 139-163.
- 2017 Tucker, J.A., **Theocharis, Y.**, Roberts, M. & Barberá, P. (2017) ‘From Liberation to Turmoil: Social Media and Democracy’, *Journal of Democracy*, 28 (4): 46-59.

Theocharis, Y., Vitoratou, S. & Sajuria, J. (2017) 'Civil Society in Times of Crisis: Understanding Collective Action Dynamics in Digitally-Enabled Volunteer Networks', *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*, 22 (5): 248-265.

Jungherr, A. & **Theocharis, Y.** (2017) 'The Empiricist's Challenge: Asking Meaningful Questions in Political Science in the Age of Big Data', *Journal of Information Technology & Politics*, 14 (2): 97 - 109.

2016

Theocharis, Y., Barberá, P., Fazekas, Z., Popa, S. & Parnet, O. (2016) 'A Bad Workman Blames His Tweets: The Consequences of Citizens' Uncivil Twitter Use when Interacting with Party Candidates', *Journal of Communication*, 66 (6): 879-1060. *2016 APSA Best Information Technology & Politics Conference Paper Award*

Nulty, P., **Theocharis, Y.**, Popa, S.A., Parnet, O. & Benoit, K. (2016) 'Mapping European Social Media Usage and Content During the 2014 Elections to the European Parliament', *Electoral Studies*, 44: 429-444.

Popa, S., **Theocharis, Y.** & Schnaudt, C. (2016) 'From Seeing the Writing on the Wall, to Getting Together for a Bowl: Direct and Compensating Effects of Facebook Use on Offline Associational Membership', *Journal of Information Technology and Politics*, 13 (3): 222-238.

Theocharis, Y. & Lowe, W. (2016) 'Does Facebook Influence Political Participation? Evidence from a Field Experiment', *Information, Communication & Society*, 19 (10): 1465-1486.

Theocharis, Y. & Quintelier, E. (2016) 'Stimulating Citizenship or Expanding Entertainment? The Effect of Facebook on Adolescent Participation'. *New Media & Society*, 18 (5): 817-836.

2015

Theocharis, Y. (2015) 'The Conceptualization of Digitally Networked Participation'. *Social Media + Society*, 1 (2): 1-14.

Sajuria, J., vanHeerde-Hudson, J., Hudson, D., Dasandi, N. & **Theocharis, Y.** (2015) 'Tweeting Alone? An Analysis of Bridging and Bonding Social Capital in Online Networks'. *American Politics Research*, 43 (4): 708-738.

Theocharis, Y. & van Deth, J. W. (2015) 'A Modern Tragedy? Institutional Pathologies and Democratic Consequences in Crisis-hit Greece'. *Representation*, 51 (1): 63-79.

Theocharis, Y., Lowe, W., van Deth, J.W. & García Albacete, G. (2015) 'Using Twitter to Mobilise Protest Action: Transnational Online Mobilisation Patterns and Action Repertoires in the Occupy Wall Street, Indignados and Aganaktismenoi movements'. *Information, Communication & Society*, 18 (2): 202-220.

- 2013 **Theocharis, Y.** (2013). 'The Contribution of Websites and Blogs to the Students' Protest Communication Tactics during the 2010 UK University Occupations'. *Information, Communication & Society*, 16 (9): 1477-1513.
- Quintelier, E. & **Theocharis, Y.** (2013). 'Online Political Engagement, Facebook and Personality Traits'. *Social Science Computer Review*, 31 (3): 280-290.
- Theocharis, Y.** (2013). 'The Wealth of (Occupation) Networks?' Communication Patterns and Information Distribution in a Twitter Protest Network'. *Journal of Information Technology and Politics*, 10 (1): 35-56.
- Theocharis, Y.** & Quintelier, E. (2013). 'Social Media Politics en Democratie: Een Reactive op Henry Milner' (Social Media Activism and Democracy: A Response to Henry Milner). *Res Publica*, 55 (1): 116-120. (in Dutch)
- 2012 **Theocharis, Y.** (2012). 'Cuts, Tweets, Solidarity and Mobilisation: How the Internet Shaped the Student Occupations'. *Parliamentary Affairs*, 65 (1): 162-194.
- 2011 **Theocharis, Y.** (2011). 'The Influence of Postmaterialist Orientations on Young British People's Offline and Online Political Participation'. *Representation*, 17 (4): 435-455.
- Theocharis, Y.** (2011). 'Young People, Political Participation and Online Postmaterialism in Greece'. *New Media & Society*, 13 (2): 203-223.

