

# Visions in Methodology 2026

Host: Asya Magazinnik

Hertie School

Friedrichstrasse 180, Berlin 10117

## Thursday, May 28

**12:30 – 2:30 PM: Registration Open**

**2:30 – 2:45 PM: Opening Remarks (Forum)**

Asya Magazinnik (Organizer of VIM 2026) and Emily Hencken Ritter (VIM President)

**3:00 – 4:30 PM: Research Session 1**

### **Panel A: Social Media (Forum)**

Isolde Hegemann (London School of Economics and Political Science)

*Trumped by AI: Effects of Fact-Checking Strategies on Republican Engagement with Co-Partisan Political Misinformation Online*

Erin York (Vanderbilt University)

*Unexpected Voices: How Cultural Agents Reshape Political Communication*

Laura Bronner (ETH Zürich)

*Algorithmic Pre-Moderation Reduces Toxicity in Online Comments by Changing What Users Write*

**Discussant:** Simon Munzert (Hertie School)

### **Panel B: Geospatial Analysis & Local Politics (Room 2.32)**

Charlotte Kuberka (London School of Economics and Political Science)

*Beyond Redistribution: How Material, Political, and Symbolic Inclusion Shape Support for Compensation Policies Among Rural Residents in Germany*

Stephanie Zonszein (UC Berkeley)

*Niches and Vacuums: Field Experiments on Community Media and Latino Political Engagement*

Asli Ceren Cinar (Trinity College Dublin)

*Identity Claims in Political Speech*

**Discussant:** Elisa Wirsching (London School of Economics and Political Science)

**4:30 – 4:45 PM: Coffee Break**

**4:45 – 6:00 PM: Keynote: Adeline Lo (University of Wisconsin-Madison) (Forum)**

## **Friday, May 29**

**8:00 – 9:00 AM: Breakfast**

**9:00 – 10:30 AM: Research Session 2**

### **Panel A: Experimental Design (Forum)**

Burcu Kolcak (Princeton University)

*An Iterative Conjoint Framework for Studying Political Judgment*

Alessandra Stampi-Bombelli (University of Zurich)

*Targeted Outreach and Citizenship Take-Up: Experimental Evidence from a Two-Phase Field Experiment in Switzerland*

Molly Offer-Westort (University of Chicago)

*Explore-Confirm Designs for Testing Intervention Families*

**Discussant:** Drew Dimmery (Hertie School)

### **Panel B: Formal Theory + Legislative Politics (Room 2.32)**

Yu Mei (University of Oslo)

*The Strategic Value of Public Intelligence*

Alice Brocheux (University of Rochester)

*Strategic Behavior and the Limits of Algorithmic Gerrymandering Detection*

Milena Ang (Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona)

*Corrupt Leaders, Undisciplined Parties? How Scandals Change Party Discipline*

Meray Maddah (University of Konstanz)

*Diverted Agendas: How Non-Democracies Orient Agenda Setting in International Parliamentary Institutions*

**Discussant:** Korhan Kocak (IE University)

**10:45 – 12:15 PM: Research Session 3**

### **Panel A: Causal Inference (Forum)**

Joohe Jeong (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

*Stimuli Augmentation for Internal and External Validity in Experiments with Latent Treatments*

Ekin Dursun (Yale University)

*An Instrumental Variables Approach for More Robust Emotion Experiments*

Myla Burton (University of Illinois)

*Null Worlds: Rethinking Reference Distributions*

Shiyao Liu (Peking University)

*To Impute or Not? A Causal Diagram Perspective*

**Discussant:** Macartan Humphreys (WZB)

**Panel B: Applied Survey Research (Room 2.32)**

Linette Lim (University College Dublin)

*Citizens as Boundary Enforcers: Propaganda Framing and Decentralized Authoritarian Control*

Amanda Weiss (Cornell University)

*Welcome to the Dark Side: Five Experiments Testing the Effects of Negative Content Exposure in Surveys*

Jennifer Oser (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)

*Meaningful Latent Class Analysis: Essential Statistical Frameworks and Best Practices for the Applied Researcher*

**Discussant:** Oliver Lang (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

**12:30 – 2:30 PM: Lunch and Poster Session (Forum)**

**2:30 – 4:00 PM: Research Session 4**

**Panel A: Machine Learning for Conflict Research (Forum)**

Melanie Sauter (University of Mannheim)

*Protecting Civilians in Inter-Communal Conflict Through Remote Sensing of Climate Impacts*

Zoe Sigman (Hertie School)

*Measuring the Hidden Population of Migrant Deaths on the United States-Mexico Border: A Multiple Systems Estimation Approach*

Sara Kallis (University of Zurich)

*Measuring What We Don't Know: Uncertainty Quantification for Human Rights Text Data*

**Discussant:** Julian Wucherpfennig (Hertie School)

**Panel B: Network Analysis (Room 2.32)**

Yinxuan Wang (New York University)

