

Curriculum Vitae



Dr. phil. habil. Florian Toepfl
Emmy Noether Junior Research Group Leader

Free University of Berlin
Institute for Media and Communication Studies
Innesträße 21, 14195 Berlin, Germany
Phone: +49-176-55227505 – E-mail: f.toepfl@fu-berlin.de – Skype: f.toepfl

Education

07/2012-05/2017	Habilitation (postdoctoral thesis) in Communication Science , LMU Munich, Germany Project Title: Mediating Semi-Authoritarianism. The Power of the Internet in Russia (Committee: Michael Meyen, Carsten Reinemann, Barbara Pfetsch)
11/2005-07/2009	Ph.D. in Political Sciences , University of Passau, Germany Doctoral Thesis: Media Systems in Transition. How Do Pluralistic Media Systems Emerge – and Why Not? (Committee: Heinrich Oberreuter, Ralf Hohlfeld) Written Work: Magna cum Laude – Defense: Summa cum Laude
05/1998-05/2005	German Diploma (equivalent to BA plus Master) in International Business and Eastern European Cultural Studies at Passau University, Germany. Languages: Russian, Czech, Italian
03/2001 - 08/2001	Semester Abroad at Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic
09/2000 - 02/2001	Semester Abroad at Università Degli Studi di Firenze, Florence, Italy

Professional Experience

10/2017-03/2018	Visiting Full Professor (W3 Vertretungsprofessor) Department of Communication Science and Media Research, LMU Munich, Germany
10/2014-03/2020	Emmy Noether Junior Research Group Leader Institute for Media and Communication Studies, Free University of Berlin Project title: Mediating (Semi-)Authoritarianism: The Power of the Internet in the Post-Soviet World Web: www.mediating-authoritarianism.net
10/2012-09/2014	Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellow Department of Media and Communications, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK Project title: Mediating Semi-Authoritarianism – The Power of the Internet in Russia (MESAPORUS)
02/2011-09/2012	Postdoctoral Researcher and Lecturer at the Department of Communication Science and Media Research, LMU Munich, Germany Chair of Professor Dr. Michael Meyen
09/2009-05/2010	Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Harriman Institute for Russian, Eurasian, and Eastern European Studies, Columbia University, New York, USA
04/2009-08/2009	Lecturer (Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter) at the Geschwister Scholl Institute of Political Science, LMU University Munich, Germany Chair for Comparative Political Science (with a Focus on CIS and Eastern Europe), Professor Dr. Petra Stykow
1998-2003	Journalistic Education as a student fellow of the Dr.-Hans-Kapfinger-Foundation (see www.institut-journalisten.de). 24 months of journalistic training during semester breaks at the offices of: the Passauer Neue Presse (Passau, Germany), German Television ZDF (London, UK), the News Magazine Focus (Munich, Germany), the Sueddeutsche Zeitung Magazine (Munich, Germany), the Newswire dpa (Rome, Italy), and the Springer Foreign News Service (London, UK)
1996-1997	Alternative Service at Lebenshilfe Grafenau e.V., Day Care Institution for Handicapped Persons, Germany

Visiting Fellowships and Affiliations

09/2011	One-month Visiting Research Fellowship in the Sociology Department at the Higher School of Economics, St. Petersburg, Russia
08/2010-10/2010	Three-month Visiting Research Fellowship at the Aleksanteri Institute for Russian and Eastern European Studies, Helsinki, Finland

Successful Applications for Third-Party Funding

2014-2019	Five-year Emmy Noether Grant for a junior research group awarded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). (917.692 Euro) Project title: Mediating Semi-Authoritarianism. The Power of the Internet in the post-Soviet World
2012-2014	Two-year Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowship awarded by the European Union. (209.630 Euro) Project title: Mediating Semi-Authoritarianism. The Power of the Internet in Russia
2011	One-year research fellowship awarded by the Thyssen Foundation, Cologne, Germany. (23.817 Euro) Project title: The Power of the Internet in Russia
2010	Three-month research fellowship awarded by the Aleksanteri Institute for Russian and Eastern European Studies, Helsinki, Finland. (6.900 Euro)
2009/2010	Nine-month postdoctoral fellowship awarded by the Harriman Institute, Columbia University, New York, USA. (40.000 \$)
2005-2008	2½ -year PhD fellowship awarded by the Foundation of the German Economy. (33.600 Euro)

