

Curriculum Vitae

Prof. Dr. habil. Florian Toepfl

Chair of Political Communication, University of Passau, Germany
Principal Investigator, ERC Consolidator Project RUSINFORM

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Education

07/2012-05/2017	Habilitation (postdoctoral thesis) in Communication Science , LMU Munich, Germany Title: Mediating Semi-Authoritarianism. The Power of the Internet in Russia
11/2005-07/2009	Ph.D. in Political Sciences , University of Passau, Germany Title: Media Systems in Transition. How Do Pluralistic Media Systems Emerge – and Why Not?
05/1998-05/2005	Diploma (equivalent to BA plus Master) in International Business and Eastern European Cultural Studies at Passau University, Germany. Languages: Russian, Czech, Italian
03/2001 - 08/2001	Semester Abroad at Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic
09/2000 - 02/2001	Semester Abroad at Università Degli Studi di Firenze, Florence, Italy

Professional Experience

Since 10/2020	Professor of Political Communication Chair of Political Communication with a Focus on Eastern Europe and the Post-Soviet Region, University of Passau
Since 11/2019	Principal Investigator, ERC Consolidator Project RUSINFORM University of Passau, Germany

	<p>Project title: The Consequences of the Internet for Russia's Informational Influence Abroad</p> <p>Web: www.rusinform.uni-passau.de/en</p>
10/2014-10/2019	<p>Emmy Noether Junior Research Group Leader Institute for Media and Communication Studies, Free University of Berlin</p> <p>Project title: Mediating (Semi-)Authoritarianism: The Power of the Internet in the Post-Soviet World</p>
10/2017-03/2018	<p>Substitute Full Professor (W3 Vertretungsprofessor) Department of Communication Science and Media Research, LMU Munich, Germany</p>
10/2012-09/2014	<p>Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellow Department of Media and Communications, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK</p> <p>Project title: Mediating Semi-Authoritarianism – The Power of the Internet in Russia (MESAPORUS)</p>
02/2011-09/2012	<p>Postdoctoral Researcher and Lecturer at the Department of Communication Science and Media Research, LMU Munich, Germany</p>
09/2009-05/2010	<p>Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Harriman Institute for Russian, Eurasian, and Eastern European Studies, Columbia University, New York, USA</p>
04/2009-08/2009	<p>Lecturer (Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter) at the Geschwister Scholl Institute of Political Science, LMU University Munich, Germany</p>
1998-2003	<p>Journalistic Education as a student fellow of the Dr.-Hans-Kapfing-er-Foundation (see www.institut-journalisten.de). 24 months of journalistic training during semester breaks at the offices of: the Passauer Neue Presse (Passau, Germany), German Television ZDF (London, UK), the News Magazine Focus (Munich, Germany), the Sueddeutsche Zeitung Magazine (Munich, Germany), the Newswire dpa (Rome, Italy), and the Springer Foreign News Service (London, UK)</p>
1996-1997	<p>Alternative Service at Lebenshilfe Grafenau e.V., Day Care Institution for Handicapped Persons, Germany</p>

Visiting Fellowships and Affiliations

09/2011	One-month Visiting Research Fellowship in the Sociology Department at the Higher School of Economics, St. Petersburg, Russia
08/2010-10/2010	Three-month Visiting Research Fellowship at the Aleksanteri Institute for Russian and Eastern European Studies, Helsinki, Finland

Third-Party Funding

Successful applications (totaling approximately 3.3 million Euro)

2019-2025	Five-year ERC Consolidator Grant awarded by the European Research Council (1.999.654 Euro) Project title: The Consequences of the Internet for Russia's Informational Influence Abroad (RUSINFORM)
2014-2022	Emmy Noether Grant for a junior research group awarded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). (917.692 Euro) Project title: Mediating Semi-Authoritarianism. The Power of the Internet in the post-Soviet World
2012-2014	Two-year Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowship awarded by the European Commission. (209.630 Euro) Project title: Mediating Semi-Authoritarianism. The Power of the Internet in Russia
2011	One-year research fellowship awarded by the Thyssen Foundation, Cologne, Germany. (23.817 Euro) Project title: The Power of the Internet in Russia
2010	Three-month research fellowship awarded by the Aleksanteri Institute for Russian and Eastern European Studies, Helsinki, Finland. (6.900 Euro)
2009/2010	Nine-month postdoctoral fellowship awarded by the Harriman Institute, Columbia University, New York, USA. (40.000 \$)
2005-2008	2½ -year PhD fellowship awarded by the Foundation of the German Economy. (33.600 Euro)