EDITED VOLUMES/SPECIAL ISSUES

- 2020 **Theocharis, Y.** & Jungherr, A. (Eds.). (forthcoming 2020). Special Issue: Computational Political Communication: Theory, Applications and Interdisciplinary Challenges, *Political Communication* [Call for Papers]
- 2017 Jungherr, A. & **Theocharis, Y.** (Eds.). (2017). Special Issue: The Empiricist's Challenge: Asking Meaningful Questions in Political Science in the Age of Big Data, *Journal of Information Technology & Politics*, 14 (2). [Call for Papers].

CHAPTERS IN PEER-REVIEWED EDITED BOOKS

- 2020 **Theocharis, Y.** (forthcoming 2020). Creative Participation. In Thompson, W.R. & Dalton, R. (Ed.) *The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Habel, P., & **Theocharis, Y.** (2020). Citizens, Elites, and Social Media: Methodological Challenges and Opportunities in the Study of Persuasion and Mobilization. In Grofman, B., Suhay, E. & Trechsel, A. (Eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Electoral Persuasion*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2017 **Theocharis, Y.** & Walter, S. (2017). 'Solidarity or Antagonism? An analysis of

German news media reporting on anti-austerity protests in Greece'. In T. Papaioanou & Gupta, S. (Eds.) *Media Representations of Anti-Austerity Protests in the EU Grievances, Identities and Agency*. New York: Routledge, pp.95-116

2016 **Theocharis, Y.** (2016). 'Every Crisis is a Digital Opportunity: The Aganaktismenoi Movement's Use of Social Media and the Emergence of Networked Solidarity in Greece'. In A. Bruns, E. Skogerbø, C. Christensen, A.O. Larsson & Gunn, E. (Eds.) *The Routledge Companion to Social Media and Politics*. New York: Routledge, pp. 185-197

2015 **Theocharis, Y.** (2015). 'Is Digitally Networked Participation a Form of Political Participation?'. In T. Puguntke, S. Rossteutscher, R. Schmitt-Beck, & Zmerli, S. (eds.) *Citizenship and Democracy in an Era of Crisis*. New York: Routledge, pp. 189-205

2014 **Theocharis, Y.** (2014). 'The Contribution of Websites and Blogs to the Students' Protest Communication Tactics during the 2010 UK University Occupations'. In B.D. Loader, A. Vromen, & Xenos, M. (eds.) *The Networked Young Citizen: Social Media, Political Participation and Civic Engagement*, New York: Routledge, pp. 180-206

García Albacete, G. & **Theocharis, Y.** (2014). 'Opportunities and Challenges in Analysing Twitter Content: A Comparison of the Occupation Movements in Spain, Greece and the US'. In R. Gibson, M. Cantijoch & Ward, S. (eds.) *Analyzing Social Media Data and Web Networks*. London: Palgrave, pp. 130-152

INVITED BOOK REVIEWS

2014 **Theocharis, Y.** (2014). 'Book Review: W. Lance Bennett & Alexandra Segerberg, *The Logic of Connective Action*' *Social Forces*

Research Income and Projects

GRANTS

2020 Observatory for Political Texts in European Democracies (co-applicant. PI: University of Vienna)
European Union, Horizon 2020: 3,000,000€

What Makes Social Media Content Harmful? A User-Centric Comparative Approach (co-applicant with Patricia Rossini (PI), Rebekka Tromble and Cristian Vaccari)
Facebook Research, Content Governance Scheme: 100,000€

2019 The Origins and Consequences of Social Media Incivility (co-applicant with Spyros

Kosmidis).

