

EMMA BONUTTI D'AGOSTINI

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CURRENT POSITION

2023 – **CREST (Institut Polytechnique de Paris) | médialab (Sciences Po Paris)**
PhD Candidate in Sociology, 3rd year
Provisional thesis title: “*The Media Said It? Mediatized Public Debates and Electoral Success of Politics in France and Italy*”.
Supervision: Etienne Ollion (CREST) and Sylvain Parasie (médialab).
CSI Members: Samuel Coavoux (CREST), Caterina Froio (CEE, Sciences Po Paris).

PAST POSITIONS

2026 **Incite Institute at Columbia University (New York City, USA)**
International Exchange Scholar through the Alliance Doctoral Mobility Program
Supervision: Peter Bearman (Columbia University).

EDUCATION

2021 – 2023 **Sciences Po Paris**
Research Master in Sociology – graduated Summa Cum Laude
Main subjects: Quantitative methods (applied statistics for causal analysis in R), Qualitative methods, Classic and contemporary social theory, Digital sociology, Sociology of social networks, Sociology of organizations, Sociology of inequality.
Thesis: “*Taming and Framing the Populist Tide. How Italian journalists deal with the social media strategies of the radical right*”. Supervision: Sylvain Parasie.

2018 – 2022 **Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies (Pisa, Italy)**
Honors Student in Political Sciences – graduated 100/100 Cum Laude
Main subjects: Political philosophy, Political theory, Public ethics, Gender studies.
2nd-year dissertation: “*Digital Public Spheres and Hybrid Media Systems. A Media Agenda-Setting Perspective on Political Communication Dynamics*”. Supervision: Roberta Bracciale (University of Pisa).
1st-year dissertation: “*Atti e parole di pace. L’opposizione alla guerra delle donne italiane (1914-1918)*”. Supervision: Emanuela Minuto (University of Pisa).

2018 – 2021 **University of Pisa (Pisa, Italy)**
Bachelor in Political Sciences – graduated 110/110 Cum Laude
Main subjects: Political philosophy, Political theory, Sociology of communication.
Thesis: “*Hybrid Media Systems and Worldwide Pandemics. Modeling Influential Agendas in the Italian Twittersphere*”. Supervision: Roberta Bracciale.

2016 – 2022 **Conservatory of Music “J. Tomadini” (Udine, Italy)**
Bachelor in Classical Piano – graduated 110/110
Thesis: “*Aleksandr Skrjabin e la Sonata op. 30 n.4*”. Supervision: Franca Bertoli.

PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Bonutti D'Agostini, E., Ollion, E., and Sicard, G. (under review). Quote Erat Detectendum. A Computational Analysis of Reported Speech in News Media.

This paper introduces QED, an original methodology that leverages supervised machine learning and BERT models to automatically extract quotes – i.e., reported speech triplets composed of a source, a cue verb, and a statement – from large-scale French and English news corpora. In addition to presenting the extraction pipeline and discussing its advantages in comparison with existing approaches, the paper demonstrates the analytical potential of large-scale quote analysis for sociological and political research through an application to a vast corpus of French political news.

Bonutti D'Agostini, E. (2025). Tailgater, Mouthpiece, or Magnifying glass? Italian Political Journalism in the Face of Populist Radical Right News Politicization. *Journalism*, 0(0). OnlineFirst.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/14648849251361076>

This paper examines how different segments of the Italian journalistic landscape covered the politicization of a rape case by populist radical right leaders during the 2022 election campaign. Through a mixed-methods analysis of news articles, it shows that outlets diverge along ideological and organizational lines, producing three ideal-typical approaches to PRR discourse: a “tailgater” model in left-leaning legacy newspapers, a “mouthpiece” model in right-wing media, and a “magnifying glass” approach in progressive new-generation newsrooms. The study highlights how differences in journalistic norms and practices shape the media mainstreaming of PRR narratives.

OTHER WRITINGS

Bonutti D'Agostini, E. (2025). Florence Le Cam et Fábio Henrique Pereira, Un journalisme en ligne mondialisé : socio-histoire comparative. *Réseaux*, 2025/4, n° 252, 435-439.

