

Sebastian Thieme

CONTACT INFORMATION	Centre for European Studies and Comparative Politics Sciences Po 1 place Saint-Thomas d'Aquin 75007 Paris, France	sebastian.thieme@sciencespo.fr https://sebastian-thieme.com
RESEARCH INTERESTS	Political Economy, Money in Politics, Political Methodology Lobbying, campaign finance, interest groups, U.S. politics, legislative politics, electoral campaigns, polarization, political business cycles, measurement, causal inference, Bayesian modeling	
ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS	Sciences Po Paris Postdoctoral researcher, Centre for European Studies & Comparative Politics Instructor, School of Public Affairs Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse Research Fellow Princeton University, Center for the Study of Democratic Politics Postdoctoral Research Associate CSDP Fellow / Postdoctoral Research Associate	2024–present Spring 2025 & 2026 2021–2024 2019–2021 2018–2019
EDUCATION	New York University Ph.D. in Politics Dissertation: <i>Essays on the Ideology of Private Interests, Campaign Spending, and Legislative Agenda Control</i> Committee: Sanford C. Gordon (Chair), Patrick J. Egan, Howard Rosenthal London School of Economics and Political Science M.Sc. in Political Science and Political Economy Sciences Po Paris Erasmus exchange semester University of Mannheim B.A. in Political Science (major) and Economics (minor)	May 2018 2010 Spring 2007 2008
ARTICLES	[5] 2026. “Fundraising Events and Nonideological Donation Motivations,” with Sean Kates. (Forthcoming, <i>Journal of Politics</i>) [4] 2026. “(When) Are Lobbying Expenditures a Good Proxy for Lobbying Activity?” <i>Political Science Research and Methods</i> 14(1): 160–167. [3] 2023. “Institutional Constraints on the Executive, Investment, and Elections,” with Brandice Canes-Wrone and Christian Ponce de León. <i>Presidential Studies Quarterly</i> 53(2): 273–292. [2] 2021. “A Direct Test of Legislative Gatekeeping.” <i>Legislative Studies Quarterly</i> 46(4): 855–888. – APSA Legislative Studies Section’s 2022 <i>Jewell-Loewenberg Prize in Subnational Politics</i> for the best article in the field published in LSQ in the previous year. [1] 2020. “Moderation or Strategy? Political Giving by Corporations and Trade Groups.” <i>Journal of Politics</i> 82(3): 1171–1175.	

CURRENT
RESEARCH

Selected Working Papers:

“LEGDAT: A New Database for the Study of Legislative Processes and Lawmaking,” with Cyril Benoît, Dominik Brenner, and Mihály Fazekas (*submitted for review*)

“Who Governs the Business Association?” with Benjamin Egerod and Brian Libgober (*submitted for review*)

“Welcome to the Party, Pal: Donors at Political Fundraising Events,” with Sean Kates

“Modes of Fundraising and Improvements in Donation-Based Ideology Estimates,” with Sean Kates

“Disaster Recovery Expenditures: Intergovernmental Cooperation or Politicization?”

Work in Progress:

“The Bill, Please! The Quality of Legislative Websites and Attitudes Towards Democracy,” with Cyril Benoît

“Institutional Constraints of the European Union and Opportunistic Business Cycles,” with Brandice Canes-Wrone & Christian Ponce de León

“Issue Selection in Congressional Primary and General Election Campaigns”

AWARDS &
GRANTS

2022: Legislative Studies Section’s Jewell-Loewenberg Prize in Subnational Politics

2022: IAST Multidisciplinary Grant, joint with Bence Bago and Zoe Purcell

2018: APSA Annual Meeting Travel Grant

2017: GSAS Dean’s Travel Grant (NYU)

2017: Center for Social & Political Behavior Graduate Student Travel Award (NYU)

2017: Departmental Dissertation Grant (NYU)

2016: George Downs Prize Grant for summer research (NYU)

2013 & 2016: Department of Politics Travel Grant (NYU)

TEACHING,
ADVISING, &
EVALUATING

Instructor at Sciences Po Paris:

Money and Private Influence in Politics Spring 2026
Master’s level course

Corruption and Economic Favouritism in Policymaking Spring 2025
Master’s level course, taught jointly with Cyril Benoît and Mihály Fazekas

Teaching Assistant at New York University:

Political Theory Core (Dimitri Landa) Fall 2017

Quantitative Methods in Political Science (Arthur Spirling) Fall 2016

Quantitative Methods in Political Science (Gizem Acikgoz) Spring 2016

Political Theory Core (Dimitri Landa) Fall 2015

Quantitative Methods in Political Science (Gizem Acikgoz) Spring 2015

Quantitative Methods in Political Science (Gizem Acikgoz) Spring 2014

Power and Politics in America (Patrick Egan) Fall 2013

Advising:

Toulouse School of Economics (TSE) Summer School Summer 2023

Evaluating:

