

NILS BRANDENSTEIN – CURRICULUM VITAE

CONTACT

Position: Research assistant
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EDUCATION

- Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology (graduation date: 20.06.2025, summa cum laude) 2019–2025
Dissertation title: Paving New Ways - The Case for Machine Learning in Political Psychology
Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Jan Rummel
Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany
- M.Sc. in Psychology (grade: 1.1.) 2017-2019
Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany
- B.Sc. in Psychology (grade: 1.4) 2013-2017
University of Bamberg, Bamberg, Germany

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Research assistant @ Experimental Psychology and Cognitive Self Regulation Lab since 2019
Head: Prof. Dr. Jan Rummel
Psychological Institute, Heidelberg University, Hauptstr. 47-51, 69117 Heidelberg, Germany
- Student research assistant @ Heidelberg University Hospital, Personnel Development 2018
- Student research assistant @ Department of General Psychology and Methodology 2014 – 2017
Head: Prof. Dr. Claus-Christian Carbon
Institute for Psychology, Markusplatz 3, 96047 Bamberg, Germany

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Seminar: Political Psychology (undergraduate and graduate course) since 2019
- Seminar: Introduction to Machine Learning in Psychology (graduate course) since 2023

MEMBERSHIPS AND GRANTS

- Member of the International Political Science Association (IPSA) since 2025
- Member of the organizational committee of the German Political Psychology Network since 2024
- Member of the German Psychological Society (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Psychologie; DGPs) since 2024
- Travel grant: German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) 2025
- Travel grant: HeiDocs Mobility, Heidelberg University 2024

PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL PAPERS

1. Brandenstein, N., Ackermann, K., & Rummel, J. (2025). The trouble with carbon footprint analysis in behavioral climate research. *Climatic Change*, 178(3), 57. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10584-025-03900-z>
2. Brandenstein, N., Montag, C., & Sindermann, C. (2024). To Follow or Not to Follow: Estimating Political Opinion From Twitter Data Using a Network-Based Machine Learning Approach. *Social Science Computer Review*, 08944393241279418. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08944393241279418>
3. Brandenstein, N., Ackermann, K., Aeschbach, N., & Rummel, J. (2023). The key determinants of individual greenhouse gas emissions in Germany are mostly domain-specific. *Communications Earth & Environment*, 4(1), 422. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-023-01092-x>
4. Brandenstein, N. (2022). Going beyond simplicity: Using machine learning to predict belief in conspiracy theories. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 52, 910-930. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ejsp.2859>
5. Brandenstein, N. & Carbon, C. C. (2020). Verurteilt auf den ersten Blick? Über die Hintergründe und Macht des ersten Eindrucks. In-Mind Magazin: Psychologie für Alle, Ausgabe 01/2020. <https://de.in-mind.org/article/verurteilt-auf-den-ersten-blick-ueber-die-hintergruende-und-die-macht-des-ersten-eindrucks>
6. Brandenstein, N., Gebauer, F., & Carbon, C. C. (2019). How do we perceive “aliens”? About the implicit processes underlying the perception of people with alien paraphernalia. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 10, 1551. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2019.01551>

CONFERENCE TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

1. To follow or not to follow: Estimating political opinion from Twitter data using a network-based machine learning approach. Oral talk @ IPSA World Congress, Seoul, Korea (13-16.07.2025)
2. The trouble with carbon footprint analysis in behavioral climate research. Oral talk @ ISPP Annual Meeting Prague, Czech Republic (03-06.07.2025)
3. To follow or not to follow: Estimating political opinion from Twitter data using a network-based machine learning approach. Oral talk @ German Political Psychology Meeting, Vienna, Austria (19-20.09.2024)
4. To follow or not to follow: Estimating political opinion from Twitter data using a network-based machine learning approach. Oral talk @ Conference of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Psychologie (DGPs 2024), Vienna, Austria (16-19.09.2024)
5. Predicting sustainable attitudes and behavior using machine learning. Invited oral talk @ IGSTC Workshop at IIT Mandi, Mandi, India. (18.-20.01.2024)
6. Predicting individual greenhouse gas emissions in everyday life - A machine learning approach. Oral talk @ ISPP Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada (09.-11.07.2023).
7. Going beyond simplicity: Using machine learning to predict belief in conspiracy theories. Poster presentation @ ISPP Annual Meeting, Athens, Greece (14-17.07.2022).
8. Less than meets the eye? Assessing the predictive power of personal factors regarding belief in conspiracy theories with machine learning. Oral talk @ 24-hour of Political Psychology Conference, Hagen, Germany (17.01.2020).
9. Imagine all the forces: The impact of threatening news coverage on the willingness for first-step military action in the Ukraine Crisis. Oral talk @ World Psychological Forum (WPF), Prague, Czech Republic (17.9.-20.9.2015).

FURTHER INFORMATION

REVIEWER FOR JOURNALS

- Completion of reviews for multiple international peer-reviewed journals, including:
Nature Communications, Nature Humanities and Social Sciences, Journal of Information Technology & Politics, Climate Action and European Journal of Social Psychology