Dr. Joshua Cova

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Academic Positions

Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies — Cologne, Germany
Senior Researcher — *Jul 2023 –*

- Senior Researcher in the Political Economy research group (Sep 2025-)
  - Parental leave (Nov-Dec 2025)
- Postdoctoral research associate in the Political Economy research group (Jul 2023-Aug 2025)

King's College London — London, UK
Postdoctoral Research Associate — *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 — Berlin, Germany
DFG-funded joint PhD program DYNAMICS; ***Grade: Summa cum laude*** — *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 — Oxford, UK
MPhil in European Politics; ***Grade: Pass with Merit*** — *Sep 2014 – Jun 2016*

King's College London — London, UK
BA in History; ***Grade: First Class Honours*** — *Sep 2011 – Jun 2014*

Non-academic Professional Experiences

Boston Consulting Group (BCG) — Zurich, Switzerland
Analyst — *Dec 2017 – Jun 2019*

European Investment Bank — Luxembourg
Traineeship — *Feb 2017 – Jul 2017*

European Parliament (Cabinet of the President) — Brussels, Belgium
Traineeship — *Sep 2016 – Jan 2017*

Peer-reviewed publications

Cova, Joshua and Marenco, Matteo (2026), 'Safeguarding or Sidestepping? The Centre-Right, the Minimum Wage, and Collective Bargaining Autonomy in Germany and Italy's Low-Wage Sector, *Max Planck Discussion Paper*[Published version]

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 (2026), *CCNL-Open*, a historical, fully machine-readable database of all collective bargaining agreements in Italy's post-war period (1946-2026)[Open Science Foundation]

Cova, Joshua (2025), *ItaParlCorpus*, a historical, machine-readable and annotated database of all parliamentary transcripts in Italy's post-war period (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

Braun, Benjamin, Baccaro, Lucio and Cova, Joshua (2026) 'Sustaining Imbalance: International Financial Foundations of Growth Models', *OSF Pre-prints* [Published version]

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

Max Planck Society conference funding: Obtained funding from the Max Planck Society to organize a conference on Southern European capitalism (January 2027) as well as a Summer School for Women in Politcal Economy (Septemebr 2027)

SASE Early Career Workshop (2022) 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 Cologne

- *The Political Economy of Inequality* (Fall semester 2024). Median satisfaction score: 5/5
- *How to Research Political Economies: The Value of a Plurality of Methods* (Summer semester 2027)

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

Hertie School
Statistics I (Fall semester, 2021 & Fall Semester, 2022)
Median student satisfaction score: 10/10

Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies

- Natural Language processing and Large Language Models for social scientists for PhD candidates and post-doctoral researchers (January & April 2026)
- Introduction to Python for social scientists (February 2024)

Guest seminars

University of Cologne
Guest seminar for *Politics and Instruments of Macroeconomic Governance* (2023)

University of Macerata
Guest seminar for *Natural language precessing methods for social scientists* (2026)

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, 2026

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, Journal of Contemporary European Studies*

Academic positions: SASE Early Career Workshop reviewer and facilitator (2025), Chair of the ECPR Political Economy & Welfare Standing Group (2025-)

Supervision

PhD Supervision: Michele Piccinetti (University of Siena)

Skills

Programming: R, Python, Stata, LaTeX, 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