Professional Activities

Member of the Editorial Board	International Journal of Communication (IJoC)
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Reviewer for Journals	Journal of Communication, New Media & Society, Information, Communication & Society, Political Communication, Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication, International Journal of Communication, International Journal of Press/Politics, Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media, Policy & Internet, Journal of Information Technology & Politics, Journalism Studies, Digital Journalism, East European Politics & Societies and Cultures, Europe-Asia Studies, Environmental Communication, Constellations, Studies in Communication Media (SC M), Media & Communication, Democratization, Innovation: The European Journal of Social Science Research, Frontiers in Political Science, Harvard Kennedy School Misinformation Review, Political Research Exchange
Reviewer for Associations & Funding Agencies	European Research Council (ERC), German Research Foundation (DFG), Economic and Social Research Council, UK (ESRC), German Communication Association (DGPUK), Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, International Communication Association (ICA), International Association for Media and Communication (IAMCR)
Outreach	Interviews with major German and English language media outlets (tagesschau.de, DW-world.de, Die Welt, taz.de), participation in roundtables

Conferences and Workshops Organized

2020-21	Seminar series featuring monthly events on “Political Communication in Russia, Eastern Europe and Eurasia (REEE)”
2019	Lessons learned and lectures to give: Zum Stand und zur Zukunft internationaler Kommunikationsforschung außerhalb der westlichen Welt in Deutschland Three-day workshop inviting German scholars of international communication to come together and discuss the future of their field. Organized in co-operation with Prof. Carola Richter. Freie Universität Berlin, 25.-27. September, Berlin
2019	Theorizing Publics under Authoritarian Rule Three-day workshop bringing together leading theorists of the public sphere and established scholars of authoritarian media, Freie Universität Berlin, 17-19 June, Berlin
2017	The Consequences of the Internet for Authoritarian Politics: Comparative Perspectives One-day Preconference to the annual conference of the International Communication Association (ICA), 25 May, San Diego, USA

2015	Tweeting the War: Social Media and War Coverage in the Ukrainian Conflict Four-day conference featuring academics and practitioners, 17-20 November, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
2015	Tweeting the War: Social Media and War Coverage in the Ukrainian Conflict Three-Day Workshop featuring academics and practitioners, 5-7 October, Kiev, Ukraine
2010	The Etiology and Ecology of Post-Soviet Communication Three-day conference at the Harriman Institute for Russian Studies, 7-9 May, Columbia University, New York

Teaching & Supervision

Language Skills

German	Native	English	fluent
Russian	very good	Italian	very good
Czech	reading skills	Spanish	reading skills
French	reading skills	Latin	

Experience

Postdoctoral level	2015-2019: Supervision of one postdoctoral researcher (Anna Litvinenko, member of my Emmy Noether research group). Co-authored four publications, of which three have been accepted at peer-reviewed journals to date. Since 2019: Member of the habilitation committee of Philip Baugut, LMU University Munich.
PhD level	Since 2019: supervising six PhD students at the University of Passau 2015-2019: Supervision of one doctoral candidate (Andrei Zavadski, member of my Emmy Noether research group), who successfully defended his thesis in January 2020, and one postdoctoral researchers. 2018-2022: Member of the PhD advisory committee of Olga Pasitelska, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.
Postgraduate level	2024: Automated Data Analysis With R 2023/24: Automated Data Collection With R. 2023: Automated Data Analysis With R

