Sergei Pashakhin

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Research Interests and Experience

The public sphere, online and social media: how do they bring about social and political change? Can digital-trace data and computer science approaches help us understand better how the social is generated and changed?

2022—present:

- PhD Researcher with the *Chair for the Governance of Complex and Innovative Technological Systems* (University of Bamberg).

2016—2022: Junior Research Fellow at the Social & Cognitive Informatics Lab (HSE University)

- *Political news on Russia and its neighbors on social media: major content features, factors of trust and news truthfulness detection by users of different countries*, research assistant, 2019—2022.

- *Online Spread of Socio-Political News: Fake News and its Mechanics*, research assistant, 2018—2020.

- *PolSentiLex: Sentiment Detection in Socio-political Discussions on Russian Social Media*, research assistant, 2016—2020.

- *The Representation of the Ukrainian Crisis in News: Frame Analysis with Topic Modeling*, 2016—2017.

Education

2021	Doctoral School of Sociology, HSE University
2017	Master's with HSE University.
2013	Degree in Social Work with Tomsk State University of Control Systems and Radioelectronics.

Skills

- LANGUAGES: R (advanced), Python (advanced for data analysis, scraping and parsing)

- QUANTITATIVE METHODS: Linear Regressions including GLM, ANOVA type models, Linear Mixed Effects Models, other standard stats. and clustering techniques.

- MACHINE LEARNING: Naïve Bayes, k-Means, c-Means, Random Forests, SVM, KNN.

- Social Network Analysis (intermediate) in R and Python.

  + EXPERIENCED IN TEXT-AS-DATA:

- Topic Modeling: Latent Dirichlet Allocations (confident), Structural Topic Model (confident).

- General text mining techniques from computational linguistic mostly in the R environment and some Python.

  + SOFTWARE:

- I strive to use *only* open source and open science tools.

- GNU Emacs, org-mode, LaTeX, Graphviz, pandoc, hugo, Git, GNU Make, RStudio, Jupyter, conda.

Peer-Reviewed Papers

2022

- Following the Lead When Nothing is Certain? Exploring the Image of Russia in Kazakhstani and Ukrainian Digital News Media, in: *Digital Transformation and Global Society* with Anastasia Prytkova & Sergei Koltcov.

2021

- Public agenda fragmentation beyond established democracies: the case of Russian online publics in 2017, in: *Russian Journal of Communication*.

- Coverage of Presidential Elections in Kazakhstan and Ukraine by Russian Media, in: *Polis. Political Studies* (in Russian) with Olessia Koltsova, Daria Judina, Alina Kolycheva.

- Modeling Cascade Growth: Predicting Content Diffusion on VKontakte, in: *Networks in the Global World V* with Anna Moroz & Sergei Koltsov.

- 'Alien Elections': Neighboring State News on the 2018 Russian Presidential Elections, in: *Journal of Economic Sociology* (in Russian) with Anastasia Kazun.

2020

- PolSentiLex: Sentiment Detection in Socio-political Discussions on Russian Social Media, in: *Artificial Intelligence and Natural Language (AINL20)* with Olessia Koltsova, Svetlana Alexeeva & Sergei Koltsov.

- Fast Tuning of Topic Models: An Application of Rényi Entropy and Renormalization Theory, in: *Proceedings of the 5th International Electronic Conference on Entropy and Its Applications* with Sergei Koltsov & Vera Ignatenko.

- How many clusters? An Entropic Approach to Hierarchical Cluster Analysis, in: *Computing Conference 2020* with Sergei Koltsov & Vera Ignatenko.

2019

- Agenda divergence in a developing conflict: Quantitative evidence from Ukrainian and Russian TV newsfeeds, in: *Media, War & Conflict* with Olessia Koltsova.

2018

- [A Full-Cycle Methodology for News Topic Modelling and User Feedback Research](#), in: *SocInfo 2018* with Sergei Koltsov & Sofia Dokuka.

2016

- [Topic Modelling for Frame Analysis of News Media](#), in: *Proceedings of the Artificial Intelligence and Natural Language AINL FRUCT 2016 Conference.*

Professional Service

Conferences

- Organizing Committee: Social Informatics 2018, DTGS 2021, Social Informatics 2022 (PC).

- Reviewer: ICA, Social Informatics, Internet Science, CMSTW, DTGS.

Journals

- Reviewer: PLOS ONE, Media and Communication, Post-Soviet Affairs.

Associations

- 2018—present: member of [International Communication Association](#). Divisions: Computational Methods, Political Communication.