Co-Jury, Master’s Thesis, Sciences Po School of Public Affairs Spring 2025

PRESENTATIONS AT SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, & CONFERENCES	<p>Metrics of Regulation Webinar, 2025</p> <p>EPSA Annual Meeting, 2023, 2025</p> <p>Copenhagen Money in Politics Conference, 2022, 2023 (CBS) 2024, 2025 (CBS-Princeton)</p> <p>Friends of IAST Conference, IAST, 2023, 2025</p> <p>Comparative Politics Seminar Series (invited talk), King's College London, 2025</p> <p>APSA Annual Meeting, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2023</p> <p>APSA Pre-Conference: Frontiers in Money in Politics Research, USC, 2023</p> <p>IAST-Oxford-Sciences Po Paris Conference in Political Economy, Sciences Po, 2023</p> <p>Pyrenean Interdisciplinary Research Event, IAST, 2021, 2022, 2023</p> <p>Internal Seminar Series, IAST, 2021, 2022, 2023</p> <p>Political Economy Workshop, IAST, 2022</p> <p>State Politics and Policy Conference, 2019</p> <p>CSDP Workshop on Lobbying & Institutional Performance, Princeton University, 2019</p> <p>CSDP Seminar Series, Princeton University, 2019</p> <p>SPSA Annual Meeting, 2018</p> <p>CSAP American Politics Summer Conference, Yale University, 2017 (Poster)</p> <p>Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting, 2017 (Poster)</p> <p>MPSA Annual Meeting, 2013, 2016, 2017</p>																				
ADDITIONAL TRAINING	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Geographic Information Systems Workshop Series, Princeton University</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Fall 2019</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Teaching and Learning Certificate Program, New York University</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Preparing Future Faculty 2: Achieving Success Through Communication</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;">Spring 2018</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Preparing Future Faculty 1: The Art and Craft of Teaching</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;">Fall 2017</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EITM Europe, University of Mannheim</td> <td style="text-align: right;">June 2011</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Theoretical and Methodological Foundations</i> (Randal Calvert, Andrew Martin)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Agent Based Modelling</i> (Michael Laver)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Quantitative Analyses of Political Texts</i> (Will Lowe, Sven-Oliver Proksch)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>ECPR Summer School in Methods and Techniques, Ljubljana, Slovenia</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Aug 2008</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Mathematical Concepts and Formal Modelling</i> (Rebecca Morton)</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Geographic Information Systems Workshop Series, Princeton University	Fall 2019	Teaching and Learning Certificate Program, New York University		<i>Preparing Future Faculty 2: Achieving Success Through Communication</i>	Spring 2018	<i>Preparing Future Faculty 1: The Art and Craft of Teaching</i>	Fall 2017	EITM Europe, University of Mannheim	June 2011	<i>Theoretical and Methodological Foundations</i> (Randal Calvert, Andrew Martin)		<i>Agent Based Modelling</i> (Michael Laver)		<i>Quantitative Analyses of Political Texts</i> (Will Lowe, Sven-Oliver Proksch)		ECPR Summer School in Methods and Techniques, Ljubljana, Slovenia	Aug 2008	<i>Mathematical Concepts and Formal Modelling</i> (Rebecca Morton)	
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COMPUTER SKILLS	R, Stata, Python, Stan, ArcGis, QGIS, SQL, Qualtrics, z-Tree																				
SERVICE & PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES	<p>Referee:</p> <p><i>American Journal of Political Science, Interest Groups & Advocacy, Journal of Politics, and Political Analysis</i></p> <p>Discussant:</p> <p>Copenhagen Money in Politics Conference, 2022, 2023 (CBS) 2024, 2025 (CBS-Princeton)</p> <p>Workshop on the Political Economy of Climate Change, AIRE and the Department of Economics, Sciences Po, 2024</p> <p>Centre for European Studies and Comparative Politics Key Theme Seminar: Strains on Democratic Representation, Sciences Po, 2024</p> <p>Interdisciplinary Workshop on Identity and Politics, IAST, 2024</p> <p>IAST-Oxford-Sciences Po Conference in Political Economy, Toulouse, 2024</p>																				

European Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2023

APSA Pre-Conference: Frontiers in Money in Politics Research, UQÀM, 2022

Leadership, Power, and Inequality Workshop, TSE/IAST, 2022

CSDP Workshop on Interest Groups, Policy Outcomes and Representation in U.S. Politics, Princeton University, 2020

Accountability and Public Policy - Festschrift in Honor of R. Douglas Arnold, Princeton University, 2019

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chigaco, 2019

CSDP Workshop on Candidates and Competition in American Elections, Princeton University, 2019

Organizing:

Co-Organizer, IAST-Oxford-Sciences Po Conference in Political Economy, 2023 (Paris), 2024 (Toulouse)

Co-Organizer, General Seminar (external speaker series), IAST, Spring 2022–Summer 2023

Co-Organizer, Political Economy & Economic History Working Group, IAST, 2021–2022

Co-Organizer, CSDP Workshop on Lobbying and Institutional Performance, Princeton University, 2019

Committee Activities:

APSA Legislative Studies Section's Jewell-Loewenberg Prize Committee, 2023