	2022/23: Automated Data Collection With R.
	2022: Automated Data Analysis With R
	2021/22: Automated Data Collection With R.
	2021: Automated Content Analysis With Python.
	2020/21: Postgraduate Seminar: Automatische Sammlung von Daten aus Online-Öffentlichkeiten (Automated Data Collection from Online Publics).
	2019: Postgraduate seminar: Comparing Authoritarian Publics. FU Berlin.
	2017/18: Postgraduate seminar (4h / week): Die Manipulation öffentlicher Meinung im Netz: Astroturfing als Problem. LMU Munich.
	2016/17: Postgraduate seminar. New Media & Politics in the Post-Soviet World. FU Berlin.
	2015/16: Postgraduate seminar. New Media & Politics in (Semi-)Authoritarian States. FU Berlin.
	2014/15: Postgraduate seminar. Technology of Liberation. The Power of the Internet in Democratic and Authoritarian Regimes. FU Berlin.
	2009: Two-Week Postgraduate Seminar. Comparing Media Landscapes: A Global Perspective. Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan.
	2009: Postgraduate Seminar: The Mediatization of Politics. LMU Munich.
Undergraduate level	2014-2019: (Co-)supervision of Eastern Europe-related BA theses at the Institute for Media and Communication Studies, FU Berlin.
	2017/18: Die Auslandspropaganda autoritärer Staaten aus Publikumssicht. LMU Munich.
	2012: Two BA Seminars on Mass Media in Germany (Medienlehre). LMU Munich.
	2008: BA Seminar. Media Systems in Transition. University of Passau.
	2006/07: BA Seminar. International Media Systems. University of Passau.

Formal training

2015	Three-day training in academic instruction (Hochschuldidaktik: kompetenzorientierte Lehre entwickeln und gestalten). Organized by the German Research Foundation (DFG).
2014	One-day "Training for Principal Investigators". Offered by the London School of Economics.

2012 | Half-day training on “Supervising PhD students”. Offered as part of the orientation week for new staff at the London School of Economics.

Publications

Peer-reviewed articles

- 2024 | Beseler, A., & Toepfl, F. (2024). Conduits of the Kremlin’s Informational Influence Abroad? How German-Language Alternative Media Outlets Are Connected to Russia’s Ruling Elites. **The International Journal of Press/Politics**, 0(0). Advanced Online Publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/19401612241230284>
- 2023 | Toepfl, F., Kravets, D., Ryzhova, A., & Beseler, A. (2023). Who are the plotters behind the pandemic? Comparing Covid-19 conspiracy theories in Google search results across five key target countries of Russia’s foreign communication. **Information, Communication & Society**, 26(10), 2033-2051. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369118X.2022.2065213>
- 2023 | Kravets, D., Ryzhova, A., Toepfl, F., & Beseler, A. (2023). Different platforms, different plots? The Kremlin-controlled search engine Yandex as a resource for Russia’s informational influence in Belarus during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Journalism**. Advanced Online Publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14648849231157845>
- 2023 | Toepfl, F., Ryzhova, A., Kravets, D., & Beseler, A. (2023). Googling in Russian Abroad: How Kremlin-Affiliated Websites Contribute to the Visibility of COVID-19 Conspiracy Theories in Search Results. **International Journal Of Communication**, 17, 1126–1146. <https://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/view/19423/4042>
- 2022 | Kling, J., Toepfl, F., Thurman, N., & Fletcher, R. (2022). Mapping the website and mobile app audiences of Russia’s foreign communication outlets, RT and Sputnik, across 21 countries. **Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) Misinformation Review**, 3(6). <https://doi.org/10.37016/mr-2020-110>
- 2022 | Zerback, T., & Toepfl, F. (2022). Forged examples as disinformation: The biasing effects of political astroturfing comments on public opinion perceptions and how to prevent them. **Political Psychology**, 43(3), 399-418. <https://doi.org/10.1111/pops.12767>
- 2021 | (second author, with D. Kravets). Gauging Reference and Source Bias Over Time: How Russia’s Partially State-Controlled Search Engine Yandex Mediated an Anti-Regime Protest Event. **Information, Communication & Society**, 25 (25), 2207-2223. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369118X.2021.1933563>