WORKING PROJECTS

“Beyond Mainstreaming: Multidimensional Accreditation of Far-Right voices in Political News”. *In progress.*

This working paper develops a multidimensional approach to assessing the media accreditation of far-right actors beyond standard measures of mentions and agenda-setting influence. Drawing on an original dataset of 2 million politicians' quotes extracted from French newspapers (1995-2025), it analyzes how far-right politicians are incorporated into political news along five dimensions: agency (quotes vs. mentions), voice volume, voice framing (reporting verbs), discursive issue segregation, and political class recognition (source diversity). The findings show partial evidence of accreditation through increased quote volume and broader issue coverage. However, far-right actors remain more often objects than subjects of news narratives, are characterized by limited source diversification, and are disproportionately framed with distancing or delegitimizing verbs.

“Fifty Shades of Political Authority: A Large-Scale Study of Reported Speech Framing in Political News”. *In progress.*

This working paper explores journalists' quoting practices as a signal of political authority combining large-scale computational analysis of over 2 million quotes of politicians extracted from French newspapers (1995-2025) with 35 interviews with political journalists. It argues that while quotation itself signals relevance, reporting verbs function as framing devices that confer to political actors varying “shades” of authority, from reliability to emotional excess. Differences across parties, issue areas, time, and outlets reveal that mainstream actors' authority is primarily

structured through differential quote volume, whereas radical parties are more often distinguished through framing patterns that signal distance or delegitimation.

“Mediated Voices. A CSS Investigation into Journalists’ Portrayal of the Political Sphere” (with Etienne Ollion and Maël Dieudonné). *In Progress.*

This working paper examines how the distribution of political parties’ quotes in news content relates to their electoral trajectories and presence in legislative and executive arenas. Drawing on an original dataset of 2 million quotes extracted from French newspapers (1995-2025), the study assesses whether and how journalists adjust their quoting (and voice-giving) practices in response to the changing political weight of political actors of different ideological and sociological profile.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2025 Columbia Alliance Doctoral Mobility Grant (\$2,500)

2023 – 2026 Full PhD Scholarship, GENES-CREST

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Giving the Radical Right a Voice. Using NLP to study the mainstreaming of radical right messages in French legacy media.”

- IC2S2 (International Conference on Computational Social Science), July 2025, Norrköping.
- COMPTXT (International Interdisciplinary Conference on the Quantitative and Computational Analysis of Text- Image- and Video-as-Data), April 2025, Vienna.

“ActiveTigger: A Tool for Easy, Open, and Collaborative Text Annotation and Data Augmentation.”

- IC2S2 (International Conference on Computational Social Science), July 2025, Norrköping.

“Tailgater, Mouthpiece, or Magnifying glass? Divergent Paradigms in Italian Political Journalism in the Face of Populist Radical Right News Politicization.”

- ECREA (European Communication Research & Education Association), September 2024, Ljubljana.
- ESA (European Sociological Association), August 2024, Porto.
- ECPG (European Conference on Politics and Gender), July 2024, Gent.
- Textual Politics Conference, March 2023, Sciences Po Paris, Paris.

INVITED TALKS

“Mediated Voices. A CSS Investigation into Journalists’ Portrayal of the Political Sphere.”

- Incite Institute Lunch Seminar, February 2026, Columbia University, New York.
- Alliance Catalyst Seminar, June 2025, Sciences Po Paris.

“À qui les journalistes donnent-ils la parole ? Une analyse automatique du discours rapporté dans le contenu médiatique.”

- Demi-Journée d’Études – MEDIALEX project, June 2025, LATTICE (ENS).
- Séminaire Jeune Recherche, January 2025, Institut d’Études Politiques de Grenoble.

“Analyzing the presence of politicians’ quotes in French newspaper content: methodological challenges and early-stage findings.”

- CEE Doctoral Workshop “Using computational methods to study political competition”, December 2024, Sciences Po Paris.
- NLP & Politics Seminar, January 2024, CREST, Institut Polytechnique de Paris (*with G. Sicard*).

“ActiveTigger. Plateforme d’annotation automatique pour des données textuelles.”

