

DeZIM-Workshop Series

Social Science Meets Digital Data: Methods of Computational Social Science

25. May 2023, 9:15 am – 16:30 pm in Mannheim

Computational Social Science describes the application of computational methods in social science research. The digital age has partially reorganized how social interactions work and via which mediums they take place. Increased data availability and storage, and computational power have also led to a relatively new discussion on the adequate analysis of complex and multifaceted digital trace data, like GPS location data or textual data. These two developments have led to the recognition that Computational Social Science is a viable research approach. Our goal is to introduce the DeZIM-Forschungsgemeinschaft to methods for collecting and analyzing digital trace data to gain new insights into discrimination, migration and integration processes.

This workshop will cover the following topics:

- Introduction to concepts, measurements, and topics related to Computational Social Science
- Application of computational methods to research questions in the Social Sciences
- Discussion of existing research by workshop participants

Our workshop will feature three renowned experts in the field of Computational Social Science:

- **Prof. Dr. Theresa Gessler** is an Assistant Professor of Comparative Politics at the European University Viadrina. Her academic work focuses on digital politics, democracy and immigration through the framework of party politics. Methodologically, she has specialized in text-as-data.
- **Dr. Alexander Wenz** is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the MZES Data and Methods Unit (DMU). His research interests focus on survey methodology, with a particular emphasis on mobile web surveys, passive measurement with smartphone apps, and wearable sensors.
- **Dr. Ruben Bach** is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the MZES Data and Methods Unit (DMU). He focuses on computational methods that contribute to causal inference and ensure data quality. Currently, he is working on the relationship between alternative news media consumption and political polarization.

We welcome submissions from early-career researchers, who have used or plan to use computational methods in their academic work. The language format of this workshop is *English*, and about 20 researchers will be able to participate. **We will provide stipends to cover travel expenses.** There are two ways to participate: delivering a 10-minute presentation or attending without any presentation.

To participate in our workshop, we kindly request you to fill out our registration form, which can be accessed at <https://tinyurl.com/6xvzarkm>. Applications are accepted until April 23rd. Notifications of acceptance will be sent out by April 26th.

If you want to present your work at our workshop, please submit a brief (300 words or less) description of your research question, methodology, and why you chose this specific methodological approach in our registration form. Note that abstract submissions are only necessary for those who are planning to present their academic work.

This workshop is organized by the DeZIM-Forschungsgemeinschaft and the Data and Methods Unit (DMU) at the MZES. For further questions, please contact: dillhoefer@uni-mannheim.de