- 2021 (second author, with T. Zerback). Forged examples as disinformation: The biasing effects of political astroturfing comments on public opinion perceptions and how to prevent them. **Political Psychology**, 43 (3), 399-418. <https://doi.org/10.1111/pops.12767>
- 2021 (second author, with Anna Litvinenko). The (Non-) Adoption of Participatory Newsroom Innovations under Authoritarian Rule: How Comment Sections Diffused in Belarus and Azerbaijan (1998–2017). **Digital Journalism**, 9 (4), 384-405. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21670811.2021.1888137>
- 2021 (first author, with Anna Litvinenko). Critically Commenting Publics as Authoritarian Input Institutions: How Citizens Comment Beneath their News in Azerbaijan, Russia, and Turkmen. **Journalism Studies**, 22 (4), 475-495. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1461670X.2021.1882877>
- 2020 (second author, with Kunst, M. & Dogruel, L.) [Spirals of speaking out? Effects of the “suppressed voice rhetoric” on audiences’ willingness to express their opinion](#). **Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media**, 64 (3), 297-417.
- 2020 (second author, with Thomas Zerback and Maria Knöpfle). [The disconcerting potential of online disinformation: Persuasive effects of astroturfing comments and three strategies for inoculation against them](#). **New Media & Society**. Published online before print [here](#). Ranked 2 out of 88 in communication in the 2018 Web of Science SSCI.
- 2020 (single author). [Comparing authoritarian publics: The benefits and risks of three types of publics for autocrats](#). **Communication Theory**. Published online before print [here](#). Ranked 7 of 79 in communication in the 2016 Web of Science SSCI.
- 2019 (second author, with Anna Litvinenko). [The “Gardening” of an Authoritarian Public-at-Large: How Russia’s Ruling Elites Transformed the Country’s Media Landscape after the 2011-12 Protests “For Fair Elections”](#). **Publizistik**. A free view-only version of this article is available at: <https://rdcu.be/bpGZ2>
- 2019 (second author, with Andrei Zavadski) [Querying the Internet as a mnemonic practice: how search engines mediate four types of past events in Russia](#). Published online first. **Media, Culture & Society**, 41 (1), 21-37. Ranked 40 of 79 in communication and 62 of 143 in sociology in the 2016 Web of Science SSCI.
- 2018 (single author) [From connective to collective action: Internet elections as a digital tool to centralize and formalize protest in Russia](#). **Information, Communication & Society**, 21, 531-547. Ranked 8 of 79 in communication and 10 of 143 in sociology in the 2016 Web of Science SSCI.
- 2018 (first author, with Anna Litvinenko) [Transferring control from the backend to the frontend: A comparison of the discourse architectures of comment sections on news websites across the post-Soviet world](#). **New Media & Society**, 20 (8), 2844-286. Ranked 1 of 79 in communication in the 2016 Web of Science SSCI.

- 2018 (first author, with Eunike Piwoni) [Targeting dominant publics: How counterpublic commenters align their efforts with mainstream news.](#) **New Media & Society**, 20 (5), 2011-2027. Ranked 1 of 79 in communication in the 2016 Web of Science SSCI.
- 2018 (single author) [Innovating Consultative Authoritarianism. Internet votes as a novel digital tool to stabilize non-democratic rule in Russia.](#) **New Media & Society**, 20 (3), 956-972. Ranked 1 of 79 in communication in the 2016 Web of Science SSCI.
- 2016 (single author) [Beyond the Four Theories: Towards a Discourse Approach to the Comparative Study of Media and Politics.](#) **International Journal of Communication**, 10, 1530–1547. Ranked 25 of 79 in communication in the 2016 Web of Science SSCI
- 2015 (first author, with Eunike Piwoni) [Public Spheres in Interaction. Comment Sections of News Websites as Counterpublic Spaces.](#) **Journal of Communication**, 65 (3), 465-488. Ranked 1 of 76 in communication in the 2014 Web of Science SSCI.
- 2014 (single author) [Four Facets of Critical News Literacy in a Non-democratic Regime: How Young Russians Navigate Their News.](#) **European Journal of Communication**, 29 (1), 68-82. Ranked 29 of 76 in communication in the 2014 Web of Science SSCI.
- 2013 (single author) [Why do Pluralistic Media Systems Emerge? Comparing Media Change in Russia and the Czech Republic After the Collapse of Communism.](#) **Global Media and Communication**, 9(3), 239–256.
- 2013 (single author) [Making Sense of the News in a Hybrid Regime. How Young Russians Decode State TV and an Oppositional Blog.](#) **Journal of Communication**, 63 (2), 244-265. Ranked 2 of 67 in communication in the 2010 Web of Science SSCI.
- 2012 (single author) [Blogging for the Sake of the President: The Online-Diaries of Russian Governors.](#) **Europe-Asia Studies**, 64 (8), 1437–1461. Ranked 12 of 44 in area studies and 59 of 112 in political science in the 2009 Web of Science SSCI.
- 2011 (single author) [Managing Public Outrage. Power, Scandal, and New Media in Contemporary Russia.](#) **New Media & Society**, 13(8), 1301 -1319. Ranked 10 of 55 in communication in the 2009 Web of Science SSCI.

