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FRIEDOLIN MERHOUT

appointments Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Copenhagen, 2019–present.

Direct of Graduate Studies, **M.Sc. in Social Data Science**, 2021–present.

Affiliate, **Copenhagen Center for Social Data Science (SODAS)**, 2019–present.

education Ph.D., Sociology, Duke University, 2019.

M.A., Sociology, Duke University, 2017.

B.A., North American Studies, Freie Universität Berlin, 2014.

Visiting Graduate Student, Sociology, Duke University, 2012–2013.

publications *Journal Articles*

Christopher A. Bail, Aidan Combs, Deen Freelon, Bryan Guay, D. Sunshine Hillygus, Emily Maloney, **Friedolin Merhout**, and Alexander Volfovsky. 2020. “Assessing the Impact of the Russian Internet Research Agency on the Political Attitudes and Behaviors of American Twitter Users.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. [10.1073/pnas.1906420116](https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1906420116)

Selected media coverage: [Forbes](#), [The Seattle Times](#), [Medium](#).

Friedolin Merhout and Joshua F. Doyle. 2019 “Does Socioeconomic Status Determine Diet Quality if Food Access, Resources, and Nutrition Education are Equalized? An Exploration of College Student Diets.” *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior*. [10.1016/j.jneb.2019.06.021](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jneb.2019.06.021)

Christopher A. Bail, Lisa P. Argyle, Taylor W. Brown, John P. Bumpus, Haohan Chen, M. B. Fallin Hunzaker, Jaemin Lee, Marcus Mann, **Friedolin Merhout**, and Alexander Volfovsky. 2018. “Exposure to opposing views on social media can increase political polarization.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. [10.1073/pnas.1804840115](https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1804840115)

Winner, 2019 APSA Political Communication Section, Paul Lazarsfeld Best Paper Award.

Selected media coverage: [The New York Times](#), [The Washington Post](#), [BBC](#), [Financial Times](#).

Christopher A. Bail, **Friedolin Merhout**, Peng Ding. 2018. “Examining the Relationship between Ethnic Discrimination and Violent Radicalization in 3,143 U.S. Counties using Internet Search Data.” *Science Advances* 4(6): eaao5948. [10.1126/sciadv.aao5948](https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.aao5948)

Selected media coverage: [NBC News](#), [The Atlantic](#), [Le Soleil](#).

Under Review

“Reassessing the Link between Immigration and Support for Social Policy. Accounting for the gender composition of immigrant populations.” (with A. Bostic and A. Edelmann)

“When Common Enemies Divide: An Experiment with Automated Partisans in the United States, 2020.” (with C. Bail, N. Cavalli, N. Gallagher, D. Guilbeault, E. Jahani, and Y. Leng)

“Observing Many Researchers Using the Same Data and Hypothesis Reveals a Hidden Universe of Uncertainty.” (with N. Breznau, E. M. Rinke, A. Wuttke, and the Crowdsourced Replication Initiative group)

“How Many Replicators Does It Take to Achieve Reliability?” (with N. Breznau, E. M. Rinke, A. Wuttke, and the Crowdsourced Replication Initiative group)

“Anonymous Cross-Party Conversations Can Decrease Political Polarization: A Field Experiment on a Mobile Chat Platform.” (with C. Bail, A. Combs, B. Guay, S. Hillygus, G. Tierney, and A. Volfovsky)

work in
progress

“Imagined Threats. How misperceptions about the motives of immigrants shape opposition to immigration.”

“Assessing the Mechanism and Scope Conditions of Backfire Effects.”

“Airsent. A sentiment dictionary for social science research.” (with J. Migozzi and I. de Vries)

presentations

* “Political Polarization in the Digital Age.” UCPH SAMF Campus Day. May 2021.

“Reassessing the link between immigration and support for social policy. The role of immigrant population demographics.” UCPH SAMF Metodeklub. November 2020.

* “Exposure to Common Enemies can Increase Political Polarization: Evidence from an Experiment with Automated Partisans.” (with N. Gallagher and D. Guilbeault) Facebook–Computational Social Science Seminar. August 2020.

“Experimental Evidence that Exposure to Common Enemies can Increase Polarization.” (with C. Bail, N. Cavalli, N. Gallagher, D. Guilbeault, E. Jahani, and Y. Leng) IC2S2. July 2020.

“Assessing the Mechanism and Scope Conditions of Backfire Effects.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. San Francisco, CA. August 2020. *Canceled due to COVID-19*

* “Assessing the Mechanism and Scope Conditions of Backfire Effects using Experiments and Quantitative Text Analysis.” Linköpings Universitet, Institute for Analytical Sociology. Norrköping, Sweden. January 2020.

* “Assessing the Mechanism and Scope Conditions of Backfire Effects.” Università di Trento Dipartimento di Sociologia e Ricerca Sociale. Trento, Italy. November 2019.