British Academy/Leverhulme Trust Small Research Grants: £9,447

2018 Uncivil Interaction on Social media From a Demand and Supply Side Perspective: Causes and Consequences

Impulse Project Grant, University of Bremen: 2,372€

2010 Alexander von Humboldt Postdoctoral Fellowship Research Grant for project *Bowling Online: Political and Cultural Consequences of Social Networking Sites: 28,500€*

OTHER RESEARCH INCOME

2015 MZES Conference Fund for organising the *The Empiricist's Challenge: Asking Meaningful Questions in Political Science in the Age of Big Data* Conference (co-organised with Andreas Jungherr): **10,000€**

2014 MZES Conference Fund for organising the *Content Analysis in the Social Sciences* Conference (co-organised with Shaun Bevan, Mona Krewel and Sebastian Adrian Popa): **10,000€**

2012 Research project funding granted by the MZES Board of Directors for the project 'Social Media and Political Mobilisation: A Comparison of the Occupation Movements in Spain, Greece and the US' **2,500€**

Conference/Workshop Papers

American Political Science Association: 2020 x 2, 2019 x 2, 2017, 2016 x 2, 2015 x 2, 2014

European Political Science Association: 2020 x 2, 2019, 2015 x 2, 2014 x 3

Digital Traces Workshop, Bremen: 2018

International Journal of Press/Politics Conference: 2018

International Communication Association: 2018 x 4

European Consortium of Political Research: 2016

International Society of Political Psychology: 2016

ECPR Joint Sessions: 2013 x 2, 2009

International Conference on the Advances in Computational Analysis of Political Text (PolTex): 2016 x 2

International Political Science Association: 2012 x 2

Political Studies Association: 2010, 2009

Invited Talks and Keynotes

- 2020 "Incivility and Political Communication: Evidence from the Demand and Supply Side". Research Lecture, Queen Mary University of London, 5 February, 2019.
- 2019 "Dynamics and Democratic Consequences of Incivility in Political Communication". Keynote Lecture, *Advances in Comparative Politics*, Cologne Centre for Comparative Politics, University of Cologne, 24-25 October, 2019
- 2018 "Big data analysis with social media: Opportunities and challenges", *DGPIUK Nachwuchstag*, Bremen September 6-8, 2018
- "The Consequences of Political Incivility: Effects, Temporal Dynamics, and Perpetrators". Invited Lecture, *Department of Political Science, Trinity College Dublin*, Dublin, March 23, 2018
- "Social Media and Democracy: Challenges and Opportunities", *GESIS Computational Social Science (CSS) Seminar*, Cologne, January 22, 2018
- 2017 "Social Media and Political Engagement: Conceptual and Empirical Challenges in the Study of Digitally-Enabled Participation", Jean Monnet Lecture Series, *European Studies Center, University of Pittsburgh*, Pittsburgh, November 6, 2017
- "Networked Solidarity in Times of Crisis: Hybrid Collective Action Dynamics and Their Consequences for Civil Society", *Stanford-LUISS Workshop: Comparative Perspectives on Digital Democracy*, Rome, April 7, 2017
- 2016 "Civil Society: A Digital Reinvention?", Ringvorlesung 2016, University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, January 14, 2016. <https://goo.gl/Hv8YDI>
- 2015 "Long-term Effects of Digital Media Use on Political Participation and Collective Action Organisation: Conceptual, Measurement, and Theory-testing Challenges and Opportunities", *Department of Politics, New York University*, 3 October, 2015.
- Invited discussant at the *Author Meets Critics* Roundtable (with Jennifer Stromer-Galley, Dave Karpf, Daniel Kreiss and Heather Evans), APSA Political Communication Section pre-conference *#Disruption: Political Communication in a Digital Age*, September 2 2015.
- "Can Digital Media build Social Capital and Strengthen Civil Society?" Talk delivered at the *Center for Civil Society Studies*, Copenhagen Business School, 20 May 2015.
- 2014 "New Media Democracy: New Directions in the Study of Political Communication". Talk delivered at the *MZES 25th Anniversary Celebration*, 14 November 2014.

Research/Teaching Awards & Nominations

- 2017 Nominated by the School of Social Sciences Students' Union as the faculty's candidate for the *2017 Universität Mannheim Lehrpreis (Mannheim University Teaching Award)*
- 2016 Winner of the 2016 American Political Science Association Information Technology & Politics Section *Best Conference Paper Award* for the paper 'A Bad Workman Blames His Tweets: The Consequences of Citizens' Uncivil Twitter Use when Interacting with Party Candidates'

Conference Organisation

Co-organiser: *The Empiricist's Challenge: Asking Meaningful Questions in Political Science in the Age of Big Data*, 23-24 October 2015, Mannheim, Germany.