Book

- 2011 (single author) Mediensysteme in Transformationsprozessen. Wie entstehen pluralistische Mediensysteme – und warum nicht? Nomos: Baden-Baden.

Non peer-reviewed publications

- 2015 Investigating the Management of Meaning: Forays into Russia's Semi-Authoritarian Media Landscape. Contribution to the newsletter of the political communication divisions of the ICA and the APSA, April 2015. Available at: http://www.politicalcommunication.org/newsletter_25_1_toepfl.html
- 2012 Book Review. Social Dynamics 2.0: Researching Change in Times of Media Convergence. Case studies from the Middle East and Asia, edited by Nadja-Christina Schneider and Bettina Gräf. Publizistik (57), 127-128.
- 2011 The New Networked Sphere of Social Media: A Challenge to the Russian Regime? Report, March 2011, published in the dossier series by the Centre d'études and recherche internationales (CERI), Sciences Po, Paris, 27 pages.
- 2010 Die russische Medienlandschaft zu Beginn eines neuen Jahrzehnts. Ost-West Europäische Perspektiven, 11 (2), 134-140. Ostfildern, Germany: Grünewald-Verlag.
- 2010 Gelenkter Volkszorn. 'Skandal-Management' in der russischen souveränen Demokratie (Guiding the People's Wrath: Scandal Management in Russia's Sovereign Democracy). Russlandanalysen 207, pp. 16-19, Analytical Digest published by the Research Centre for Eastern Europe Studies, University of Bremen.
- 2010 Reconstructing Stalin— A Research Sketch. Comparing Identity Discourses on Russian State Television in the So-Called 'Independent' Mass Media and the Blogosphere. Working Papers of the Research Centre for Eastern European Studies, No. 109, September 2010.
- 2010 Managing Public Outrage: Power, Scandal, and New Media in Contemporary Russia. Presented at the conference 'Internet, Politics, Policy 2010: An Impact Assessment', September 16-17, Oxford, UK. Conference paper can be retrieved at: <http://microsites.oii.ox.ac.uk/ipp2010/programme/79>
- 2009 with Kleinsteuber, Hans. Stiftungen als Retter des Qualitätsjournalismus? (Foundations as Saviours of Quality Journalism?). Fundraiser Magazin, 2009 (4), 62-63.
- 2005 Kommersant', Necavizimaja Gazeta & Co. Russische Printmedien als Garant der Pressefreiheit? Universität Passau: Diploma thesis.

Selected Conference Presentations and Invited Talks

- 2023 Toepfl, F. (2023). "Russia's Foreign Propaganda: Russian Speakers as a Target Group." Presentation at the annual conference of the **Sir Peter Ustinov Institute for Combating Prejudice at the University of Vienna**, 24 November 2023, Vienna, Austria.
- 2023 Beseler, A., & Töpfl, F. (2023). „Channels for the Kremlin's information influence abroad? How German-language alternative media are linked to Russia's ruling elites (in German)." Presentation at the **2nd Science Conference of the German domestic intelligence services (Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz)**. 05-06 September, Berlin.
- 2023 Toepfl, F. (2023). "The Power of the Kremlin's Propaganda Network" at the Digital Media Research Centre (DMRC) of the **Queensland University of Technology (QUT)**, 9 of August, Brisbane, Australia.
- 2023 Toepfl, F. (2023). "The goal is destabilisation - On the facets of Russian foreign communication and its channels of influence". Presentation at the **media conference forum-medienzukunft 2023**, 13 of June, Frankfurt.
- 2023 Kling, J., Toepfl, F., & Jürgens, P. (2023). How Non-news Accounts Disseminate Kremlin Propaganda on Russia's Social Network Vkontakte. Presentation at the **International Communication Association (ICA)**, 25- 29 of May, Toronto, Canada.
- 2023 Kling, J., Toepfl, F., & Jürgens, P. (2023). Escaping the News but not the Kremlin's Propaganda on Russia's Social Network Vkontakte. Presentation at the **International Communication Association (ICA)**, 25- 29 of May, Toronto, Canada.
- 2023 Poliakoff, S. & Toepfl, F. (2023). The CVs of the Kremlin's Trolls: Demographics, Skills, and Career Paths of the Internet Research Agency's Work Force. Presentation at the **International Communication Association (ICA)**, 25- 29 of May, Toronto, Canada.
- 2023 Ryzhova, A. & Toepfl, F. (2023). Drawing on "facts," "feeling right," and the "sixth sense": How Russian speakers in Germany seek truth in their transnational news environments. Presentation at the **International Communication Association (ICA)**, 25- 29 of May, Toronto, Canada.
- 2023 Toepfl, F. (2023). "The Kremlin's Informational Influence in Germany: Channels and Target Groups". Presentation at the **Symposium "Democracy in Danger" at Neuburg Castle**, 5 of May, Neuburg am Inn.

