

# Christoph Meisselbach

Political Scientist, Dr. phil.

# CURRICULUM VITAE

(January 15, 2020)

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Chair of Comparative Politics  
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## RESEARCH AREAS

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**Political Sociology & Human Nature:** utilization of insights from evolutionary anthropology and the life sciences to illuminate problems in political science and sociology; topics include political culture and order, social capital and cohesion, cooperation and conflict, morality and legitimacy.

**Methods & Philosophy of Science:** research logic in political science, epistemological foundations of social sciences, especially on grounds of evolutionary epistemology and complexity theory.

**Challenges of Western Democracy:** problems of representation, political communication and conflict resolution in the digital era in light of normative and empirical theories of democracy.

## TEACHING AREAS

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Introductory and advanced courses at the BA-, MA- and PhD-level: mainly in comparative politics, political sociology, research methods and propaedeutic, but also in political theory, anthropology and philosophy of sciences (see detailed list below).

## EMPLOYMENT RECORD AND ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

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- since 05/2016 Visiting Professor at the University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria, Steyr, Austria  
Course on comparative politics (summer term, annually)
- since 07/2009 Post-Doctoral Research Associate and Lecturer (Assistant Professor)  
Chair of Comparative Politics, Department of Political Science, TU Dresden, Germany
- 07/2019 Visiting Scholar at Shandong University, Qingdao, China  
Topic: Western democracies and populism (July)
- 11/2019 Visiting Lecturer at the Dresden Leibniz Graduate School  
PhD course: research methods in the social sciences (October)
- 2009-2015 Research and Teaching Fellow ("Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter")  
Chair of Comparative Politics, Department of Political Science, TU Dresden, Germany

## ACADEMIC EDUCATION

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- 2015 Dr. phil. in Political Science (summa cum laude), Technische Universität Dresden
- 2008 M.A. in Political Science & Sociology (very good), Technische Universität Dresden

## PROJECTS AND CONTRACT RESEARCH

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- 2019 Controversial on Site (Speaker & Trainer) – on behalf of the Saxon Agency of Political Education: conception and implementation of a ten-part series of workshops on political discourse and deliberation at Saxonian adult education centers
- 2019 Wahl-O-Mat (External Consultant) – on behalf of the German Federal Agency for Civic Education: expert on politics in the German state of Saxony for the editorial desk of the most popular German voting advice application prior to the Saxon state election.
- 2017-2019 Evaluation of Refugee Centers in Saxony (Project Manager) – on behalf of the Commissioner of Foreign Nationals in the Saxon state parliament: conception and implementation of survey and observation studies, co-authorship of project report
- 2017-2018 MOOC PolSys (Project Manager) – funded by the Media Centre of the TU Dresden: conception and production of online e-learning resources on comparative politics and research methodology
- 2016-2017 Quality of Live for Senior Citizens (Project Coordinator) – on behalf of the Saxon Ministry of Social Affairs: analysis of survey data collected by the ministry, co-authorship of project report
- 2014-2016 PEGIDA and AfD: German Right Wing Populism (Project Staff) – research project of the Chair of Comparative Politics: coordination of surveys of PEGIDA protesters in Dresden, editing of the publication, public relations, press conferences
- 2009-2013 The Construction of Political Order (Project Staff) – part of the Collaborative Research Centre 804 „Transcendence and Common Sense“, funded by the DFG: authorship and editing of publications, event management

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Monographs and Edited Volumes