Professional Activities

Reviewer for	Journal of Communication, New Media & Society, Information, Communication & Society, Political Communication, Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication, International Journal of Communication, Policy & Internet, East European Politics & Societies and Cultures, Constellations, Studies in Communication Media (SC M), International Communication Association (ICA), Economic and Social Research Council (UK), German Research Foundation (DFG)
Outreach	Interviews with major German and English language media outlets (tagesschau.de, DW-world.de, Die Welt, taz.de), participation in roundtables

Conferences and Workshops Organized

2017	The Consequences of the Internet for Authoritarian Politics: Comparative Perspectives One-Day Preconference to the annual conference of the International Communication Association (ICA), 25 May, San Diego, USA
2015	Tweeting the War: Social Media and War Coverage in the Ukrainian Conflict Four-Day Conference at the Free University of Berlin featuring academics and practitioners, 17-20 November
2015	Tweeting the War: Social Media and War Coverage in the Ukrainian Conflict Three-Day Workshop in Kiev featuring academics and practitioners, 5-7 October
2010	The Etiology and Ecology of Post-Soviet Communication Three-day conference at the Harriman Institute for Russian Studies, Columbia University, New York, 7-9 May

Publications

Peer-reviewed articles

forthcoming	(first author, with Anna Litvinenko) Transferring control from the backend to the frontend: A comparison of the discourse architectures of comment sections on news websites across the post-Soviet world . New Media & Society . Ranked 1 of 79 in communication in the 2016 ISI journal citation report.
2017	(first author, with Eunike Piwoni) Targeting dominant publics: How counterpublic commenters align their efforts with mainstream news . New Media & Society . Published online first. Ranked 1 of 79 in communication in the 2016 ISI journal citation report.
2017	(single author) From connective to collective action: Internet elections as a digital tool to centralize and formalize protest in Russia . Information, Communication & Society . Published online first. Ranked 8 of 79 in communication and 10 of 143 in sociology in the 2016 ISI journal citation report.
2016	(single author) Innovating Consultative Authoritarianism. Internet votes as a novel digital tool to stabilize non-democratic rule in Russia . New Media & Society . Published online first. Ranked 1 of 79 in communication in the 2016 ISI journal citation report.

- 2016 (single author) [Beyond the Four Theories: Towards a Discourse Approach to the Comparative Study of Media and Politics](#). *International Journal of Communication*, 10, 1530–1547. Ranked 25 of 79 in communication in the 2016 ISI journal citation report.
- 2015 (first author, with Eunike Piwoni) [Public Spheres in Interaction. Comment Sections of News Websites as Counterpublic Spaces](#). *Journal of Communication*, 65 (3), 465-488. Ranked 1 of 76 in communication in the 2014 ISI journal citation report.
- 2014 (single author) [Four Facets of Critical News Literacy in a Non-democratic Regime: How Young Russians Navigate Their News](#). *European Journal of Communication*, 29 (1), 68-82. Ranked 29 of 76 in communication in the 2014 ISI journal citation report.
- 2013 (single author) [Why do Pluralistic Media Systems Emerge? Comparing Media Change in Russia and the Czech Republic After the Collapse of Communism](#). *Global Media and Communication*, 9(3), 239–256.
- 2013 (single author) [Making Sense of the News in a Hybrid Regime. How Young Russians Decode State TV and an Oppositional Blog](#). *Journal of Communication*, 63 (2), 244-265. Ranked 2 of 67 in communication in the 2010 ISI journal citation report.
- 2012 (single author) [Blogging for the Sake of the President: The Online-Diaries of Russian Governors](#). *Europe-Asia Studies*, 64 (8), 1437–1461. Ranked 12 of 44 in area studies and 59 of 112 in political science in the 2009 ISI journal citation report.
- 2011 (single author) [Managing Public Outrage. Power, Scandal, and New Media in Contemporary Russia](#). *New Media & Society*, 13(8), 1301 -1319. Ranked 10 of 55 in communication in the 2009 ISI journal citation report.