- 2023 Invited talk at the meeting of the research network “*Conflict and Kooperation in Eastern Europe*”, working title: “New Data? Possibilities and Limits of ‘Unusual’ Data for Research on Conflict and Cooperation”, coordinated by the **Centre for East European and International Studies (ZoiS)**, Berlin, 15 February 2023.
- 2022 Invited keynote talk: Der Krieg und die (sozialen) Medien, sprint review of the **Bavarian Research Institute for Digital Transformation**, Munich, 14 September.
- 2022 Workshop presentation (with Laura Alvarez): Mapping Three Types of Authoritarian Public Spheres Across the Globe: A Novel Data Set and Exploratory Analysis of 64 Cases. **Leibniz-Institute for East- and Southeast European Studies (IOS)**, Regensburg, 18 August
- 2022 Public Lecture: Der Krieg und die (sozialen) Medien, **University of Münster**, 27 June.
- 2022 Public Lecture: The War, the Media & the Virtual Space, **University of Passau**, 2 May
- 2022 Conference Presentation: The consequences of platforms featuring ties with Russia’s authoritarian elites for transnational information flows, **International Communication Association**, Paris, 30 May
- 2022 Conference presentation (with Anna Ryzhova, Daria Kravets and Arista Beseler): How misinformation as accessed through Google varies with input language and geolocation: A comparison of Covid-19 conspiracy narratives retrieved from five countries in response to Russian- versus English-language queries, **International Communication Association**, Paris, 29 May
- 2022 Invited public lecture: “Putins Medien – Putins Krieg“, **LMU Munich**, 9 March
- 2022 Invited talk: „Russlands informationeller Einfluss im Ausland: Zehn Schlaglichter auf die kommunikationswissenschaftliche Forschung“, Out-of-the box seminar, **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, Germany, 2 March
- 2021 Invited talk: Warum tolerieren Autokraten kritische Medien? Eine neue Theorie nicht-demokratischer Öffentlichkeit und empirische Befunde aus der postsowjetischen Region. Research Colloquium of the Graduate School for East- and Southeast European Studies, **University of Regensburg**, 17 June.
- 2020 Invited talk: Digital Publics as Authoritarian Input Institutions. How Digital Criticism Contributes to the Stabilization of Non-democratic Rule. Diginomics Brownbag Seminar Series, **University of Bremen**, 23 November.
- 2019 Invited keynote talk: Publics as authoritarian input institutions. A novel framework for comparative analysis. Two-day workshop on “Media control as a source of political power in Central and Eastern Europe” at the Aleksanteri Institute, **University of Helsinki**, 2-3 September 2019, Finland.

