

# Sebastian Adrian Popa

## Contact details

Work Address: University Mannheim, MZES, A5, 6, Building A, Room: 243, 68159, Mannheim

Postal Address: University Mannheim, MZES, 68131 Mannheim, Germany

Phone: +49-621-181-284

E-mail: [Sebastian.Popa@mzes.uni-mannheim.de](mailto:Sebastian.Popa@mzes.uni-mannheim.de)

## Research interests

Electoral behavior, comparative politics, political knowledge, political attitude formation.

## Current Position

Researcher, Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES), University of Mannheim, 2012 - present.

## Education

PhD, Political Science (*Magna Cum Laude*), Central European University, October 2015.

MA, Political Science (*with Distinction*), Central European University, Hungary, June 2009.

BA, Political Science, Babes–Bolyai University, Romania, June 2008.

## Publications

### *Peer-reviewed journal articles*

Popa, Sebastian Adrian and Delia Dumitrescu. 2015. "National but European? Visual manifestations of Europe in national parties' Euromanifestos since 1979." *Party Politics*. Early view: <http://ppq.sagepub.com/content/early/2015/10/13/1354068815610963>.

Schmitt, Hermann, Sara B. Hobolt, and Sebastian Adrian Popa. 2015. "Does Personalization Increase Turnout? Spitzenkandidaten in the 2014 European Parliament Elections." *European Union Politics* 16(3): 347–68.

Popa, Sebastian Adrian. 2015. "Political sophistication in Central and Eastern Europe: How can parties help?" *Party Politics* 21 (3): 440-455.

Hannagan, Rebecca J., Levente Littvay, and Sebastian Adrian Popa. 2014. "Theorizing Sex Differences in Political Knowledge: Insights from a Twin Study." *Politics & Gender* 10(1): 89–114.

Littvay, Levente, Sebastian Adrian Popa, and Zoltán Fazekas. 2013. "Validity of Survey Response Propensity Indicators: A Behavior Genetics Approach." *Social Science Quarterly* 94(2): 569–89.

### *Book chapters*

Schnaudt, Christian, Stefanie Walter, and Sebastian Adrian Popa. Forthcoming 2016. "Sub-National and National Territorial Identification." In *European Identity in the Context of National Identity: Questions of Identity in 16 European Countries on the Wake of the Financial Crisis 2007 and 2009*, eds. Bettina Westle and Paolo Segatti. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Toka, Gabor, and Sebastian Adrian Popa. 2013. "Hungary." In *The Handbook of Political Change in Eastern Europe, Third Edition*, eds. Sten Berglund, Joakim Ekman, Kevin Deegan-Krause, and Terje Knutsen. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Popa, Sebastian Adrian and Paul Weith. 2010. Informarea politică a românilor: Unde contează și de ce? Un studiu comparativ al alegerilor parlamentare și europarlamentare (Translation: Political

Knowledge Among Romanians: Where Does it Matter and Why? A Comparative Study of Parliamentary and Euro-Parliamentary Elections). In *Alegeri pentru parlamentul European*. (Translation: *Elections for the European Parliament*), eds. Mircea Comsa, Andrei Gheorghită, Claudiu Daniel Tufis). Bucharest: POLIROM, pp. 171-201.

#### *Under review*

Popa, Sebastian Adrian, Yannis Theocharis, and Christian Schnaudt. "From Seeing the Writing on the Wall, to Getting Together for a Bowl: Direct and Compensating Effects of Facebook Use on Offline Associational Membership". *R&R Journal of Information Technology and Politics*.

Nulty, Paul, Yannis Theocharis, Sebastian Adrian Popa, Olivier Parnet and Kenneth Benoit. "Social Media and Political Communication in the 2014 Elections to the European Parliament." *Electoral Studies*.

Rohrschneider, Robert, Hermann Schmitt and Sebastian Adrian Popa. "Polarizing Without Politicizing: The Effect of Lead Candidates' Campaigns on Perceptions of the EU Democracy". *Electoral Studies*.

Delia Dumitrescu and Popa, Sebastian Adrian. "How the European Flag Helps Shape Perceptions about Parties' European Identity". *American Behavioral Scientist*.

#### *In progress*

Popa, Sebastian Adrian, Pablo Barberá and Hermann Schmitt. Prospects of Ideological Realignment(s) in the 2014 EP elections? Analyzing the Common Multidimensional Political Space for Voters, Parties, and Legislators in Europe.