Teaching

2022–present	Computational Text Analysis (University of Bamberg)
2022	Research Seminar "Digital Social Research" (University of Potsdam)
2021–2022	Research Seminar "Data Analytics for Politics and Society" (HSE, MA)
	Python Programming (HSE, MA)
	"Python Generation:" course for beginners (HSE, elective)
	Mentor's Seminar "Social Data Analytics" (HSE, MA)
	Data Analysis (HSE, MA)
	Introduction to Digital Social Studies (HSE, honours track)
2019–2021	Data Analysis with Python (HSE, MA and PhD programs)
	Python Programming Language and Social Networks (HSE, MA)
2018–2019	Social Media Analytics (HSE, BA program).

Presentations and Conferences

2022

- Public agenda fragmentation beyond established democracies: the case of Russian online publics in 2017. *ICA regional conference Computational Communication Research in Central and Eastern Europe* June 27–29 / Finland, Helsinki.

- Authoritarian Publics: Agenda Fragmentation. *Social Media Impact on International Affairs* May 22–25 / Germany, Bonn.

2021

- Public agenda fragmentation beyond established democracies: the case of Russian online publics in 2017. *St. Petersburg International Conference on Inequality and Diversity* / Online

- Following the Lead when Nothing is Certain? Exploring the Image of Russia in Kazakhstani and Ukrainian Digital News Media. *Digital Transformation & Global Society. DTGS 2021* / Online

2020

- 'Alien Elections': Ukrainian News Media on the 2018 Russian Presidential Elections. *St. Petersburg International Conference on Inequality and Diversity* / Online

- PolSentiLex: Sentiment Detection in Socio-political Discussions on Russian Social Media. *Artificial Intelligence and Natural Language. AINL 2020* / Online.

2019

- Media Diets and News Agendas Online: A Case of the 2017 Protests in Russia *19th Annual Aleksanteri Conference "Technology, Culture, and Society in the Eurasian Space"* / Helsinki, Finland.

- Media Diets and News Agendas Online: A Case of the 2017 Protests in Russia *St. Petersburg Conference on Inequality and Diversity* / St. Petersburg, Russia.

- Topic Modelling as an Instrument of Soft Clustering in Social Sciences *HSE Digital Humanities Meet-up* / Moscow, Russia.

2018

- A Full-Cycle Methodology for News Topic Modelling and User Feedback Research *10th International Conference on Social Informatics. SocInfo 2018* / Saint Petersburg, Russia.

- Agenda Divergence in a Developing Conflict: A Quantitative Evidence from a Ukrainian and a Russian TV Newsfeeds (with Olessia Koltsova) *68th Annual ICA Conference: Voices* / Praque, Czech Republic.

2017

- The Representation of Ukrainian Crisis in News: Frame Analysis with Topic Modelling. *5th International Conference Comparative Media Studies in Today's World: Media Transformations in Times of Technological Boom and Political Polarization* / Saint Petersburg, Russia.

2016

- Topic Modelling for Frame Analysis of News Media *Artificial Intelligence and Natural Language. AINL 2016* / Saint Petersburg, Russia.

Awards and Scholarships

2022

- A teaching position for scholars-at-risk from *University of Potsdam* (Winter semester).

- A grant for research from *Otto A. Malm Foundation*.

- Guest scientists at *University of Potsdam* (May—July).

- Top Paper Award from the Political Communication Division of the *International Communication Association*.

2021

- Best Paper Award by *National Association of Media Scholars* for the paper "Alien Elections': Ukrainian News Media on the 2018 Russian Presidential Elections.'

2019

- HSE Young Faculty Support Program (Group of Young Academic Professionals). Category 'New Researchers' (2019—2020).

2018

- Top Paper Award from the Political Communication Division of the *International Communication Association*.

- Advanced Doctoral Programme Scholarship of the HSE University.

Supplementary Education

Summer Schools	Experimental Methods & Simulations in Social and Cognitive Sciences, HSE, 13—22 July, 2021.
	Empowering Your Academic Writing in English: Academic vs. General, HSE, September 30—November 24, 2019.
	Social Media Theory and Research, Radboud University, Nijmegen, 1–5 July 2019.
	Web Science Summer School (WWSSS'17)
Seminars	2019, FRRESH Spring Seminar / FIRST Intensive Course
	Included workshops on writing and teaching.
Coursera	2015, Exploratory Data Analysis, Johns Hopkins University.
	2015, Practical Machine Learning, Johns Hopkins University.
	2015, Questionnaire Design for Social Surveys, University of Michigan.
	2014, Data Analysis, Johns Hopkins University.
	2013, Computing for Data Analysis, Johns Hopkins University.

Languages

English	IELTS overall band score 7.5 (Academic module). CEFR level C1.
Russian	Native speaker.