- 2019 | Conference presentations: Five talks at the annual conference of the International Communication Association (**ICA**) in Washington, DC, USA, 24-28 May, 2019:
- (1) Do counterpublics benefit from accusing the media of excluding their view? Effects of the “suppressed voice rhetoric” in user comments on the news audience (with Leyla Dogruel and Marlene Kunst)
 - (2) The (Non-)Adoption of Participatory Newsroom Innovations under Authoritarian Rule: How Comment Sections Diffused in Belarus and Azerbaijan (1998-2017) (With Anna Litvinenko)
 - (3) Immunizing citizens against disinformation: An experimental test of inoculation theory in the context of online astroturfing (With Thomas Zerback and Maria Knöpfle)
 - (4) How Media Content Shapes Feeling Rules: The Effects of Media Messages and User Comments on How We Think We Should Feel (with Leyla Dogruel and Marlene Kunst)
 - (5) Integrating survey and digital trace data to investigate audience participation on online platforms of news media: Implications of two exploratory studies of the Facebook pages of RT German and Tagesschau (single author)
- 2019 | Invited keynote talk: Comparing Authoritarian Publics. Presented at the conference “Comparative media studies in today’s world”, **St. Petersburg State University**, Russia, April 16-18, 2019
- 2018 | Conference presentation: Comparing authoritarian publics: The benefits and risks of three types of publics for autocrats. Presented at the annual conference of the International Communication Association (**ICA**), 24-28 May, Prague, Czech Republic.
- 2017 | Conference presentation: Mapping Comment Sections of News Websites across Authoritarian and Non-Authoritarian Contexts. Presented at the preconference “The Consequences of the Internet for Authoritarian Politics: Comparative Perspectives” to the annual conference of the International Communication Association (**ICA**), 26-29 May, San Diego, USA
- 2017 | Conference presentation: Targeting the Hegemonic Public-at-large: How Counterpublics Erupting Online Align Their Efforts with Mainstream News Content. Presented at the annual conference of the International Communication Association (**ICA**), 26-29 May, San Diego, USA
- 2016 | Invited talk: Innovating consultative authoritarianism: Internet elections as a novel digital tool to stabilize non-democratic rule. Presented at the expert seminar “Authoritarian Power and Practices in the Digital Age”, **University of Amsterdam**, 22-23 September, 2016, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2016 | Conference presentation (with Bingchun Meng): Comparing Official Discourses on the Media and Politics in China and Russia. Presented at the annual conference of the International Communication Association (**ICA**), 9-13 June, Fukuoka, Japan

- 2016 Conference presentation: Innovating Consultative Authoritarianism: Internet Votes as a Digital Tool to Stabilize Non-democratic Rule. Presented in the Global Communication & Social Change Division at the annual conference of the International Communication Association (**ICA**), 9-13 June, Fukuoka, Japan
- 2016 Conference presentation: Beyond the Four Theories: Towards a Discourse Approach to the Comparative Study of Media and Politics. Presented in the Political Communication Division at the annual conference of the International Communication Association (**ICA**), 9-13 June, Fukuoka, Japan
- 2016 Conference presentation: Breaking the Stalemate of Leaderless Protest: Internet Elections as a Digital Tool to Centralize Collective Action in Russia. Presented at the annual conference of the International Communication Association (**ICA**), 9-13 June, Fukuoka, Japan
- 2015 Invited talk: Breaking the Stalemate of Leaderless Protest: Alternative Internet Elections as a Digital Tool to Centralize Collective Action in Russia. At the international expert workshop "Media Practices. Transregional Perspectives on Changing Social Orders" at **Free University of Berlin**, 29-30 October, Berlin, Germany.
- 2014 Invited talk: Kommentarbereiche von Nachrichten-Webseiten als gegenöffentliche Räume. Eine Fallstudie zur Berichterstattung über die AfD nach der Bundestagswahl 2013. Research presentation at the Siemensstiftung, organized by the Department of Media Studies and Communication Research, **LMU Munich**, 3 December, Munich, Germany.
- 2014 Conference presentation: Challenging hegemonic public spheres: Online newspapers' comments' sections as novel spaces for emerging counterpublic discourses. Presented at the **ECREA** conference, 12-15 November, Lisbon, Portugal.
- 2014 Conference presentation: De-Westernizing the Four Theories: A Discursive Approach to the Comparative Analysis of the Media and Politics. Presented at **IAMCR** conference, 15-19 July 2014, Hyderabad, India.
- 2014 Conference presentation: The Making of Representative Claims: Internet Votes, the Mass Media, and the Struggle for Power in Russia's Hybrid Regime. Presented at **IAMCR**, 15-19 July 2014, Hyderabad, India.
- 2013 Conference presentation: Critical News Literacy in a Non-Democratic Regime. How Young Russians Navigate Their News. Presented in the Global Communication & Social Change Division at the conference of the International Communication Association (**ICA**), June 17-21, London, UK.
- 2013 Conference presentation: Making Sense of the News in a Hybrid Regime. How Young Russians Decode State Television and an Oppositional Blog. Presented in the Political Communication Division at the conference of the International Communication Association (**ICA**), June 17-21, London, UK.

