



Sean Hamilton-Palicki

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Born: November 28, 1990 in San Diego, CA, USA

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EDUCATION

**05/2021-
Present**

PhD in Computational Social Science with a focus in Political Communication

Technical University of Munich (TUM), School of Social Sciences and Technology
Munich, Germany

- Dissertation: *Beyond Neutral Tools: Computational Text Analysis Methods, Evaluating Consequences, and Measuring Social Identity.*
- State-of-the-art expertise in Natural Language Processing including Large Language Models, Information Retrieval and Text Analysis.
- Supervisors: Stefanie Walter (TU Munich) and Wouter van Atteveldt (VU Amsterdam)

**09/2018 –
11/2019**

MSc with Distinction in Big Data Analytics

Birmingham City University (BCU), School of Computing and Digital Technology
Birmingham, UK

- Thesis: *Sentiment Analysis Based on Transfer Learning for Detecting Psychological Distress in Brexit Tweets.*
- First-Class with Distinction, 81.78% Overall Average

**08/2009 –
05/2013**

BA in Psychology, minor in Philosophy

San Diego State University (SDSU), Faculty of Sciences
San Diego, CA, USA

- Summa Cum Laude with Honors, 3.95/4.0 Overall GPA, 4.0/4.0 Major GPA

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

**10/2019 –
Present**

Daimon Analytics, Munich, Germany

Data Science and AI Consultant, Self-Employed (Kleinunternehmer)

- Designing and delivering MVPs for AI and big data systems, including LLM/ML model fine-tuning & red-teaming (GPT, Mistral, BERT), web scraping, data architecture, and scalable cloud infrastructure (AWS, Azure).
- Clients: TalentAid (11/2025 – 06/2026), Camp Education International (09/2025 – Present), KnowHive (2024 – 2025), West Coast Management (2022), and LiveBuzz (2019 – 2020)

**03/2021-
03/2024**

Emmy Noether Research Group, Technical University of Munich, Munich, Germany

Doctoral Research Associate

- Data science specialist using natural language processing and big data in research projects.
- Prompt engineering, tuning, and API programming using ChatGPT and open LLMs.
- Developed and maintained database and analytics pipelines using LRZ cloud computing.
- Regularly used Python, R, SQL, Apache Spark.
- Multiple projects in peer-reviewed publications and shared at international conferences.

- 11/2013 – 10/2019** Acorn Evaluation, San Diego, CA, USA
Director of Product Development, Previous Senior Research Associate
- Managed multiple Agile projects simultaneously, responsible for customer collaboration, project planning, establishing product requirements, and meeting delivery timelines.
 - Developed data transformation and statistical analysis pipelines from diverse data sources including databases, open text, surveys, experiments, spreadsheets, and websites.
 - Created data visualizations including interactive dashboards, infographics, maps and presentations.
- 08/2013-10/2013** Harder and Company Community Research, San Diego, CA, USA
Research Assistant for Program Evaluation
- Community evaluation of non-profits using surveys, data analysis, and reports.
- 05/2012-05/2013** Learning Support Center, SDSU, San Diego, CA, USA
Tutor for Statistics and Research Methods
- One-to-one instructional support for quantitative courses in the social sciences.
- 05/2011-05/2013** Culture and Cognition Lab, Dept. of Psychology, SDSU, San Diego, CA, USA
Research Assistant for Cognitive Psychology
- Published mixed methods research using experimental design, survey, and data analysis.
- 12/2011-05/2012** Generations Lab, Dept. of Psychology, SDSU, San Diego, CA, USA
Research Assistant for Personality and Social Psychology
- Literature review and meta-analysis in positive psychology.

PUBLICATIONS AND PROCEEDINGS

Hamilton-Palicki, S., Bravo, I. & Claessen, C. (2026). Don't Look up: Evaluating the Tradeoff Between Performance and Sustainability of Text Classification Using Open LLMs. *Social Science Computer Review*, 0 (0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/08944393261473230>

Balluff, P., Ho, J. C. ting, Gruber, J. B., **Palicki, S.**, Palmer, A., Rossi, L., ... Chan, C. hong. (2026). Newer, Larger, Better? A Critique of the Unreflective LLM Adoption in Communication Research. *Political Communication*, 43 (3), 572–581. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10584609.2026.2618486>

Ogunkunle, D., Odebiyi, S., Beazer, A., Walter, S., Bravo, I. & **Palicki, S.** (2025). Analysing media framing of the farmer–herder conflict in Nigeria: Combining topic modelling and Qualitative Content Analysis. *Media, War, and Conflict*, 0 (0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/17506352251355516>

Beazer, A., **Palicki, S.**, Walter, S. & Eldridge, S.A., II (2024). Intersectional Solidarity, Empathy, or Pity? Exploring Representations of Migrant Women and German and British Newspapers During the Pandemic. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2024.2362456>

Palicki, S., Walter, S., van Attevelde, W., Beazer, A. & Bravo, I. (2023) Selecting Relevant Documents for Multilingual Content Analysis: An Evaluation of Keyword and Semantic Similarity Approaches. *Computational Communication Research*, 5 (2). <https://doi.org/10.5117/CCR2023.2.5.PALI>

Beazer, A., Walter, S. Eldridge, S.A., II & **Palicki, S.** (2023). On the Margins: Exploring Minority News Media Representations of Women During the Covid-19 Pandemic. *Digital Journalism*, 13 (6), 1151-1170. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21670811.2023.2206039>

Palicki, S., Fouad, S., Adedoyin-Olowe, M., & Adballah, Z. (2021). Transfer Learning Approach for Detecting

Psychological Distress in Brexit Tweets. *In Proceedings of the 36th Annual ACM Symposium on Applied Computing (SAC '21)*. Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 967-975. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3412841.3441972>

Unsworth, S., **Palicki, S.** & Lustig, J. (2016). The Impact of Mindfulness Meditation in Nature on Self-Nature Interconnectedness. *Mindfulness*. 7, 1052-1060. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12671-016-0542-8>

IN PROGRESS

Hamilton-Palicki, S., Beazer, A., Ariza, V. A. & Walter, S.. Using Large Language Models to Analyze Intersectional Media Portrayals of Identity. Research Paper.

