

(Peter) Luca Versteegen

PhD Candidate

Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg

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Education

September 2020 – present (Planned defense: March 2024)

PhD Candidate Political Science, University of Gothenburg

On People and Their Passions: The Role of Identities and Emotions in Radical Political Behavior

Supervisors: Maria Solevid & Jacob Sohlberg

September 2024 – December 2024

Visiting Scholar, SNF Agora, Johns Hopkins University

September 2018 – June 2020

Research Masters Social and Behavioral Sciences (M.Sc.), Tilburg University

Master's Thesis: *When Inclusion Becomes a Necessity: Distinguishing Assimilation from Inclusion in Optimal Distinctiveness Theory* (with distinction)

Supervisor: Byron Adams

September 2016 – June 2017

Erasmus year in undergraduate Psychology Studies (B.Sc.), University of Southampton

October 2014 – July 2018

Bachelors Psychology (M.Sc.), University of Hamburg

Bachelor's Thesis: *A Needle in a Haystack: The Influence of Future Thought on Delay Discounting in an Online Context* (1.0)

Supervisors: Gabriele Oettingen & Malin Chromik

Professional Experience

July 2019 – August 2019

Visiting Scholar, Department of Psychology, Northwestern University

February 2018 – April 2018

Research Assistant, Department of Psychology, New York University

June 2017 – May 2018

Research Assistant, Presencing Institute Germany (Business Consultancy)

March 2016 – June 2016

Research Assistant, Department of Educational Psychology and Motivation, University of Hamburg, Gabriele Oettingen

February 2014 – August 2014

Research Assistant, Presencing Institute Germany (Business Consultancy)

Teaching Experience

Master's level:

Spring 2023: SF2222, Citizens, Politicians and the Media: Evaluating Democratic Processes

Master's Theses Supervision (4 as co-supervisor)

Bachelor's level:

Spring Term 2022: SK1137, Swedish Politics in a Comparative Perspective

Autumn Term 2021: SK1137, Swedish Politics in a Comparative Perspective

Spring Term 2021: SK1137, Swedish Politics in a Comparative Perspective

Bachelor's Theses Supervision (4 as a main supervisor, 5 as a co-supervisor)

Peer-Reviewed Publications

1. Versteegen, P.L. (2023): Those Were the What? Contents of Nostalgia, Relative Deprivation, and Radical Right Support. *European Journal of Political Research*. Early view. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-6765.12593>
2. Versteegen, P.L. (2023): The Excluded Ordinary? A Theory of Populist Radical Right Supporters' Position in Society. *European Journal of Social Psychology*. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1002/ejsp.2977>

Other Publications

1. Versteegen, U. & Versteegen, P.L. (2020). *Social Fields As An Awareness-Based Approach To Reconnect Self, Other, and Whole*. In O. Gunnlaugson (Ed.), *Advances in Presencing*, Volume 3. Vancouver, Can: Trifoss Business Press.
2. Versteegen, P.L. (2023). Populist radical right voters do not have a monopoly on nostalgia! *The Loop – ECPR's Political Science Blog*. [Link](#).

Work in progress

Leuschner, E., & Versteegen, P. L. (under review). For a Cause but with Affect: When and Why Emotions Matter in Protest.

Versteegen, P. L. & Adams, B. G. (under review). The Inclusion Experience: Just Belonging or Belonging and Uniqueness. University of Gothenburg, Sweden & University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Versteegen, P.L. (revise & resubmit). Trump Voters' Social Position in US Society: Uniqueness and Radical Right Support.

Versteegen, P. L. (revise & resubmit). We Love, They Hate: Emotions in Affective Polarization and How Partisans Use Them.

Versteegen, P. L. & Sohlberg, J. (under review). Everyone is in Charge: Compassion Predicts Personal and Civic Prosocial Behaviors in Societal Crises.

Kubin, E., Versteegen, P. L., & Gray, K. (in prep). How Self-Disclosure Bridges Divides: A Tool for Increasing Political Respect and Willingness to Interact.

Lawall, K., Versteegen, P.L., & Tsakiris, M. (in prep.). Feeling Affective Polarization – A Comparative Study on Emotions in Affective Polarization. University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

Versteegen, P.L., & Mason, L. (in prep.). Democratic Norms Among the Affectively *Unpolarized*.

Versteegen, P.L., & Syropoulos, S. (in prep.). How To Cope With Status Threat: Experiments to Reduce Backlash Among Majority Members. University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

Conferences and Workshops

October 2023 (invited). How to Cope with Status Threat: Recognizing Majorities' Subgroup Uniqueness Increases Their Support for Minority Empowerment. Minority Politics Workshop, Michigan State University & University of Michigan.