- Meißelbach, Christoph, and Werner J. Patzelt (2019): *Verwahrung oder Ankommen? Die Unterbringungssituation in Sachsens Gemeinschaftsunterkünften für Geflüchtete [Custody or Arrival? The Accommodation Situation in Refugee Centers in the German State of Saxony]*. Dresden: Saxon Commissioner for Foreigners.
- Meißelbach, Christoph (2019): *Die Evolution der Kohäsion. Sozial und die Natur des Menschen [The Evolution of Cohesion. Social Capital and Human Nature]*. Studien zur Interdisziplinären Anthropologie, Vol. 4. Wiesbaden: Springer VS.
- Meißelbach, Christoph, Jakob Lempp, and Stephan Dreischer, ed. (2018): *Politikwissenschaft als Beruf. Perspektiven aus Wissenschaft und Gesellschaft [Political Science as Occupation. Perspectives from Science and Society]*. Wiesbaden: Springer VS.
- Meißelbach, Christoph, and Werner J. Patzelt (2017): *Gutes Leben im Alter. Wünsche von künftigen Senioren im ländlichen Sachsen - Ein Forschungsbericht [Good Life in Old Age. Desires of Future Seniors in Rural Saxony – A Research Report.]* Dresden: Saxon Ministry of Social Affairs.
- Meißelbach, Christoph (2009): [Web 2.0 – Demokratie 3.0? Demokratische Potentiale des Internets. MedienSkripten, Baden-Baden: Nomos.

### Journal Articles and Book Chapters

- Meißelbach, Christoph (2019, in press): Das Problem mit der Ungleichheit: Interdisziplinäre Perspektiven auf einen komplexen Begriff [The Problem with Inequality: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on a Complex Concept]. In: Gerald Hartung and Matthias Herrgen (ed.): *Jahrbuch Interdisziplinäre Anthropologie*, Vol. 7. Wiesbaden: Springer VS.

- Meißelbach, Christoph (2018) Against Dualisms. Methodological Foundations of Political Science [Wider die Dualismen. Methodologische Grundlagen der Politikwissenschaft]. In: Christoph Meißelbach, Jakob Lempp, and Stephan Dreischer (ed.): *Politikwissenschaft als Beruf*. Wiesbaden: Springer VS, p. 213-242.
- Meißelbach, Christoph, Jakob Lempp, and Stephan Dreischer (2018): Politikwissenschaft als Beruf(ung) [Political Science as Occupation & Vocation]. In: Christoph Meißelbach, Jakob Lempp, and Stephan Dreischer (ed.): *Politikwissenschaft als Beruf*. Wiesbaden: Springer VS, p. 1-10.
- Vogt, Matthias T., Erik Fritzsche and Christoph Meißelbach (2016): Ankommen in der deutschen Lebenswelt. Migranten-Enkulturation und regionale Resilienz in der Einen Welt [Arriving in the German Liveworld. Migrant Enculturation & Regional Resilience in the One World] In: *Europäisches Journal für Minderheitenfragen*, Vol. 9, No. 1-2, peer-reviewed, also published as monograph at Berliner Wissenschaftsverlag.
- Meißelbach, Christoph (2016): Sozialkapital in evolutionärer Perspektive [Social Capital from an Evolutionary Perspective]. In: Christine Hennighausen and Benjamin P. Lange (ed.): *Evolution des Sozialen*. Lengerich: Pabst Science Publishers, p. 52-68.
- Meißelbach, Christoph (2014): Partizipation und Internet. Von großen Hoffnungen und den Mühen der Ebene [Participation and Internet. Of High Hopes and the Troubles of Practice]. In: *Political Science Applied* 3, p. 16-21.
- Meißelbach, Christoph (2013): Politische Ordnungskonstruktion und die Natur des Menschen [The Construction of Political Order and Human Nature]. In: Werner J. Patzelt (ed.): *Die Machbarkeit politischer Ordnung. Transzendenz und deren Konstruktion*. Bielefeld: Transcript, p. 417-464.
- Meißelbach, Christoph (2010): Review on Olsson/Dahlgren: Young People, ICTs and Democracy. In: *M&K. Medien und Kommunikationswissenschaft* 58, p. 592-594.

