
Curriculum Vitæ

Dr. Jens Carstens

Research Associate

Institute of Political Science (IPW)
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Research Interests

- *Comparative Politics and Public Opinion*: How are citizens making sense of politics? Political attitudes, (dis)trust, voting behaviour.
- *Political Sociology*: How does post-modern capitalism shape political attitudes and behaviour? Economic insecurity, labour market transformations, social class.
- *Economic Geography*: How does the socio-economic structure of place matter politically? Geography of discontent, regional inequalities, local context.

Academic Positions and Employment

- 2026–present: *Research Associate*, Institute of Political Science, University of Bern
- 2021–2026: *PhD Candidate*, CEE, Sciences Po Paris
- 2020–2021: *Graduate Trainee*, Eurofound, Dublin, Ireland

Education

- 2021–2025: *PhD in Political Science*, CEE, Sciences Po Paris, France
- 2017–2019: *MSc Global Political Economy*, Stockholm University, Sweden
- 2013–2016: *BA Political Science*, University of Mannheim, Germany

Publications

- *Dimensionality of political trust between EU and national institutions and actors* (2024), with Laura Morales et al. in ‘Report on the general dynamics of trust based on secondary data analysis’ Christensen et al. ([DOI](#))
- *Unpacking Political Trust: A Review of Conceptualisations, Determinants, and Consequences* (2023), *French Politics*, 21, 295–314. ([DOI](#))
- *Promoting social cohesion and convergence: Regional convergence and inequalities* (2021), Eurofound Working Paper: WPEF21064, with Massimiliano Mascherini and Anamaria Maftai. ([Link](#))
- *Monitoring Convergence in the European Union: Looking backwards to move forward – Upward Convergence through crises* (2021), Eurofound Flagship Report with Massimiliano Mascherini, Anamaria Maftai, and Sarah Farrell. ([Link](#))
- *COVID-19: A turning point for an upward convergence in health and healthcare in the EU?* (2021) Eurofound Report with Anamaria Maftai and Massimiliano Mascherini. ([Link](#))

Ongoing Work

- *The Suffering Citizen*, book project with Markus Freitag and Natalie Herren.

- *Citizens' Perceptions in the 'Geography of Discontent': The Effect of Place-Based Discontent on Political (Dis-)Trust in the UK* presented at ECPR Joint Sessions 2024 (currently under review).
- *Fresh Bread and the Geography of Discontent: The 'Pain' of Local Service Deprivation and Far-Right Voting in France*, presented at University Duisburg-Essen, 2024, and Swiss Political Science Association Congress, Geneva, 2025.
- *Place-based Grievances and Political Trust: Unravelling the Micro-Foundations of the Geography of Discontent in France*, presented at EPSA 2024.
- *Linking Place Decline and Populist Far-Right Voting: The Mediating Role of Political Trust in Europe*, presented at ESS-SHARE conference 2024 at Université Dauphine and ECPR General Conference 2025.
- *Perceptions vs. Reality: Bridging the Objective-Subjective Nexus of Place Deprivation*, with Anne Stroppe, presented at ESRA 2025 and ECPR General Conference.
- *Revisiting the dimensionality of trust in political institutions – Evidence of a two-dimensional structure*, with Laura Morales, Carles Pamies, Henrik Serup Christensen, Janette Huttunen, Chiao Li.

Skills

Research Skills:

- Survey data analysis: Cross-sectional and panel regression analysis, including causal inference research designs
- Geospatial data analysis: mapping, spatial autocorrelation, multilevel modelling
- Software: R, Stata

Languages:

- German (native); English (fluent); French (fluent); Swedish and Spanish (understanding)

Conferences and Invited Talks

- 2025: Swiss Political Science Association (Geneva) Eurofound Research Talk (Dublin), ESRA (Utrecht), ECPR General Conference (Thessaloniki), UACES (Liverpool)
- 2024: "Current Directions in Research on Political Support" workshop (Duisburg-Essen), EPSA (Cologne), European Graduate Network Conference (Zurich), ECPR Joint Sessions (Lüneburg) Journée scientifique SHARE-ESS (Dauphine PSL, Paris)
- 2023: IAST-Oxford Conference of Political Economy (Sciences Po Paris)
- 2022: Inequality Conference (Konstanz)
- 2021: Villa Vigoni Conference "Social Monitoring and Reporting in Europe"

Summer Schools and Courses

- "Causal Inference" (ECPR Summer School with Vicente Valentim)
- "Text-as-data using Python" (Sciences Po médialab course with Jean-Philippe Cointet and Armin Pournaki)
- "Geodata and Spatial Regression Analysis" (GESIS workshop with Tobias Rüttenauer)
- "Causal Mediation Analysis" (GESIS workshop with Felix Thömmes)
- "Structural Equation Modelling" (GESIS workshop with Theresa Rohm)
- "A multilevel perspective of trust and public governance" GOVTRUST Summer School 2022, Antwerp University
- "Economic Geography: Labour, Inequality and Nature in Globalized Capitalism" Summer Academy for Pluralist Economics 2020.

Service to the Academic Community

- Since 2023: Peer reviewer for academic journals, including Comparative Political Studies, Political Behaviour, Policy Sciences, East European Politics and Societies
- 2023–2024: AxPo seminar coordinator
- 2022–2024: PhD representative at CEE, Sciences Po

Teaching Experience

- 2022–2024: Introduction to Political Science (BA), Sciences Po Nancy (average student satisfaction: 92 per cent)
- 2022–2023: Quantitative Methods (MA), Sciences Po Paris (average student satisfaction: 91 percent)