

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 2024–present Instructor, School of Public Affairs Spring 2025 & 2026 Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse Research Fellow 2021–2024 Princeton University, Center for the Study of Democratic Politics Postdoctoral Research Associate 2019–2021 CSDP Fellow / Postdoctoral Research Associate 2018–2019	
EDUCATION	New York University Ph.D. in Politics May 2018 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 2010 Sciences Po Paris Erasmus exchange semester Spring 2007 University of Mannheim B.A. in Political Science (major) and Economics (minor) 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

“Detecting Favoritistic Legislation: A New Measure with Cross-Country Validations,” with Cyril Benoît, Mihály Fazekas, and Vladislav Shatilov

“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	Metrics of Regulation Webinar, 2025	
	EPSA Annual Meeting, 2023, 2025	
	Copenhagen Money in Politics Conference, 2022, 2023 (CBS) 2024, 2025 (CBS-Princeton)	
	Friends of IAST Conference, IAST, 2023, 2025	
	Comparative Politics Seminar Series (invited talk), King's College London, 2025	
	APSA Annual Meeting, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2023	
	APSA Pre-Conference: Frontiers in Money in Politics Research, USC, 2023	
	IAST-Oxford-Sciences Po Paris Conference in Political Economy, Sciences Po, 2023	
	Pyrenean Interdisciplinary Research Event, IAST, 2021, 2022, 2023	
	Internal Seminar Series, IAST, 2021, 2022, 2023	
	Political Economy Workshop, IAST, 2022	
	State Politics and Policy Conference, 2019	
	CSDP Workshop on Lobbying & Institutional Performance, Princeton University, 2019	
	CSDP Seminar Series, Princeton University, 2019	
	SPSA Annual Meeting, 2018	
	CSAP American Politics Summer Conference, Yale University, 2017 (Poster)	
	Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting, 2017 (Poster)	
	MPSA Annual Meeting, 2013, 2016, 2017	
ADDITIONAL TRAINING	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)	
COMPUTER SKILLS R, Stata, Python, Stan, ArcGis, QGIS, SQL, Qualtrics, z-Tree		
SERVICE & PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES	Referee:	
	<i>American Journal of Political Science</i> , <i>Interest Groups & Advocacy</i> , <i>Journal of Politics</i> , and <i>Political Analysis</i>	
	Discussant:	
	Copenhagen Money in Politics Conference, 2022, 2023 (CBS) 2024, 2025 (CBS-Princeton)	
	Workshop on the Political Economy of Climate Change, AIRE and the Department of Economics, Sciences Po, 2024	
	Centre for European Studies and Comparative Politics Key Theme Seminar: Strains on Democratic Representation, Sciences Po, 2024	
	Interdisciplinary Workshop on Identity and Politics, IAST, 2024	
	IAST-Oxford-Sciences Po Conference in Political Economy, Toulouse, 2024	

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