

Dr. Joshua Cova

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies

Senior Researcher

Cologne, Germany

Jul 2023 –

- Senior Researcher in the Political Economy research group (Sep 2025-)

- Postdoctoral research associate in the Political Economy research group (Jul 2023-Aug 2025)

King's College London

Postdoctoral Research Associate

London, UK

Dec 2022 – Jun 2023

- Research associate in the Leverhulme Trust-funded project '[The Political Economy of Growth Models in an Age of Stagnation](#)'. Worked on a project examining the relationship between labour market institutions and export specialization in European economies. PIs: Prof. Engelbert Stockhammer, Dr. Chiara Benassi

EDUCATION

Hertie School and Humboldt University

DFG-funded joint PhD program [DYNAMICS](#); Grade: Summa cum laude

Berlin, Germany

Sep 2019 – Dec 2022

Thesis title: "The political economy of European wage formation"

Committee: Prof. Anke Hassel (Hertie School), Prof. Hanna Schwander (Humboldt University), Prof. Lucio Baccaro (Max Planck Institute)

University of Oxford

MPhil in European Politics; Grade: Pass with Merit

Oxford, UK

Sep 2014 – Jun 2016

King's College London

BA in History; Grade: First Class Honours

London, UK

Sep 2011 – Jun 2014

NON-ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

Boston Consulting Group (BCG)

Analyst

Zurich, Switzerland

Dec 2017 – Jun 2019

European Investment Bank

Traineeship

Luxembourg

Feb 2017 – Jul 2017

European Parliament (Cabinet of the President)

Traineeship

Brussels, Belgium

Sep 2016 – Jan 2017

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Cova, Joshua (2025) 'A new database for Italian parliamentary speeches. Introducing the *ItaParlCorpus* dataset', *Italian Political Science Review/Rivista Italiana di Scienza Politica*, 55, 77-86 [[Published version](#)]

Cova, Joshua (2025) 'State intervention in low-wage work: Politics, social actors and increased governmental control in the setting of the minimum wage', *European Journal of Industrial Relations*, 31(3): 345-368 [[Published version](#)]

Cova, Joshua (2024) 'On industrial relations and inflation: a long-term perspective', *Transfer: European Review of Labour and Research*, 30(3): 277-298 [[Published version](#)]

Cova, Joshua (2023) 'Politicizing the minimum wage: A multilingual text analysis of minimum wages in European electoral manifestos', *Journal of European Social Policy*, 33(4): 469-483 [[Published version](#)]

Cova, Joshua (2023) 'Back to the basics: Applying multilingual dictionary analysis to the Comparative Manifesto Project corpus', *Computational Communication Research*, 5(2): 1-25 [[Published version](#)]

Cova, Joshua (2022) 'Reconsidering the drivers of country-specific recommendations: The Commission's ideological preferences on wage policies', *European Union Politics*, 23(4): 639-661 [[Published version](#)] [[LSE European Politics Blog](#)]

DATA

Cova, Joshua (2025), *ItaParlCorpus*, a historical, machine-readable and annotated database of all parliamentary transcripts in Italy's post-war republic history (1948-2022) [[Harvard Dataverse](#)]

Cova, Joshua and Germani, Irene (2025), *CommonsCorpus*, a historical, machine-readable and annotated database of all parliamentary transcripts of the UK's House of Commons (1970-2024) [[Harvard Dataverse](#)]

PRE-PRINTS AND WORKING PAPERS

Cova, Joshua and Schmitz, Luuk (2024) 'A primer for the use of classifier and generative large language models in social science research', *OSF Pre-prints* [[Published version](#)]

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Cova, Joshua (2023) 'Parliamentary debates on Italy's industrial policy (1948-2022)', *LUHNIP Discussion Papers on Italy's Industrial Policy* [[Published version](#)]

Cova, Joshua (2023) 'Book Review - Diminishing Returns: The New Politics of Growth and Stagnation', *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis* [[Published version](#)]

Cova, Joshua (2022) 'The EU directive on fair and adequate minimum wages: Low-pay work, collective bargaining and the prospects for income growth', *Jacques Delors Centre* [[Published version](#)]

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

SASE Early Career Workshop Awarded the SASE Early Career Workshop prize - conferences & accommodation fees at the SASE conference were waived

DFG-funded DYNAMICS PostDoc start-up funding (2022) DFG-funded DYNAMICS doctoral candidates who submitted their PhD theses within three years were eligible to apply, on a competitive basis, for PostDoc Start-up funding

Dahrendorf Forum Research Paper Competition (2020) Awarded € 2,000 for best paper

TEACHING

University of Dusseldorf

The Internal and External Dimensions of EU Governance (Summer semester 2025)

University of Cologne

The Political Economy of Inequality (Fall semester 2024)

Designed my own course for BA students

Median student satisfaction score: 5/5

Hertie School

Statistics I (Fall semester, 2021 & Fall Semester, 2022)

Median student satisfaction score: 10/10

University of Cologne

Guest seminars for *Politics and Instruments of Macroeconomic Governance* (Fall semester 2023)

Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies

- Co-organizer of an ongoing workshop series on the uses of [Large language models in social science research](#) for advanced graduate students
- [Introduction to Python for social scientists](#) (February 2024)

SUMMER SCHOOLS & WORKSHOPS

- Time Series & Panel Data Analysis (Essex Summer School, University of Essex)
- Introduction to Python for the social sciences (Humboldt University Berlin)
- Beyond Counting Words: Working with Word Embeddings (Humboldt University Berlin)
- Econometrics for Policy Analysis (Bocconi University)

CONFERENCES

- EPSA (*European Political Science Association*): 2022
- SASE (*Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics*): 2022, 2024, 2025
- CES (*Council for European Studies*): 2023, 2024
- SISP (*Societa Italiana di Scienze Politiche*): 2025
- SISEC (*Societa Italiana di Sociologia Economica*): 2023, 2024, 2025

SERVICES TO THE PROFESSION

Reviewer: *Journal of Common Market Studies*, *Government and Opposition*, *Review of Evolutionary Political Economy*, *European Journal of Industrial Relations*, *Journal of European Public Policy*, *Comparative Politics*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Social Science Computer Review*, *Historical Social Research*, *Scientific Data*

Academic positions: SASE Early Career Workshop reviewer and facilitator, Chair of the ECPR Political Economy & Welfare Standing Group

SKILLS

Programming: R, Python, Stata, L^AT_EX, Git, Microsoft Office

Languages: Italian (Native), German (Native), English (Professional), French (Intermediate)

REFERENCES

- Prof. Lucio Baccaro**, Director of the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, Cologne
- Prof. Chiara Benassi**, University of Bologna
- Prof. Anke Hassel**, Hertie School, Berlin