Theocharis, Yannis, Pablo Barberá, Zoltán Fazekas and Sebastian Adrian Popa. A Bad Workman Blames His Tweets. The Consequences of Citizens' Uncivil Twitter Use when Interacting with Party Candidates.

Fazekas, Zoltán, Sebastian Adrian Popa, Hermann Schmitt, Pablo Barberá and Yannis Theochari. When to talk about Europe? Selective Europeanization of the 2014 EP elections.

#### *Data*

Schmitt, Hermann; Sara B. Hobolt, Sebastian Adrian Popa, Eftichia Teperoglou and European Parliament, Directorate-General for Communication, Public Monitoring Unit. 2015. *European Parliament Election Study 2014, Voter Study, First Post-Election Survey*. GESIS Data Archive, Cologne. ZA5160 Data file Version 2.2.0, doi:10.4232/1.12318.

Schmitt, Hermann, Sebastian Adrian Popa and Felix Devinger. 2015. *European Parliament Election Study 2014, Voter Study, Second Post-Election Survey*. GESIS Data Archive, Cologne. ZA5161 Data file Version 1.0.0, doi:10.4232/1.5161.

Braun, Daniela, Hermann Schmitt, Andreas Wüst, Sebastian Adrian Popa; Slava Mikhaylov and Felix Devinger. 2015. *European Parliament Election Study 1979-2009, Manifesto Study*. GESIS Data Archive, Cologne. ZA5102 Data file Version 1.0.0, doi:10.4232/1.5102.

## **Teaching experience**

Lecturer, Data Analysis for Political Scientists Seminar (BA level), University of Mannheim, Spring 2016.

Teaching Assistant, Advanced Topics in Comparative Politics and Political Economy (MA level, Instructor Herbert Kitschelt), Central European University, Winter 2011.

Teaching Assistant for Multivariate Statistics (MA level, Instructor Tamas Rudas), Central European University, Winter 2011.

Teaching Assistant, Analyzing People (MA level, Instructor Levente Littvay), Central European University, Fall 2010.

Teaching Assistant, Analyzing Countries (MA level, Instructor Levente Littvay), Central European University, Fall 2010.

## **Academic activities**

### *External Grants Secured*

Co-Investigator of the European Parliament Election Study 2014, Voter Study (Principal Investigator Hermann Schmitt). The project was carried out based on a grant awarded by a consortium of five private foundations led by the Volkswagen-Stiftung (Hannover) and including in addition, the Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian (Lisboa), the Mercator Stiftung (Duisburg), and the Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (Stockholm) (550,000 EUR).

Fritz-Thyssen-Stiftung. To organize the “Final Conference of the European Election Study 2014” (12,000 EUR).

International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP). To organize the “Political Psychology Networking Conference for the Post-Communist Region” to popularize ISPP and its journal Political Psychology, 2011 (5,000 USD).

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Travel grant for participating at the 111th APSA Annual Meeting, 2015 (1,260 EUR).

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Travel grant for participating at the 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of MPSA, 2013 (1,026 EUR).

### *Competitive Internal Grants Secured*

CEU Academic Events Fund co-funding for the Political Psychology Networking Conference for the Post-Communist Region, 2011 (5,570 EUR).

MZES conference fund for the Content Analysis in the Social Sciences Conference, 2014 (10,000 EUR).

MZES conference fund for the Social Media Communication Workshop, 2014 (2,000 EUR).

### *Research Project Membership*

Researcher, EUENGAGE (funded by the Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme), Work Package 3 (Work-package leader Hermann Schmitt).

Co-Investigator of the European Parliament Election Study 2014, Voter Study (Principal Investigator Hermann Schmitt).

Co-Investigator of the European Parliament Election Study 2014, Panel Study (Principal Investigator Hermann Schmitt).

Co-Investigator of the European Parliament Election Study 2014, Social Media Study (Principal Investigator Hermann Schmitt). In collaboration with: LSE (Kenneth Benoit); New York University (Pablo Barberá), University of Mannheim (Yannis Theocharis); University of Southern Denmark (Zoltan Fazekas); TNS Europe. The proposal currently under development for submission to external funding sources.