## SELECTED CONFERENCES AND INVITED TALKS

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- 2019/11/14 *Stone Age Brains in a Star Trek World. Pluralism in the Digital Era [German]*  
Talk & Discussion: Saxon State and University Library, Dresden
- 2019/09/22 *The Roots of Legitimacy. German and Chinese Approaches Compared.*  
Chair & Talk: Beijing Humboldt Forum, University of Business & Economics, Beijing
- 2019/09/12 *Integrating Evolutionary & Social Science Theories: A Deductive Approach [German]*  
Talk: MVE Annual Conference, Institute of Advanced Studies, Delmenhorst
- 2019/05-11 *A Culture of Questioning. Democratic Pluralism and Limits of Contestation [German]*  
Series of 10 Panel Discussions, Saxon State Office for School and Education
- 2019/05/24 *Digital Democracy. Information or Manipulation? [German]*  
Panel Discussion, University of Applied Sciences, Mittweida
- 2019/04/11 *Democratic Values and the Human Psyche [German]*  
Talk & Panel Discussion, Saxon State Office for School and Education, Meissen
- 2018/09/16 *Society & Politics. Western & Chinese Thought in a Comparative Perspective*  
Chair & Talk: Beijing Humboldt Forum, University of Business & Economics, Beijing
- 2018/09/13 *“Good” Order and Human Nature in an Evolutionary Perspective.*  
Talk: Shandong University, School of Political Science, Shandong University, Qingdao
- 2018/05/28 *Political Science as Occupation and Vocation. [German]*  
Talk: Symposium “Scientific policy advice”, Saxon Agency for Political Education, Dresden
- 2017/10/05 *Learning lessons from the German Federal Election. [German]*  
Keynote Lecture: Lions Club, Dresden
- 2017/09/29 *The Imposition of Pluralism. Digital Public Sphere and the Human Brain. [German]*  
Talk: Symposium on digital revolution and democracy, TU Dresden

- 2017/09/17 *Social Capital, Societal Stability and Harmonic Development*  
Talk: Beijing Humboldt Forum, University of Business & Economics, Beijing
- 2017/04/25 *Normativity, Methodology, Ontology. Human Nature in Political Science [German]*  
Talk: Colloquium on Political Theory, Prof. Martin Saar, University Leipzig
- 2017/03/02 *Pluralism, Courage and the Necessity of Values-Based Education. [German]*  
Keynote Lecture: Annual Conference of the Protestant School Center Leipzig
- 2016/07/26 *The Evolution of Cohesion. Social Capital Theory & its Anthropological Foundations.*  
Talk: World Congress of the International Political Science Association, Poznan
- 2016/03/18 *Ritual and Communitisation: The Role of Culture for Social Groups. [German]*  
Talk: Conference “Evolutionary Aesthetics”, Berlin
- 2015/11/18 *Anthropological Foundations of Migrant Enculturation by Art and Culture. [German]*  
Talk: Symposium on Migrant Enculturation, Hochschule Zittau-Görlitz
- 2015/03/18 *Social Capital in an Evolutionary Perspective. [German]*  
Talk: Conference “Evolution des Sozialen”, Würzburg
- 2013/03/18 *The Construction of Political Order and Human Nature. [German]*  
Talk: Conference “Human Behavior in Evolutionary Perspective”, Nürnberg
- 2012/07/11 *Human Nature Theory Revisited. Developing an Evolutionary Informed Idea of Man.*  
Talk: World Congress of the International Political Science Association, Madrid
- 2012/03/23 *Human Behaviour in an Evolutionary Perspective. [German]*  
Chair & Talk: MVE Conference 2012, Dresden
- 2010/10/12 *Politics and Digital Social Movements. [German]*  
Talk: Conference of the Federal Agency for Political Education, Berlin
- 2009/05/03 *Internet and Democracy.*  
Talk: Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Berlin

Find a full list at <https://tu-dresden.de/members/christoph.meisselbach>.

## TEACHING

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### Comparative Politics, Digital Democracy and Political Sociology

Introduction to Comparative Politics.

BA seminars, TU Dresden (WS 2010/11-2011/9/20)

Western Democracies and Populism in the Digital Era.

MA and PhD course, Shandong University Summer School, Qingdao, China (SS 2019)

Political Systems in a Worldwide Comparison: Pluralism & Interest Groups.

