Research Interests:

**Political Sociology**
1. Political attitudes
2. Representation in a transnational system
3. Impact of the crisis
4. Environment
5. Radicalisation and Protest

My research interests on political sociology can be neatly arranged around the question of conflict in European democracies. I work either on case studies or comparatively to identify how citizens navigate the political arena, what influences their attitudes, choices, and behaviours. Specifically I work on questions of political dimensionality in the European political space, the question of cleavages and more temporary divisions, and how they have been influenced by the recent European crises. Political parties are very important for representation of citizens. My work focuses on the role of transnational party groups as important agents for the quality of representation in the EU system.

**Research Data Management**

1. Data Sharing Behaviour
2. Impact of Research Data Infrastructures
3. Best Practices for Data Handling

My secondary research interest is data management that ties well together with a potential professional path for sociologists. In my research I identify factors that influence positively and negatively data sharing behaviour of individual researchers. I also work closely with administrative data produced by infrastructures, capturing the impact of infrastructures on science. I also write in handbooks for the best practices when dealing with data.

Projects:


The project SoliKris (Change through Crisis? Solidarity and desolidarization in Germany and Europe) Project, which I co-ordinate as the sole PI is funded by the BMBF. Together with WZB (Prof. Weßels and Dr. Giebler) and Uni Heidelberg (Chair: Prof. Tosun) we capture the impact of the crisis on political behaviour, trust and political attitudes.

The project is based on two main assumptions: Frist, despite the lack of a causal connection between the various crises, there is a significant overlap and reinforcement of their effects and influence on
the society, politics, and the behaviour of European states to each other. Second, all these crisis have one thing in common. They have influenced the feeling of solidarity within the society as it presents itself among individuals, social groups and to an extreme form also European states. The drop of solidarity could lead to an extreme desolidarisation. However in some cases the crises lead to increasing solidarity. This is a question that needs to be treated empirically. The central research question of Solikris is: What are positive and negative effects on solidarity within a society and between European countries that have brought the various crises since 2006? This question allows us to identify positive and negative influences and the conditions and circumstances under which they were made possible.

We have on two lines of scientific inquiry: First, it focuses on political and democratic solidarity. This is mainly understood as an acceptance of political legitimacy of the regime and the confidence in political institutions of liberal democracy. Second, it shifts the focus on the solidarity among different societal groups. Specifically we look at the tensions created by the influx of refugees in host countries, and the lack of equal distribution of resources among generations. We are interested at how young people are influenced by their unfair access to the job market and their disproportionate hit by crisis effects. We use existing data, we link them and harmonise them in order to create comparative, longitudinal, and multi-level datasets that allow us the analysis for before and during the crisis capturing different points in time. At the same time we contribute to scientific innovation by testing new instruments in survey experiments. Our four content focused work packages are supported by one methodological and one dissemination work package. The dissemination is planned to expand beyond academia and capture politicians and NGOs.

DominoES: https://www.pik-potsdam.de/research/projects/activities/dominoes/dominoes

Together with Christina Eder (GESIS), we tackle the societal implications of these climate tipping points, looking at public opinion and policy making. The mapping out of changes in opinion and policy and potential social tipping points in response to climate change will use diverse methods of data gathering and state-of-the-art data analysis. The consideration of domino effects of tipping points between climate and social systems is very innovative and entering previously uncharted territory. The project lead is at PIK, where natural scientists work on data on actual climate change: Prof. Ricarda Winkelmann, Jonathan Donges and Jobst Heitzig

This project is funded by the Leibniz Association.