“Airsent: A Sentiment Dictionary for the Social Sciences.” (with I. de Vries and J. Migozzi) SODAS Data Discussion. Copenhagen, Denmark. October 2019.

“Examining the Relationship between Ethnic Discrimination and Violent Radicalization in 3,143 U.S. Counties using Internet Search Data.” (with C. Bail and

P. Ding) Københavns Universitet Sociologisk Forskningskollektivet. Copenhagen, Denmark. October 2019.

- * “Can exposure to opposing views help us find common ground? Outlining the scope conditions of opinion polarization and moderation.” Københavns Universitet Sociologisk Institut. Copenhagen, Denmark. January 2019.
- “Tutorial: textnets. An R package for automated text analysis using network techniques” (with T. Brown and M. Mann) European Symposium on Societal Challenges in Computational Social Science. Cologne, Germany. December 2018.
- “Examining the Relationship between Ethnic Discrimination and Violent Radicalization in 3,143 U.S. Counties using Internet Search Data.” (with C. Bail and P. Ding) European Symposium on Societal Challenges in Computational Social Science. Cologne, Germany. December 2018.
- “Investigating the Effect of Control and Elaboration to Identify When and How Corrections of Partisan Misperceptions Succeed.” Social Psychology Workshop. Duke University, Department of Sociology, Durham, NC. October 2018.
- “Examining the Relationship between Ethnic Discrimination and Violent Radicalization in 3,143 U.S. Counties using Internet Search Data.” (with C. Bail and P. Ding) Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Philadelphia, PA. August 2018.
- “Exposure to Opposing Views on Social Media can Increase Political Polarization: Evidence from a Large Field Experiment on Twitter.” (with C. Bail, L. Argyle, T. Brown, J. Bumpus, H. Chen, M.B. Fallin Hunzaker, J. Lee, M. Mann, and A. Volfovsky) Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Philadelphia, PA. August 2018.
- “Imagined Threats. How immigration motive misperceptions shape perceived group threat.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Montreal, Canada. August 2017.
- “Nein zum Heim? How Meaning Structures Inform Immigration Attitudes.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Seattle, WA. August 2016.
- Migration and Diversity Colloquium, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung, Berlin. Berlin, Germany. June 2016.
- Free University of Berlin, Graduate School of North American Studies International Graduate Conference. Berlin, Germany. May 2016.
- Duke University, Department of Sociology Jensen Lecture. Durham, NC. April 2016.
- “Familiarity and Moderation as Taste Markers: Tracing the blasé attitude in musical taste.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Chicago, IL. August 2015.
- “Equal Access, Equal Consumption? Breaking the link between low SES and unhealthy diets.” (with J. Doyle and M. Mann) Duke University, Department of Sociology Jensen Lecture. Durham, NC. April 2015.

“What is race? A bottom-up approach to race conceptualizations.” (with F. Arriaga and G. Rygh) Duke University, Department of Sociology Jensen Lecture. Durham, NC. April 2013.

* Invited presentation

grants and
fellowships

Hate Behind the Screen (HABITS) - Leveraging Online Searches to Measure Discriminatory Attitudes and Assess Social Desirability Bias (PI), 2022, Independent Research Fund Denmark (DFF), 2,865,484 DKK (\$385,000).
 COVID-19 Snapshot Monitoring in Denmark (COSMO Denmark) (Co-PI), 2020, UCPH SAMF Straksmidler, 74,475 DKK (\$10,000).
 The Dynamics of Political Discourse and Attention during the COVID-19 outbreak (Co-PI), 2020, UCPH SAMF Straksmidler, 40,145 DKK (\$5,500).
 Machine Anthropology: Automating the Collection, Processing and Analysis of Ethnographic Text as Data (Co-PI), 2020, UCPH Data+, 1,346,604 DKK (\$180,000).
 Jess & Minnie Brady Jaffrey Summer Research Fellowship, 2019, \$5,500.
 European Symposium on Societal Challenges in CSS Travel Grant, 2018, €800 (\$800).
 Summer Institute in Computational Social Science Project Grant, 2018, \$1,800.
 ABBYY Cloud OCR SDK Page Credit for Students, 2018, Computing Resources.
 Duke Sociology Department Research Grant, 2017, \$550 & 2019, \$1,000.
 Duke Graduate School Summer Research Fellowship, 2015, 2016, & 2017, \$5,500 per summer.
 Graduate School of North American Studies Travel Award, 2016, €300 (\$300).
 Duke Graduate School Research Fellowship, 2014–2015.
 German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Visiting Scholarship Duke University Graduate School, 2012–2013.
 Free University of Berlin, Visiting Scholarship University of California, Santa Barbara, 2012-2013. (declined)

