

DACH-CSS Conference 2026

Democracy at Risk?

Societal Challenges, Data, and Research Infrastructures
in the Age of Computational Social Science

May 21–22, 2026 | Vienna, Austria

Hosted by

**Complexity
Science*Hub**



Welcome

Dear colleagues and friends,

We are delighted to welcome you to the third edition of the DACH Computational Social Science Conference (DACH-CSS). After successful workshops held in Bielefeld (2024) and Mannheim (2025), this year's event marks a significant milestone: the transition from a workshop format to a full conference, accompanied by the launch of our new identity as DACH-CSS.

DACH-CSS is the premier venue for computational social scientists in the German-speaking region and aims to become an important event for the broader international research community. The “DACH” in our name reflects the fact that we organize and host the conference in cities across Germany, Austria, and Switzerland — but our doors are open to everyone. We warmly welcome scholars from all countries and backgrounds who share research interests at the intersection of societal phenomena and computational methods.

The conference serves as a platform for researchers and practitioners from a wide range of disciplines — including sociology, political science, economics, communication science, computer science, psychology, digital humanities, and data science — to present their work, exchange ideas, and build lasting collaborations. With a focus on leveraging cutting-edge computational approaches to analyze, model, and understand complex social dynamics, the program features keynote lectures, invited talks, a panel discussion, lightning presentations, and a poster session.

This year's thematic focus, “Democracy at Risk? Societal Challenges, Data, and Research Infrastructures in the Age of CSS,” reflects the urgency of understanding how digital technologies shape democratic processes, public discourse, and political participation. We will explore both the potential of CSS to illuminate these challenges and the obstacles the field itself faces — from limited data access to a persistent dependence on opaque platforms and tools.

We hope this conference will inspire new ideas, foster meaningful connections, and contribute to the continued growth of Computational Social Science as a vibrant and impactful research community.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee,

Lisette Espín-Noboa (Complexity Science Hub)

Mark Wittek (Central European University)

Local Organizers, DACH-CSS 2026 Vienna

Venue Information

Day 1 — Thursday, May 21

Central European University (CEU)

Quellenstraße 51, 1100 Vienna, Austria

[Get directions on Google Maps](#)

Gathering location: **Auditorium** — EG, ground-floor, main entrance of the building to the left before the Welcome Desk.

Day 2 — Friday, May 22

Complexity Science Hub (CSH)

Metternichgasse 8, 1030 Vienna, Austria

[Get directions on Google Maps](#)

Gathering location: **Salon** — EG, ground-floor, main entrance of the building to the right.

Poster session location: Throughout the ground-floor and basement.

Conference Dinner — Thursday Evening

Lucullus Restaurant & Catering

Neulinggasse 29, 1030 Vienna, Austria

[Get directions on Google Maps](#)

Starting at 19:30. Networking, dinner, and drinks.

Practical Information

Poster Presentations

Poster format: A0, portrait (vertical) orientation (841 × 1189 mm / 33.1 × 46.8 in).

- Posters must be printed in advance and brought to the Complexity Science Hub.
- The poster session takes place on Day 2, combined with lunch (12:15–13:45).
- Poster boards and mounting materials will be provided on site.

Spotlight Talks (Lightning Talks)

Each accepted early career researcher will deliver a short spotlight talk.

- **Duration: 2 minutes** (strictly timed).
- **Slides: exactly 1 slide** (widescreen 16:9 format recommended).
- Please send your slide to the organizers before the conference.
- The goal is to briefly introduce your research and attract visitors to your poster.

WiFi on-site

WiFi is available at both venues through **EDUROAM**. Participants without EDUROAM access follow the *guest access* instructions on the following page.

Guest WiFi access

Day 1

Central European University (CEU)

SSID: CEU Event

Step 1: Connect to the SSID. You will be redirected to a registration page. Follow the next instructions to create a username and password.



Step 2: Select “[Register for guest access with a Registration Code](#)”

Step 3: Complete the registration form using as registration code: **CEU35**

Step 4: A *username* and *password* will be [generated](#) and displayed on the screen. You will also receive them via email.

Step 5: Select “[Sign On](#)”

Step 6: Enter the [username](#) and [password](#) you just created to log in.

Step 7: Accept the terms and conditions displayed in the browser

Step 8: Select “[Continue](#)”

Step 9: You now have internet access through this network.

Day 2

Complexity Science Hub (CSH)



SSID: MG8_guest
Password: mraUtB23WQ

Day 1 — Thursday, May 21

Central European University (CEU), Quellenstraße 51, 1100 Vienna

12:00–12:45

Arrival — light lunch, snacks, coffee & drinks
Location: Auditorium (ground-floor)

12:45–13:00

Welcome Address

Keynote #1

Chair: Mark Wittek

13:00–14:00

The Complex Power of Online Platforms

Philipp Lorenz-Spreen, TU Dresden / ARC, MPI for Human Development

14:00–14:30

Coffee Break

Invited Talks

Chair: Dorian Tsolak

14:30–15:30

Beyond the Encyclopedia: What Wikimedia Offers to the Computational Social Sciences

Nicole Schwitter, Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES), University of Mannheim

Linking Survey and Social Media Data to Study Misinformation and Political Polarization

Elisa Omodei, Central European University

15:30–16:00

Short Break

Invited Talk

Chair: Simon Kühne

16:00–16:30

Description and Explanation in Ever Transforming Information Environments

Lisa Oswald, Critical Computational Studies (C3S), Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main

