Paul Elvis Otto

PhD Researcher, European University Institute

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Education

European University Institute — Florence, Italy

PhD in Political Science — Sep 2026 - ongoing

Duke University — Durham, NC, USA

Master of Public Policy (dual degree with Hertie School) — Sep 2024 - May 2026

- Focus: Education Policy, Social Policy, Natural Language Processing
- Thesis: Advised by Prof Komisarow, Prof Munzert

Hertie School — Berlin, Germany

Master of Data Science for Public Policy (dual degree with Duke University) — Sep 2024 - May 2026

- Focus: Data Science for Social Science, Statistical Learning, Machine Learning, Causal Inference

Philipps University Marburg — Marburg, Germany

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science — Oct 2021 - May 2024

- Focus: comparative politics, political economy, quantitative and qualitative methods
- Bachelor's thesis: Varieties of populist radical right narratives.
- Advised by Prof. Schulte-Cloos

Experience

Research Assistant — Berlin, Germany

Hertie School (Chair of Prof. Munzert) — Oct 2024 - Present

- Build and maintain reproducible data pipelines for research projects (collection, cleaning, validation, and documentation).
- Improve research workflows with version control

Research Assistant — Marburg, Germany

Philipps University Marburg (Chair of Prof. Schulte-Cloos) — Oct 2023 - Jan 2025

- Collected AfD-related blog posts down to municipality level by building a web-scraping workflow; produced a structured dataset for downstream analysis.
- Created teaching materials on web scraping for political science students (end-to-end examples, exercises, and best practices for ethics/reproducibility).
- Cleaned and standardized text and metadata (URLs, dates, sources) and ran quantitative analyses of posting behavior and content patterns.

Projects

Zweitstimme.org — Hertie School

Polling data pipeline and analysis infrastructure — Oct 2024 - Present

- Built an end-to-end pipeline to collect polling data from multiple sources/APIs and store it in a consistent schema
- Implemented automated cleaning, validation, and deduplication steps; produced analysis-ready tables and documentation
- Added scheduled runs and monitoring (logs, alerts) to keep the dataset continuously up to date
- Tech: Python, pandas/polars, SQL, Git, Docker

Comparative Legislators Database — Hertie School

Database redesign and implementation — Oct 2024 - Present

- Reworked database structure to support consistent identifiers, richer metadata, and easier integration of new countries/legislatures
- Tech: SQL, R, Git

Quantitative analysis of far-right online presence in Germany — Philipps University Marburg

Research project — Oct 2023 - Jan 2025

- Identified and archived party-affiliated blogs; created a structured corpus with metadata for analysis

Designed Coursework

Math for Data Science — Hertie School
Chair of Prof. Magazinnik — 2025

Web Scraping in R — Philipps University Marburg
Chair of Prof. Schulte-Cloos — 2023 - 2024

Web Scraping in Python — Philipps University Marburg
Chair of Prof. Schulte-Cloos — 2023 - 2024

- Designed a full introduction to web scraping in R and Python (from HTML basics to data extraction and cleaning)
- Target audience: political science students; emphasis on real research use-cases and reproducible workflows
- Covered practical topics: rate limiting, error handling, data validation, and ethical considerations

Skills

Spoken Languages	German (native), English (C1), Italian (A1), French (basic)
Programming Languages	**Python**, **R**, Rust
Data & Databases	SQL, SQLite, PostgreSQL, pandas / polars, tidyverse
Web & Automation	HTTPX / requests, BeautifulSoup, Playwright / Selenium, APIs, Scheduled jobs

References

Prof. Dr. Simon Munzert
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Prof. Dr. Julia Schulte-Cloos
University of Marburg
Assistant Professor Political Science with a focus on democracy research, in particular the German political system from a comparative perspective
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Prof. Asya Magazinnik, PhD
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