International Board: *General Online Research* conference 2019.

Program committee: *e-Democracy 2015 Conference: Citizen rights in the world of the new computing paradigms*, 10-11 December 2015, Athens, Greece.

Co-organiser: *Political Context Matters: Content Analysis in the Social Sciences* Conference, October 10-11, 2014, Mannheim, Germany.

Courses Taught/Developed

CENTRE FOR MEDIA, COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION RESEARCH, UNIVERSITY OF BREMEN

- 2018-2020 [0.5cm] Introduction to Quantitative Research Design and Data Analysis (BA-level)

Quantitative Social Science Data with R (BA-level)

Computational Communication (MA-level)

Research Seminar: Social Media and Democracy (MA-level)

Introduction to Computational Communication (BA-level)

Political Communication, Social Media and Democracy (BA-level)

Research Seminar on Populism in the Digital Age (BA-level)

DEPARTMENT OF MEDIA STUDIES AND JOURNALISM, UNIVERSITY OF GRONINGEN

- 2017 Political Action in the Network Society (BA)
Analysing Media Texts (BA)
Political Culture and Cultural Politics (BA)
Studying Media in Everyday Life (BA)
Understanding Social Networks (BA)
Social Media Data Analysis (BA)
Research Seminar II: Research Design (BA)
Populist Politics in the Age of Social Media (BA)

HERTIE SCHOOL OF GOVERNANCE, EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME

- 2019 Social Media, Political Participation and Democracy, 1-day Seminar for the "Roma Initiatives" series of the [Open Society Foundation](#), September 17.
2017, 2018 [Participation and Engagement in the Digital Age](#), 3-day Seminar for the Executive Master of Public Administration, 8-20 May 2017 & 28-30 May 2018.

HERTIE SCHOOL OF GOVERNANCE, MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY

- 2016 'Political Communication & New Media: Theories, Concepts, Practices' x 2.

UNIVERSITY OF MANNHEIM, DEPARTMENT OF MEDIA & COMMUNICATION (BA LEVEL)

- 2015 'Political Communication of New Media' (Spring 2015). Taught jointly with Prof. Hartmut Wessler.

UNIVERSITY OF MANNHEIM, DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE (BA LEVEL)

- 2017 'Information Technology & Politics'.
2012-2016 'Selected Topics in Political Sociology: Politics of the Internet: Social Networks, Institutions and Engagement'.

PhD Theses Supervision

- 2019-present Soyeon Jin: Radicalization on YouTube: How Controversies Shape Citizens' Attitudes Towards Migrants

2018-present Shota Gelovani: Political Polarization and Democracy in the Social Media Era: A Comparative Study Between US, Germany, Ukraine and Georgia

Examination Committees

2020 Nikolai Gad Wøldike Sørensen (External PhD examiner, School of Geography, Politics and Sociology, Newcastle University): Revitalising Intra-Party Democracy through Digital Democratic Innovations: The Case of Danish Political Party Alternativet.

Ankit Kariryaa (PhD committee, Department of Computer Science, University of Bremen): The Dark side of UGC: A user-centric perspective on the impact of User-Generated Content.

Dr. Sigrid Kannengießer (Habilitation committee, Centre for Media, Communication and Information Research, University of Bremen): Zum Verhältnis von Medientechnologie und Geschlecht.

2019 Anne Leiser (PhD committee, Department of Political Science, Jacobs University Bremen): Spreadable Media, Citizens and Participatory Culture: Uses and Effects of Political Internet Memes.

2014 Camilo Cristancho (External PhD examiner, Department of Political Science, Autonomous University of Barcelona): Political Disagreement in Contentious Politics.

