

# **Immigration, Public Opinion, and Crime in the Digital Age - Leveraging online data sources with insights from traditional survey methods**

**Date:** 28-29 April 2025

**Place:** University of Cologne (UoC)

**Keynote Speakers:** Isabelle van der Vegt, Christian Czysmara

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**Abstract submission deadline:** 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2025

## **Call for Papers**

How can social scientists leverage the potential of online data sources in the light of lessons learned from survey research and qualitative interviews to inform societal and scientific debates on immigration and crime? In recent years, scholars from various disciplines have shown a growing interest in using online data sources—such as social media platforms and discussion forums—to study public opinion and political discourse concerning immigration and crime. The rise of right-wing populist political actors and the increasing threats of political polarization around the globe sparked a novel literature that applies computational methods to analyze public opinion in the digital realm. In parallel, social scientists have been studying political attitudes, voting behavior, radicalization, social movements, polarization, and crime with quantitative and qualitative interviews as well as administrative data for nearly a century. Yet, these strands of literature mainly operate independently and follow different methodological approaches and theoretical frameworks. This workshop aims to bring together scholars from various research communities using online and offline data sources to inform shared research questions concerned with immigration, public opinion, and crime. Presentations may cover topics such as the influence of media coverage of events triggering negative outgroup sentiments (e.g., terror attacks or crime) on political discourse, individual hate speech, crime, and voting behavior, political radicalization on online platforms and in offline spaces, or the influence of political actors on public opinion. We encourage scholars who combine online and offline data or would like to learn more about research paradigms outside of their own research area to send an abstract (max. 750 words) by the **1st of March 2025** to [project.public.opinion@gmail.com](mailto:project.public.opinion@gmail.com).

## **Organizational details**

The workshop will take place in-person at the University of Cologne (UoC) 28-29 April 2025. We will provide coffee, lunch and dinner on the 28<sup>th</sup>. If you are an early career researcher and lack funding from your institution, please get in touch with us as we can subsidize your travels. There will be two keynotes and two days of presentations. The workshop is hosted by Christof Nägel, Ana Macanovic, Max Pickartz, and Mark Wittek.