*MuLTI: A Framework for Measuring Latent Ties from Rich but Noisy Observational Data*

Julia Leschke (University College London)

*Spatial Exposure to Out-Groups Revisited: How Context and Measurement of Exposure to Refugees can Explain Radical Right Voting*

Jenn Larson (Vanderbilt University)

*Respondents Don't Lead i.i.d. Lives*

**Discussant:** Lena Mangold (Center for Critical Computational Studies, Goethe University Frankfurt)

**4:00 – 4:45 PM: Coffee Break**

**4:45 – 6:00 PM: Keynote: Tara Slough (New York University) (Forum)**

**7:30 – 10:00 pm: Dinner**

3 Schwestern

Mariannenplatz 2, 10997 Berlin

**Saturday, May 30**

**8:00 – 9:00 AM: Breakfast**

**9:00 – 10:30 AM: Research Session 5**

**Panel A: Generative AI + Large Language Models (Forum)**

Nikolina Filiposki (Technical University of Munich)

*PolicyLink: A Guideline-Grounded Retrieval Framework for Studying Content Moderation Decisions*

Christine Sheldon (University of Birmingham)

*Deliberation in Silico: Validating LLM Multi-Agent Simulation Against Verbatim Council Records*

Semra Sevi (University of Toronto)

*Can Conversational AI Influence Confidence in Pre-Existing Political Beliefs?*

**Discussant:** Melissa Sands (London School of Economics and Political Science)

**10:45 AM – 11:45 AM: Professionalization Panel (Forum)**

**Please submit your questions for our panelists [here](#).**

Anita Gohdes (Professor of International and Cyber Security, Hertie School)

Adeline Lo (Associate Professor, Department of Political Science/Department of Statistics, University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Emily Hencken Ritter (Associate Professor of Political Science, Vanderbilt University)

Melissa Sands (Assistant Professor of Politics and Data Science, Department of Government, LSE)

Elisa Wirsching (Assistant Professor, Department of Government, LSE)

**12:00 PM – 1:00 PM: Lunch & Discussion About the Future of VIM (Forum)**

**1:00 PM – 1:15 PM: Presentation of Poster Prize & Closing Remarks (Forum)**

## Poster Presentations

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Poster</i>
Karina Junqueira de Almeida	Puc-Rio	Beyond Technical Neutrality: Mapping Economic and Social Influences in Quality Infrastructure
Susan Smelcer	Wake Forest University	When Agents Escape: Simulating the Inversion of Legislative Control over the Judiciary
Maelle Delouis-Jost	University of Zurich, Department of Sociology	The Army of Unity: Conscription and the Making of Belonging in Reunified Germany
Iasmin Goes	Central European University	You Should (Probably) Not Split Your Sample
Hamna Shakeel	IBA, Karachi	Justice in the Age of Social Media: A Study of Digital Activism on Twitter and Facebook
Hannah Rajski	Mannheim Centre for European Social Research	The Link Between Poll Recall and Citizens' Expectations About Election Outcomes: An Analysis of the 2025 German Federal Election
Humeyra Biricik	University of Oxford	Executive Speeches as an Early-Warning Indicator of Democratic Backsliding
Mara Weber	LSE	Elite Rhetoric and Persistent Stigmatization
Mariana V. Ramirez Bustamante	Charles University	Supporting Out of Fear?: Lessons from a Failed Experiment on Electoral Support for Narco-linked Candidates in Peru
Menglin (Miley) Liu	The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen	An Open-Ended Pandemic? Political and Behavioral Divisions During the Pandemic
Meret Stephan	European University Institute	The Effect of Pro-Migration Protests on Voting Behavior and Political Attitudes

Nikolina Klatt	SCRIPTS Freie Universität Berlin	Who Governs Matters: Anti-Pluralism, Regime Change, and Abortion Law
Nora Chirikure	WZB (Berlin Social Science Center)	Strengthening Inclusive Local Governance and Vertical Social Cohesion in Lebanon
Rebecca Kittel	Free University of Berlin and WZB	Only Hot Air? National Parliamentary Discourse and Its Effect on Public Opinion on the European Union
Johanna Reyes Ortega	UC Berkeley	Between Elite Strategy and Mass Mobilization: Women's Political Empowerment in Anti-Colonial Social Revolutions
Sara Merner	J-PAL Europe	Empowering Women and Girls Against Technologically-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV) in Myanmar
Sina Smid	Bocconi University	The Role of Gender in Attitudes Toward Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Germany
Tatiana Paula da Cruz	UW-Madison	Is It All About Corruption? Unbundling Anti-Elite and Anti-Corruption Appeals in Populist Rhetoric
Carla Vitoria Oliveira Barbosa	University of São Paulo	Brazilian Women Human Rights Defenders at the Forefront of Environmental Protection
Maud Bachelet	University of Geneva	How Can We Explain Responsibility-Sharing Contributions in European Migration Governance