How the European Flag Helps Shape Perceptions about Parties' European Identity. Survey experiment to be carried in collaboration with the Laboratory of Opinion Research, Goteborg, Sweden.

### *Research group membership*

European Parliament Election Study 2019 Working Group.  
Treasurer of the European Election Studies Association (EES-A), 2013 – present.  
The True European Voter: A Strategy for Analysing the Prospects of European Electoral  
Democracy that includes the West, the South and the East of the Continent, COST Action  
IS0806 (Data Group WG2), 2009-present.  
Member of the Political Behavior Research Group, Central European University, 2009 –present.  
President of the Political Behavior Research Group, Central European University, 2011.

#### *Event Organization*

Final Conference of the European Election Study 2014, November 6-8, 2015, Mannheim, Germany  
(with Hermann Schmitt and Sara B. Hobolt).  
Political Context Matters: Content Analysis in the Social Sciences Conference, October 10-11, 2014,  
Mannheim, Germany (with Shaun Bevan, Mona Krewel and Yannis Theocharis).  
Social Media Communication Workshop, March 28-29, 201, Mannheim, Germany (with Hermann  
Schmitt).  
International Society of Political Psychology Regional Network Conference, November 2011,  
Budapest, Hungary.

#### *Service*

Reviewer for *Party Politics*, *Electoral Studies*, *European Union Politics*, *Journal of Elections*, *Public Opinion &  
Parties*, *Journal of Information Technology and Politics*.

### **Honors and awards**

WOVEN Publish Prize for outstanding contributions concerning gender and diversity awarded by  
the Senate Commission for Equal Opportunities of the University of Mannheim for the  
article “Theorizing Sex Differences in Political Knowledge: Insights from a Twin Study”  
published in *Politics & Gender* 10 (1): 89-114, 2014 (500 EUR).  
Award for Award for Advanced Doctoral Students, granted by the Central European University  
(800 EUR).  
Best Teaching Assistant Award, awarded by the Political Science Department at Central European  
University, 2011.  
PhD Scholarship awarded Central European University (36 months).  
MA Scholarship awarded Central European University (10 months).

### **Invited Talks**

Trends in European Parliament Elections, Turnout and Behavior , European Ideas  
Network/Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung seminar on "The European Electorate", Brussels,  
February 2014.

### **Conference participation**

#### *2015*

Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, San Francisco.  
Annual General Conference of the European Political Science Association, Vienna.  
Annual Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Conference, Chicago.

#### *2014*

ECPR General Conference, Glasgow.

Annual General Conference of the European Political Science Association, Edinburgh.  
Annual Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Conference, Chicago.

*2013*

6th Management Committee and Working Groups Meetings, COST Action IS0806, Dublin.  
Annual Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Conference, Chicago.  
ECPR Joint Sessions of Workshops, Mainz.

*2012*

ELECDEM Final Conference, Florence.  
Annual Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Conference, Chicago.

*2011*

Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Seattle.  
Annual General Conference of the European Political Science Association, Dublin.  
Annual Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Conference, Chicago.

*2010*

PIREDEU Final User Community Conference “Auditing Electoral Democracy in the European Union”, Brussels.  
ECPR Joint Session of Workshops, Munster.

### **Additional training**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Winter School on Methodological Issues in Comparative Electoral Analysis, an Activity of COST Action ‘The True European Voter’ (IS0806), University of Trento, Trento, Italy, 21-24 February 2013,
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Winter School on Methodological Issues in Comparative Electoral Analysis, an Activity of COST Action ‘The True European Voter’ (IS0806), LUISS University, Rome, Italy 7-10 February, 2011
- 44th Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis: 2011, Hierarchical Models Class.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Winter School on Methodological Issues in Comparative Electoral Analysis, an Activity of COST Action ‘The True European Voter’ (IS0806), Warsaw Poland, 7-10 February, 2011
- ELECDEM (Training Network in Electoral Democracy) Workshop in Electoral Survey Design, 30 April - 4 May 2010, Budapest, Hungary.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Winter School on Methodological Issues in Comparative Electoral Analysis, an Activity of COST Action ‘The True European Voter’ (IS0806), Methods and Data Institute, School of Politics and International Relations, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK, 8-11 March, 2010.

### **Computer Skills**

R, SPSS, Mplus, Stata, HLM

### **Languages**

Romanian (mother tongue), English (fluent), Hungarian (beginner)