- Ateliers Méthodes du Centre Émile Durkheim, October 2025, Sciences Po Bordeaux (*with A. Claesson. Development by E. Ollion, E. Schultz, J. Boelaert*).
- Séminaire de la Maison des Sciences de l’Homme, January 2025, Institut d’Études Politiques de Grenoble (*with A. Claesson. Development by E. Ollion, E. Schultz, J. Boelaert*).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2024 **CREST (Center for Research in Economics and Statistics), IPP**
Management of Research Interns
 Selected and hired four interns; collaboratively trained interns in the use of NLP techniques; managed interns’ data annotation and literature review work.
- 2022 – 2023 **CRIS (Centre de recherche sur les inégalités sociales), Sciences Po Paris**
Research Assistant
 Project: “DeCodingDisInfo: Ideology and Institutions in the Diffusion of Disinformation in the Digital Era”. Grant: McCourt Institute 2022. PI: Dr. Jen Schradie.
 Designed cross-national, multi-methods opinion survey; interviewed French union leaders.
- 2021 **MediaLaB, University of Pisa (Pisa, Italy)**
Research Intern
 Developed a Python-based topic modeling workflow to analyze political communication on social media. Supervision: Roberta Bracciale.

TEACHING

- Summer 2025 **Welcome Programme for Exchange Students** – Sciences Po Paris. Primary instructor.
Introduction week organized for international exchange students at the bachelor and master level. Course on principles of bibliographic research and academic writing. 12 hours.
- Summer 2025 **SICSS Paris** – Institut Polytechnique de Paris (France). Co-organizer and co-instructor.
Summer Institute in Computational Social Sciences on CSS and NLP, co-organized with colleagues from CREST. Co-organizer; primary instructor in tutorial on text classification and information extraction using generative LLMs. 6 hours.
- Fall 2024 **Introduction to Sociology** – Sciences Po Le Havre (France). Instructor: Sean Safford.
Course for 1st-year bachelor students. Weekly seminars on a diverse selection of sociological traditions and areas of research; group-work supervision and grading; mid-term and final essays grading. 48 hours.
- Fall 2023 **Digital Culture** – Sciences Po Reims (France). Primary instructor.
Course for 2nd-year bachelor students. Defining the syllabus; weekly seminars on topics from digital sociology, STS, communication studies; group-work supervision and grading; final essays grading. 32 hours.

Fall 2023 **Conférences d'introduction aux enjeux sociaux contemporains** [Introductory lectures on contemporary social issues] – ENSAE, Palaiseau (France). Instructor: Etienne Ollion.
Course for 1st-year bachelor students. Management of invited speakers; preparation and grading of exam papers. 9 hours.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2025 – **Co-Organizer of AI & Social Science Seminar** – CREST (Institut Polytechnique de Paris)

2025 **Instructor for the YOUPOD project** – Fondazione Antonio Megalizzi (Trento, Italy)
EU-funded project under the CERV programme. Offering workshops for high-school students on the topic “New media and public communication in democracies”.

- Liceo Linguistico S. M. Scholl (Trento, IT)
- Lycée des métiers du bois (Mouchard, FR)
- XII Liceum Ogólnokształcące im. Stanisława Wyspiańskiego (Lodz, PL)

2024 – **Member of ActiveTigger Scientific Committee** – CREST (Institut Polytechnique de Paris)

2024 – 2025 **Member of Lab Board** – médialab (Sciences Po Paris)

2024 – 2025 **Co-organizer of PhD workshop** – CREST (Institut Polytechnique de Paris)

Reviewer: IRIDE (Il Mulino).

FURTHER EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

2024 – 2025 **MEDIALEX Project Data Sprints** – Sciences Po Paris. Participant researcher.
Contributed to a topic modeling-based analysis of Twitter-based agenda-setting between French MPs, news media outlets, and citizens.

2023 **Summer Institute in Computational Social Sciences** – CREST, Palaiseau. Participant.
Web scraping; supervised and non-supervised NLP techniques implemented in R and Python.

2019 **University of Chongqing (Chongqing, China)** – Visiting student.
Mandarin courses; seminars at the School of Journalism and Communication.

LANGUAGE AND SKILLS

Languages Italian (native), English (C2), French (C2), German (basic), Mandarin (basic).

Coding Python (especially NLP applications), R (causal analysis), Excel, LaTeX.

Volunteering Associazione Allievi Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna (Pisa, Italy; 2019–2020).
Centro Italiano Femminile (Pisa, Italy; 2018–2019).