September 2023 (invited). How to Cope with Status Threat: Recognizing Majorities' Subgroup Uniqueness Increases Their Support for Minority Empowerment. SNF Agora Graduate Workshop.

July 2023 (accepted). Who Should Be in Charge During a Crisis? When Feeling Compassion, Individuals Assign Responsibility to Everyone. ISPP, Montréal.

July 2023 (accepted). How to Cope with Status Threat: Recognizing Majorities' Subgroup Uniqueness Increases Their Support for Minority Empowerment. ISPP, Montréal.

July 2023 (accepted poster). How Self-Disclosure Bridges Divides: A Strategy for Increasing Political Respect and Willingness to interact. ISPP, Montréal.

June 2023 (accepted). Tracing Emotions in Protest Mobilization. EPSA, Glasgow.

June 2023 (accepted). How to Cope with Status Threat: Recognizing Majorities' Subgroup Uniqueness Increases Their Support for Minority Empowerment. EPSA, Glasgow.

June 2023 (accepted). How to Cope with Status Threat: Recognizing Majorities' Subgroup Uniqueness Increases Their Support for Minority Empowerment. Pluralistic Societies Workshop, Copenhagen.

April 2023 (accepted). How to Deal with Status Threat: Majority Uniqueness Increases Their Support for Minority Empowerment. MPSA, Chicago.

April 2023 (accepted). How Self-Disclosure Bridges Divides: A Strategy for Increasing Political Respect and Willingness to interact. MPSA, Chicago.

September 2022 (accepted). Escape From the Center: Expression of Whiteness and Far-Right Support. APSA, Montréal.

August 2022 (accepted). I Worry, Therefore I Vote: Emotional Motivations for Radical Right Support. ECPR, Innsbruck.

August 2022 (accepted). The Effect of Black Lives Matter Protest on White Identity. ECPR, Innsbruck.

July 2022 (accepted). The Average Who Wanted to Stand Out: Expression of Whiteness and Populist Radical Right Support. ISPP, Athens.

July 2022 (accepted poster). Exclusion at the Center: A Theory of Populist Radical Right Voters' Position in Society. ISPP, Athens.

June 2022 (invited). Exclusion at the Center: A Theory of Populist Radical Right Voters' Position in Society. Hot Politics Lab, University of Amsterdam.

May 2022 (accepted). They Hate While We Love: How Radical Right Voters Use Emotional Ascriptions to Fuel Affective Polarization. GEPOP internal conference. Nääs.

April 2021 (accepted). Escape From the Center: Expression of Whiteness and Far-Right Support. MPSA, Chicago (virtual).

September 2021 (accepted). Looking Back to Cope with the Presence?: Examining Nostalgia as a Driver of Populist Radical Right Support. EUTOPIA Postgraduate Conference in Political Science and International Studies, Warwick (virtual).

- August 2021 (accepted). The Different Kinds of Being Left Behind: Examining Nostalgia and Social Inclusion as Drivers of Populist Radical Right Support. ECPR, Innsbruck (virtual).
- July 2021 (accepted). The Different Kinds of Being Left Behind: Examining Nostalgia and Social Inclusion as Drivers of Populist Radical Right Support. ISPP, Montréal (virtual).
- July 2021 (accepted). My Country, Not My Childhood: The Opposing Relationships of Group-Based and Personal Nostalgia With Populist Radical Right Support. Essex Workshop “Methods for Comparative Politics” (virtual).
- June 2021. My Country, Not My Childhood: The Opposing Relationships of Group-Based and Personal Nostalgia With Populist Radical Right Support. Paper presented at the Swedish National Methods Workshop of Political Science PhD Students at Uppsala University (virtual).
- November 2019 – two-day Ph.D. workshop on text analysis, held by London Business School, London.
- March 2019 – Attendant International Congress of Political Science (ICPS) in Paris, France.
- July 2016 – "The Cutting Edge of Positive Psychology" with Prof. Dr. Martin Seligman, Penn University, two-day symposium on Positive Psychology, University of Hamburg.