BA lectures and seminars, University of Applied Science Upper Austria (SS 2016-2019)

The „Good“ Order. Democratic Performance in a Comparative Perspective.

BA seminar, TU Dresden (SS 2014-2017, 2019)

Political Protests and Social Movements.

BA seminar, TU Dresden (WS 2018/19)

Opportunities and Limits of Digital Democracy.

BA seminars, TU Dresden (SS 2016-2018)

Political Systems in a Comparative Perspective.

BA seminars, TU Dresden (SS 2011-2013)

Policy Analysis in the Field of Media, Domestic & Social Politics.

BA seminars, TU Dresden (WS 2009/10-2011/12)

## Political Theory, Anthropology and Philosophy of Science

The Disputes about Knowledge. On the Relation of Epistemology and Politics.  
MA and BA seminars, TU Dresden (SS 2018 and 2019)

Political Order and Human Nature.  
MA seminars, TU Dresden (WS 2012/13, 2013/14, SS 2016)

Evolutionary Theories in the Social Sciences. (with Prof. Dr. Werner J. Patzelt)  
MA seminar, Summer School of the German Academic Scholarship Foundation, Greifswald (2013)

## Methods, Research Logic and Propaedeutic

Research Logic in the Social Sciences  
BA lecture, part of “Introduction to Social Science Methodology”, TU Dresden (WS 2019/20)

Research Logic and Methods for Social Scientists  
PhD course, Dresden Leibnitz Graduate School (2019)

Getting Your Thesis Done: Research Logic and Propaedeutic.  
MA and BA workshops, TU Dresden (SS 2013-2019)

The Comparative Method in the Social Sciences.  
BA lecture, part of “Introduction to Social Science Methodology”, TU Dresden (WS 2017/18)

Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA): Why does Democratic Consolidation Fail?  
MA project seminar, TU Dresden (SS 2010)

## AWARDS & GRANTS

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Konrad Adenauer Foundation Grant for scientific panels at the Beijing Humboldt Forum (2 x 20.000 €)  
Konrad Adenauer Foundation (Beijing Office), 2018 & 2019.

TU Dresden E-Learning Grant for massive open online courses in comparative politics (8000 €)  
Multimediafonds, Technische Universität Dresden, 2017/18.

Rupert Riedl Award for excellent interdisciplinary research with particular social relevance (1500 €)  
Club of Vienna & City of Vienna, 2017.

Georg Helm Award for degree theses with significant relevance for the subject area (2500 €)  
Technische Universität Dresden, 2017.

DAAD Congress Travel Grant for the Beijing Humboldt Forum (800 €),  
German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst), 2017.

## MEMBERSHIPS, ASSOCIATIONS & COMMITTEE WORK

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International Political Science Association (IPSA)

German Political Science Association [*Deutsche Vereinigung für Politische Wissenschaft*] (DVPW)

Academy of Sociology [*Akademie für Soziologie*] (AS)

Executive Board of the Centre for Social Science Methodology, Technical University Dresden (2019-)

Executive Board of the Department of Political Science, TU Dresden (2010-2017)

Appointment Committee for the Chair of International Relations, TU Dresden (2010-2011)

## ACADEMIC TRAINING

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Educating Teachers of Civic Education (8 x 45 min) – workshop, TU Dresden, 2018

Moderation in Academic Teaching (8 x 45 min) – seminar, TU Dresden, 2017

Process Tracing Methods (8 x 45 min) – IPSA research methods course, U Poznan, 2016

Designing Teaching (36 x 45 min) – task force, TU Dresden, 2013

Leadership, Motivation and Communication (16 x 45 min) – seminar, TU Dresden, 2012

Examination, Reviewing and Grading (8 x 45 min) – seminar, TU Dresden, 2010

Introduction to Higher Education Didactics (24 x 45 min) – seminar, TU Dresden, 2009

## LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

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German	native
English	fluent
Chinese	basic (learning)
Russian	basic
French	basic