teaching and
research

Instructor

“Mining Text for Meaning – Introduction to Quantitative Text Analysis.” BSc. Fall 2022.
 “Introduction to R” MSc/PhD (co-instructor M. Schaeffer). Fall 2022.
 “Basic Statistics.” BSc. Spring 2022.
 “Societal Problems.” MSc (co-instructors C. Maxwell, M. Chen). Fall 2021.
 “Elementary Social Data Science.” MSc (co-instructors H. B. Carlsen, H. Willadsen). Fall 2021.
 “Social Data Science Base Camp.” MSc (co-instructors S. D. Breslin, A. Andersen, G. Eady). Fall 2021.
 “Introduction to R” BSc. Fall 2021.
 “Introduction to R” MSc/PhD (co-instructor M. Schaeffer). Fall 2021.
 “More Than Words – Introduction to Quantitative Text Analysis.” MSc. Spring 2021.
 “Elementary Social Data Science.” MSc (co-instructors R. Boehm, G. Eady). Fall 2020.
 “Social Data Science Base Camp.” MSc (co-instructors S. D. Breslin, U. Aslak). Fall 2020.

“R for Social Data Science – An Introduction.” (co-instructor M. Schaeffer). Summer 2020. *Canceled due to COVID-19*

“Knowledge, Organizations, and Politics.” BSc. (co-instructor M. W. Nielsen). Spring 2020.

“Digital Methods: From Facebook Ethnography to Computational Social Science.” BSc/MSc (co-instructors S. D. Breslin, U. Aslak, K. Albris, and H. B. Carlsen). Spring 2020.

Supervision

UCPH Department of Sociology, 1 BSc & 4 MSc.

UCPH MSc in Social Data Science, 1 MSc.

AAU Department of Sociology, 1 PhD (Co-Supervisor).

Research Assistantships

Christopher Bail. Duke University. 2018–2019.

Marcos Rangel. Duke University. 2018.

Harald Wenzel. Freie Universität Berlin. 2012–2014.

Paula Diehl. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. 2013–2014.

Teaching Assistantships

“Summer Institute in Computational Social Science.” C. Bail and M. Salganik. June 2018.

“Organizations and Global Competitiveness.” G. Gereffi. Spring 2017.

“Theory and Society.” G. Merkkx. Fall 2016.

“Data Matters Series.” C. Bail. August 2016.

“Social Research Methods.” J. Hamil-Luker. Spring 2016.

“Designing Social Research.” M. Chaves. Fall 2015 & Fall 2017.

Organizer

“UCPH Department of Sociology, Annual Department Conference.” August 2022.

“Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, University of Copenhagen Partner Site.” June 2020. *Canceled due to COVID-19*

“Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, UCLA Partner Site.” June 2019.

software

textnets (contributor)

textnets is an R package providing functionality to conduct automated text analysis using network techniques.

service

Institutional

UCPH Department of Sociology, **Welfare, Inequality, and Mobility Research Group** Coordinator. 2021–present.

UCPH Centre for Social Data Science, SODAS Panel Series Co-Organizer. Spring 2021.

MSc Social Data Science Admissions Committee Chair and Member. 2020, 2021 & 2022.

UCPH Department of Sociology, Julefrokost Co-Organizer. 2019.

Duke Polarization Lab Organizer. 2018–2019.

Duke Sociology Faculty Committee Representative. 2017–2019.

Duke Sociology Graduate Student Forum Co-Coordinator. 2016–2017.
 Student Health Advisory Committee Member. 2016–Present.
 Graduate and Professional Student Council Representative. 2014–2016.
 Student Health Insurance Advisory Committee Member. 2014–2016.

Professional

Ad-Hoc Reviewer: *American Journal of Cultural Sociology*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Political Science Review*, *American Sociological Review*, *Behavioural Public Policy*, *European Sociological Review*, *International Journal of Press/Politics*, *Journal of Data and Information Quality*, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, *Nature Human Behaviour*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *SAGE Publishing–Research Methods*, *Scientific Reports*, *Social Problems*, *Sociological Focus*, *Sociology of Religion: A Quarterly Review*, *Swiss National Science Foundation*

Panelist: *CCCM Seminar Series* (with D. Garcia and T. Gessler.) Birkbeck, University of London. May 2021.

Program Committee Member: *Truth and Trust Online 2021*, *Social Informatics 2020*, *European Symposium on Societal Challenges in Computational Social Science 2019*

Table Presider: *ASA Political Sociology Section. Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. San Francisco, CA. August 2020.*

skills and
languages

German (native), English (fluent), Danish (advanced), R, Python, Stata, Qualtrics, Amazon Mechanical Turk, CloudResearch (TurkPrime), Adobe Creative Suite (Ai, Ps, Acrobat), \LaTeX .

Last updated: July 12, 2022