Hamilton-Palicki, S. Fastcorpus: A text analysis library for the Rust programming language. Open Source Software.

ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

COMPTExT Conference (2026). Birmingham, UK, presentation, “*Tidycarbon: An R package for tracking and reducing the environmental costs of computational data analysis.*”

COMPTExT Conference (2025). Vienna, AUT, presentation, “*Don’t Look Up: Evaluating the Tradeoff between Accuracy and Sustainability of LLMs for Text Analysis.*”

Conference on Natural Language Processing, KONVENS (2024). Vienna, AUT, poster, “*Using Large Language Models to Analyze Intersectional Media Portrayals of Identity.*”

COMPTExT Conference (2024). Amsterdam, NL, presentation, “*The Language of Us and Them Over Time: A Diachronus Approach to Tracking and Element of Populism.*”

COMPTExT Conference (2023). Glasgow, UK, presentation, “*Comparing Machine Translation and Word Embedding Approaches to Document Retrieval and their Effects on Multilingual Text Analysis.*”

International Communication Assoc. Conference (2023). Toronto, CAN, panel, “*Bridging or polarizing? How computational and qualitative methods can help us understand expressions of solidarity in the news during the pandemic.*”

COMPTExT Conference (2022), Dublin, IRL, presentation, “*Discovering Inclusive Ethnicity/Race Keywords: A (Mostly) Computational Approach.*”

International Communication Assoc. Conference (2022), Paris, FRA, presentation “*Compassion or Indifference: The role of news media in constructing empathy towards minoritized groups during the Covid-19 pandemic.*”

Council of Europeanists Conference (2022), Lisbon, PRT, presentation, “*Discovering Inclusive Ethnicity/Race Keywords: A (Mostly) Computational Approach.*”

German Society for Journalism and Communication Science Conference (2022), Munich, GER, poster, “*Discovering Inclusive Ethnicity/Race Keywords: A (Mostly) Computational Approach.*”

ACM/SIGAPP Symposium on Applied Computing (2021), Online, presentation, “*Transfer Learning Approach for Detecting Psychological Distress in Brexit Tweets.*”

OTHER PROJECTS AND TRAINING

Open Source Software

- *fastcorpus* (2026-Present). A fast text analysis library for Python.
- *tidycarbon* (2025-Present). Tidy R wrapper for the CodeCarbon emissions tracker, for tracking energy use and carbon emissions. <https://github.com/seankellyhp/Tidycarbon>

- *rKeywords* (2022-Present). An R package based on word embeddings for automatically expanding keyword search queries. Currently expanding to Multilingual. <https://github.com/seankellyhp/rKeywords>

Interviews & Media

- Podcast (2025): #aBitOfCSS, On Sustainability and Large Language Models
- Podcast (2024): #aBitOfCSS, On Document Selection with Keywords
- Online Newspaper (2017): The Huffington Post, How to Raise an Environmentalist

Selected Workshops & Courses

- The Power of Less: Efficient LLM Training with Adapters (2025). *Univ. Vienna*.
- AI for Media: Science Meets Journalism (2024). *Bayerischer Rundfunk*.
- Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (2023). *LMU*.
- Management of Software Projects: Professional Scrum Master (2023). *TUM*.
- Advanced Research Methods: Quantitative Text Analysis (2022). *Oxford*.
- Data Science Summer School (2021, 2022, 2025). *Hertie School Berlin*.
- Intel AI Workshop: Deep Learning (2021). *Leibniz Supercomputing Center*.
- Research Data Management (2021). *TUM*.
- Modern Optimization Algorithms (2019). *BCU*.
- Data Mining (2018). *BCU*.

Certifications

- Deutsch B2, Deutsch für den Beruf (2025). *telc*.
- Deutsch B1 (2024). *telc*.
- Professional Scrum Master 1 (2023). *TUM Graduate School, Scrum.org*.
- PRINCE2 Certified Project Manager (2019). *BCU, Axelos Global*.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming	R, Python, Rust, SQL, GNU/Linux, Git, LaTeX, Javascript (<i>Basic</i>)
Data Analysis	Tidyverse, Quanteda, Pandas, NumPy, SpaCy, Apache Spark, Polars
AI / ML	Tensorflow/Keras, PyTorch, Transformers, OpenAI (API), Langchain/Langgraph, , Pydantic, Haystack, Ollama, vLLM, Scikit-learn, Caret, Doc2vec, Topicmodels
Data Visualization	Tableau, ggPlot2, Seaborn, Matplotlib, Gradio, D3, Highcharts
Databases	MySQL, MariaDB, DuckDB, SQLite, PostgreSQL (PGVector), ElasticSearch, MongoDB

LANGUAGES

English	Native
German	Intermediate (B2 telc)

REFERENCES

Stefanie Walter, PhD

Professor for Science and Crisis Communication
Technical University of Munich
Munich, Germany
Email: stefanie.walter@tum.de

Atif Azad, PhD

Professor of Artificial Intelligence
Birmingham City University
Birmingham, UK
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Wouter van Atteveltdt, PhD

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Gregory Dixon, PhD

Chief Research Officer, National Head Start Association
Prev. Associate Professor, University of West Georgia
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