Research and Travel Grants

- August 2023 – Small Grants Award of the Society for the Study of Peace, Conflict, & Violence (APA Division 48) (2,640.00\$). Funding for experiments on tolerance toward diversification and liberalization.
- June 2023 – Stiftelsen Wilhelm och Martina Lundgren Vetenskapsfonds (SEK 75000 (~ €6500.00)). Funding for a research visit.
- January 2023 – Lars Hiertas Minne (SEK 30000 (~ €2700.00)). Funding for experiences on how majorities experience societal developments.
- October 2022 – Adlerbertska forskningsstiftelsen (SEK 72000 (~ €6640.00)). Funding for experiences on how majorities experience societal developments.
- June 2022 – Helge Ax:son Johnsons Stiftelse (SEK 50000 (~ €4740.00)). Funding for experiments on inclusion experiences among social majority groups.
- May 2022 – Stiftelsen Wilhelm och Martina Lundgren Vetenskapsfonds (SEK 56000 (~ €5400.00)). Funding for experiments on inclusion experiences among social majority groups.
- June 2021 – ECPR General Conference Participation Grant (£ 50.00). ECPR conference fund.
- June 2021 – Stiftelsen Siamon: SEK 25000.00 (~ € 2454.00). Research fund for field work on Populist Radical Right voting in Germany (together with Gefjon Off).
- June 2021 – Stiftelsen Siamon: SEK 24200.00 (~ € 2376.00). Conference and travel fund.
- April 2021 – Donationsnämndens stipendier, University of Gothenburg: SEK 12321.00 (~ € 1200.00). Conference and Travel fund.
- March 2021 – ISPP Early Career Committee (ECC) Travel Award: \$50.00. ISPP conference fund.
- July 2019 – Travel grant for my research stay in Evanston, US, funded by Tilburg University (€ 1000.00). Travel fund.
- February 2018 – Travel Grant for my stay in New York, funded by the hamburgglobal-grant by the DAAD, University of Hamburg, Germany (€ 1,175.00). Travel fund.
- September 2016 – Erasmus Grant for my stay in Southampton, funded by the Erasmus+-Grant of the EU, University of Hamburg, Germany

Prizes & Awards

October 2022 – 2nd at the EUTOPIA Science Slam, Ljubljana, Slovenia (Representative of Gothenburg University) ([link](#))

May 2022 – Final competitor at the 3 Minutes Competition ([3MT](#)) of Gothenburg University, Gothenburg, Sweden.

Media Coverage

January 2023 – The Global Inn Radio: The Rise of the Far-Right in Europe ([link](#))

November 2022 – Frekvenca X (Radio Slovenia Science Show): On Polarization and Emotions in Politics ([link](#))

October 2022 – GU-Journalen: Bike Demonstration Against Threatened Research ([link](#))

September 2022 – Universitetsleraren: Luca cyklade för att samla pengar till utsatta forskare ([link](#))

Memberships

European Political Science Association (EPSA) (2023-2024)

Midwestern Political Science Association (MPSA) (2022-2024)

American Political Science Association (APSA) (2021-2024)

International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP) (2020-2023)

Association for Psychological Science (APS) (2018-2020)

Other skills

Cultural Competence: Certificate Intercultural Competence

Languages: German (mother tongue), English (Academic fluent), French (Advanced), Italian (Advanced), Spanish (Advanced), Dutch (Beginner), Swedish (Beginner)

IT Skills: Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Power Point), LaTeX

Data Analysis: SPSS, Qualtrics, R, STATA (beginner)

Service

June/July 2022 – while cycling to the ISPP conference in Athens, I conducted a [crowdfunding campaign](#) for Ukrainian Scholars at Risk to raise money and awareness for Ukrainian researchers affected by the Russian invasion.

September 2021 – August 2023: Secretary in the PhD council of doctoral students, Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg.

September 2021 – August 2022: Representative for all PhD students at the Faculty of Social Sciences in the council of PhD students at University of Gothenburg.

December 2015 – September 2016: Member of student council, University of Hamburg

Reviewer: *European Journal of Political Research*.

References

Ph.D. Maria Solevid

Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg

maria.solevid@pol.gu.se

Ph.D. Jacob Sohlberg

Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg

jacob.sohlberg@gu.se

Ph.D. Byron Adams

Work Group Work and Organizational Psychology, University of Amsterdam

b.g.adams@uva.nl

Miscellaneous

July 2016 – present: active Buddhist practitioner. Engaged in various social activist groups aiming to facilitate sustainable, social and a positive life for more people worldwide.

January 2014 – August 2015: Licensed fitness coach for High Intensity Fitness Classes, Les Mills Grit Germany

June 2013 – November 2013: Host of Sports and Entertainment, alltours Flugreisen (tourist company), Cala Ratjada.

Marathons

April 2024 – Hamburg Marathon. Time: 03.39.13 hours

October 2022 – Gothenburg Marathon. Time: 03.28.13 hours

June 2023 – Stockholm Marathon. Time: 03.31.35 hours

October 2023 – Baltimore Marathon. Time: 3.14.07 hours (no clue what happened...)

Updated October 20th, 2023