Visiting Scholar Positions/Research Stays

2014 1-month (October 13-November 13) research stay at Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic funded by the Institute of Sociology (host: Prof. Ondřej Císař) (600€)

2013 Four-month (Nov 2013 – Feb 2014) research stay at KU Leuven (Belgium) funded by the Centre of Political Research (host: Prof. Marc Hooghe) (4,800€ – 50% position)

Reviewer

[Publons profile](#)

POLITICAL SCIENCE & SOCIOLOGY JOURNALS

American Political Science Review; Journal of Politics; British Journal of Political Science; Public Opinion Quarterly; European Union Politics; Social Networks; Journal of

Elections, Public Opinion & Parties; Political Science Research and Methods; Government & Opposition; Political Studies; European Political Science Review; British Journal of Politics and International Relations; Journal of Information Technology and Politics; Social Forces; Parliamentary Affairs; Mobilization; Social Movement Studies; Problems of Post-Communism; Representation; Government Information Quarterly; Policy & Internet; International Journal of Electronic Governance

COMMUNICATION JOURNALS

Journal of Communication; Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication; Political Communication; New Media & Society; International Journal of Public Opinion Research; Mass Communication and Society; European Journal of Communication; International Journal of Communication; Information, Communication & Society; Social Media + Society; Journalism: Theory Practice and Criticism; Journalism Studies

STATISTICS, INTERDISCIPLINARY & NATURAL SCIENCES JOURNALS

EPJ Data Science; Social Science Computer Review; Quality & Quantity; PLoS ONE; Big Data & Society; Global Environmental Change; Environmental Conservation; Sage Open

REVIEWER FOR BOOK PUBLISHERS

Oxford University Press; Routledge; Palgrave Macmillan

REVIEWER FOR FOUNDATIONS AND UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

MacArthur Foundation, USA (MacArthur Fellows Programme); Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany; Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, Germany; Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes, Germany, Swiss National Science Foundation, Switzerland, University of Vienna, Austria.

Memberships in Professional Associations

American Political Science Association (APSA), International Communication Association (ICA), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Publizistik- und Kommunikationswissenschaft (DGPK), Deutsche Vereinigung für Politische Wissenschaft (DVPW)

Professional Activities

CURRENT

Book reviews Editor, *International Journal of Press/Politics*

Journal Board Member, *Politics* (Sage)

Member of the Network of European Political Communication Scholars ([NEPOCS](#))

Member of [CSMaP-Global](#), Global Institute for Advanced Study/Social Media and Political Participation Laboratory, *New York University*

PAST

Chair of the *American Political Science Association Information Technology and Politics Section* award committee for 2017

Member of the *American Political Science Association Information Technology and Politics Section* award committee for 2016

Media/Public Engagement

ARTICLES IN THE MEDIA AND MEDIA COVERAGE

- 2020 ‘[What Drives Toxicity on Twitter?](#)’, *LiveMint*, Thursday 5 March
- 2019 ‘[Filterblasen: Die Debatte ist sehr übertrieben](#)’, *Weser Kurier*, Saturday 24 August
- ‘[Young people, digital media, and participation in civic and political life](#)’, *London School of Economics: Parenting for Digital Future Blog*, Wednesday 29 May
- 2018 ‘[Lass dich nicht trollen](#)’, *Weser Kurier*, Thursday 9 November
- ‘[The Revolution will be Tweeted?](#)’, *U.S. News*, Wednesday 3 January
- 2017 ‘[This explains how social media can both weaken – and strengthen – democracy](#)’, *The Washington Post*, Wednesday 6 December
- 2016 ‘[Warum Trolle nicht nur nerven, sondern gefährlich sind](#)’, *Handelsblatt*, Wednesday 16 November
- ‘[Twitter trolls are actually hurting democracy](#)’, *The Washington Post*, Friday 5 November
- 2015 ‘[All the News That’s Fit to Like](#)’, *Slate*, Monday 11 May.
- ‘Griechenland ist arm - vor allem an Vertrauen’, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*,

Wednesday 11 March, p.17

‘For social movements, the online world replicates traditional offline structures and networks of social capital’, *London School of Economics (LSE) Blog*, 10 March.

2013 ‘Why the Future of Greece Lies in the Rise of a New Civil Society and Education’, *Opendemocracy*, 14 January.

‘Reinstating Trust in the Greek Psyche’, *Opendemocracy*, 27 April.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

2012 ‘Networks of Action and Social Capital’, *TEDx Athens*, December 24, Athens, Greece. (Available on YouTube with English subtitles).

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