Panel Discussion

Chair: Nikolitsa Grigoropoulou

16:30–18:00

Digital Crises, Resilience and Sovereignty

Panelists: Michael Strassnig (WWTF), Erich Prem (TU Vienna / eutema GmbH), Philipp Lorenz-Spreen (TU Dresden / ARC, MPI), Annie Waldherr (University of Vienna)

19:30–open end

Networking, Dinner & Drinks

Lucullus Restaurant & Catering

[Get directions on Google Maps](#)

Day 2 — Friday, May 22

Complexity Science Hub (CSH), Metternichgasse 8, 1030 Vienna

08:30–9:00	Coffee & drinks Location: Salon (ground-floor)
	Keynote #2 Chair: <i>Lisette Espín-Noboa</i>
09:00–10:00	Democracy without Difference? Language Models and Interpretive Variance <i>Laura K. Nelson, University of British Columbia</i>
10:00–10:30	Coffee Break
	Invited Talk Chair: <i>Ruben Bach</i>
10:30–11:00	Best Practices for Source-Based Research on Misinformation and News Trustworthiness <i>Jana Lasser, University of Graz</i>
	Lightning Talks #1 Chair: <i>Sebastian Stier</i>
11:00–11:30	Early career researcher spotlight talks (2 min, 1 slide each)
11:30–11:45	Short Break
	Lightning Talks #2 Chair: <i>Sebastian Stier</i>
11:45–12:15	Early career researcher spotlight talks (2 min, 1 slide each)
	Poster Session & Lunch
12:15–13:45	Poster presentations by early career researchers, combined with lunch Location: <i>Throughout the ground-floor and basement</i>
	Invited Talks Chair: <i>Valerie Hase</i>
13:45–14:45	Social Inequalities Through the Lens of Digital Footprints and Digital Trace Data <i>Julia Koltai, HUN-REN Centre for Social Sciences Budapest / ELTE Faculty of Social Sciences</i> Emergent democratic threats in digital public spheres <i>Annie Waldherr, University of Vienna</i>
	Closure Chairs: <i>Lisette Espín-Noboa & Sebastian Stier</i>
14:45–15:00	CSS Early Career Researcher Award & Closing Remarks Award worth 500 EUR for the best early career contribution.
from 15:00	Departure

Accepted Posters

1. *Joint Evaluation of LLM and Human Annotations with MultiTrait-MultError Models.* **Georg Ahnert** - University of Mannheim
2. From manual monitoring to computational escalation: a CSS pipeline for rapid detection and reporting of scams and disinformation on Meta in wartime Ukraine. **Pavlo Burdiak** - Uni Olomouc (Tschechien)
3. *Using Large Language Models to Anchor Ideological Positions in Online Networks.* **Emma Fraxanet** - Barcelona Supercomputing Center
4. *Benchmarking Computational Text-Based Ideal Point Estimation: An Experimental Infrastructure for Systematic Method Comparison.* **Patrick Parschan** - LMU München
5. *Divisive Propaganda in Online Political Discourse.* **Kamil Fulawka** - Center Synergy of Systems, TU Dresden
6. *Dynamics of Algorithmic Content Amplification on TikTok.* **Agnieszka Czaplicka** - Wrocław University of Science and Technology.
7. *The Diffusion of Gender-Inclusive Language on Social Media: A Network Analysis.* **Long Nguyen** - DeZIM
8. *Expectations vs Reality: How Voters Respond to Political Candidates' Behaviour in Televised Debates.* **Jan Eric Meurer** - GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences
9. *Do respondents in a cross-sectional probability survey donate their Spotify or Google Search data?* **Sina Chen** - GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences
10. *Narratives Linking Spirituality and Conspiracy Ideology on German-Speaking Telegram During the COVID-19 Pandemic.* **Pia Schrot** - Uni Leipzig
11. *Auditing Anti-democratic Reinforcement and Political Safety in Large Language Models.* **Indira Sen** - University of Mannheim
12. *From Omnivores to Platform Natives: A Measurement-Based Online News Usage Typology.* **Niklas Berger** - Uni Bremen
13. *Online data contamination through Large Language Models: Identifying LLM-generated answers in surveys, experiments, and crowdsourcing tasks.* **Joshua Claassen** - Leibniz UNi Hannover
14. *Can LLMs deliberate? Benchmarking Collective Reasoning in Multi-Agent Systems.* **Maurice Flechtner** - Zentrum für Demokratie Aarau, Universität Zürich, ETH Zürich
15. *The 'Neue Rechte' in the World Wide Web.* **Kilian Ruess** - University of Hamburg.
16. *Antagonization on social media.* **Armin Pournaki** - Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in the Sciences, Leipzig / médialab, SciencesPo, Paris
17. *Quantifying the effects of misinformation on engagement and emotions on social media.* **Jula Lühring** - CSH Wien
18. *Dimetrodon. Bridging the gap between computational and qualitative analyses of multimodal materials.* **Paul Balluff** - GESIS
19. *Scientific integrity under pressure: Predicting fraudulent bot infiltration in online studies.* **Lisa Steiner** - DZHW, Leibniz University Hannover
20. *Which Topics Polarize Where? Mapping Polarization and Depolarization in News Comments.* **Shaye-Ann M. Hopkins** - Institute for Cognition and Behavior, Vienna University of Economics and Business, Vienna, Austria"

*Lightning talk presentations follow poster numbering:
Session #1 covers Posters 1–10, Session #2 covers Posters 11–20.*

Organizing Team

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Sponsors

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- Vienna Science and Technology Fund (WWTF)
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- University of Klagenfurt



Wiener Wissenschafts-,
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**Complexity
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