- 2013 | Poster presentation: What Does It Mean to “Trust”? Using Decodings of News Items to Capture Complex Concepts. Presented at the pre-conference “Audiences Elsewhere” of the International Communication Association (**ICA**), June 16, University of Leicester, UK.
- 2013 | Invited roundtable: Neue Medien und Politik in Deutschland und Russland, 52th Annual Conference „Mass Media in the Modern World. **St. Petersburg Readings**”, April 18-19, St. Petersburg State University, Russia.
- 2013 | Conference presentation: Generating Legitimacy in the Absence of Fair Elections: Digital Participation and the Struggle for Power in Contemporary Russia. Presented at the conference “Europe: Crisis and Renewal”, the European Congress of the International Council for Central and East European Studies (**ICCEES & BASEES**), April 5-8, Cambridge, UK.
- 2013 | Conference presentation: How Young Russians Make Sense of Election News. Presented at the conference “Audiences, Media Environments and Democratization After the Arab Spring” organized by the **Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism**, February 28 to March 1, Oxford, UK.
- 2013 | Invited talk: Mediated politics. Presented in the Research Dialogues series of the Department of Media and Communications at the **London School of Economics and Political Science**, January 16, London, UK.
- 2012 | Invited talk: Making Sense of the News in a Hybrid Regime. Presented in the research seminar at the Institute for Communication Science and Media Research (IfKW) at **LMU University Munich**, Germany.
- 2011 | Invited talk: Choosing between Oppositional Blogs and State Television: How Young Russian Follow and Make Sense of the News. Presented in the research seminar series at the “Institute for New Media and Society” at the **New Economic School** (Rossiskaya Ekonomicheskaya Shkola), September 30, Moscow, Russia.
- 2011 | Invited talk: How young Russians read blogs. Presented at the Faculty of Sociology at the **Higher School of Economics**, September 8, St. Petersburg, Russia.
- 2011 | Conference presentation: 'Efficient Manager' and 'Bloodthirsty Tyrant'? Strategic Framing of the Historic Figure 'Stalin' in Contemporary Russia'. Presented at the Joint Annual Conference on Political Communication of the German Association for Journalism and Communication Studies (**DGPuK**) and the German Association for Political Science (**DVPW**), February 10-12, Münster, Germany
- 2011 | Conference presentation: The Power of the Internet in Russia's 'Sovereign Democracy'. Presented at the symposium 'The Internet and International Relations: New Challenges, New Approaches', organized by the **Center for International Studies and Research, Science Po**, and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, January 21, Paris, France.

- 2010 Discussant of the panel 'Russian Media, Business, and State' at the 10th Annual **Aleksanteri Conference** 'Fuelling the Future. Assessing Russia's Role in Eurasia's Energy Complex', October 27-29, Helsinki, Finland.
- 2010 Conference presentation: Reconstructing the Image of Stalin. A Comparative Study of Media Discourses on State Television, in Print Media and in the Blogosphere. Presented at the workshop **Tagung Junger Osteuropa-Experten (JOE)**, October 22-24, Berlin, Germany.
- 2010 Invited talk: Managing Public Outrage: Power, Scandal, and New Media in Contemporary Russia. Presented at the research colloquium of the **Aleksanteri Institute**, Finnish Centre for Eastern European and Russian Studies, October 5, 2010, Helsinki, Finland.
- 2010 Conference presentation: Police Corruption Scandals on the Russian Internet. Presented at the conference 'The Ecology and Etiology of Post-Soviet Communication", May 7-9, **Columbia University**, New York, USA.
- 2010 Invited presentation: Media Scandals on the Russian Internet. A Series of Case Studies. Presented at the workshop 'New Media in New Europe-Asia", March 30, **University of Birmingham**, UK.
- 2009 Workshop presentation: Towards a Typology of Defective Media Systems. Presented at a research colloquium of the project 'New Modes of Communication in Post-Soviet Russia", October 15, **Columbia University**, New York, USA.