Book

- 2011 (single author) *Mediensysteme in Transformationsprozessen. Wie entstehen pluralistische Mediensysteme – und warum nicht?* Nomos: Baden-Baden.

Non peer-reviewed publications

- 2015 Investigating the Management of Meaning: Forays into Russia's Semi-Authoritarian Media Landscape. Contribution to the newsletter of the political communication divisions of the ICA and the APSA, April 2015. Available at: http://www.politicalcommunication.org/newsletter_25_1_toepfl.html
- 2012 Book Review. *Social Dynamics 2.0: Researching Change in Times of Media Convergence. Case studies from the Middle East and Asia*, edited by Nadja-Christina Schneider and Bettina Gräf. *Publizistik* (57), 127-128.

2011	The New Networked Sphere of Social Media: A Challenge to the Russian Regime? Report, March 2011, published in the dossier series by the Centre d'études and recherche internationales (CERI), Sciences Po, Paris, 27 pages.
2010	Die russische Medienlandschaft zu Beginn eines neuen Jahrzehnts. Ost-West Europäische Perspektiven, 11 (2), 134-140. Ostfildern, Germany: Grünewald-Verlag.
2010	Gelenkter Volkszorn. 'Skandal-Management' in der russischen souveränen Demokratie (Guiding the People's Wrath: Scandal Management in Russia's Sovereign Democracy). Russlandanalysen 207, pp. 16-19, Analytical Digest published by the Research Centre for Eastern Europe Studies, University of Bremen.
2010	Reconstructing Stalin— A Research Sketch. Comparing Identity Discourses on Russian State Television in the So-Called 'Independent' Mass Media and the Blogosphere. Working Papers of the Research Centre for Eastern European Studies, No. 109, September 2010.
2010	Managing Public Outrage: Power, Scandal, and New Media in Contemporary Russia. Presented at the conference 'Internet, Politics, Policy 2010: An Impact Assessment', September 16-17, Oxford, UK. Conference paper can be retrieved at: http://microsites.oii.ox.ac.uk/ipp2010/programme/79
2009	with Kleinstaub, Hans. Stiftungen als Retter des Qualitätsjournalismus? (Foundations as Saviours of Quality Journalism?). Fundraiser Magazin, 2009 (4), 62-63.
2005	Kommersant', Necavizimaja Gazeta & Co. Russische Printmedien als Garant der Pressefreiheit? Universität Passau: Diploma thesis.

Selected Conference Presentations and Invited Talks

2017	Conference presentation: Mapping Comment Sections of News Websites across Authoritarian and Non-Authoritarian Contexts. Presented at the preconference "The Consequences of the Internet for Authoritarian Politics: Comparative Perspectives" to the annual conference of the International Communication Association (ICA), 26-29 May, San Diego, USA
2017	Conference presentation: Targeting the Hegemonic Public-at-large: How Counterpublics Erupting Online Align Their Efforts with Mainstream News Content. Presented at the annual conference of the International Communication Association (ICA), 26-29 May, San Diego, USA
2016	Invited talk: Innovating consultative authoritarianism: Internet elections as a novel digital tool to stabilize non-democratic rule. Presented at the expert seminar "Authoritarian Power and Practices in the Digital Age", University of Amsterdam , 22-23 September, 2016, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2016	Conference presentation (with Bingchun Meng): Comparing Official Discourses on the Media and Politics in China and Russia. Presented at the annual conference of the International Communication Association (ICA), 9-13 June, Fukuoka, Japan
2016	Conference presentation: Innovating Consultative Authoritarianism: Internet Votes as a Digital Tool to Stabilize Non-democratic Rule. Presented in the Global Communication & Social Change Division at the annual conference of the International Communication Association (ICA), 9-13 June, Fukuoka, Japan
2016	Conference presentation: Beyond the Four Theories: Towards a Discourse Approach to the Comparative Study of Media and Politics. Presented in the Political Communication Division at the annual conference of the International Communication Association (ICA), 9-13 June, Fukuoka, Japan
2016	Conference presentation: Breaking the Stalemate of Leaderless Protest: Internet Elections as a Digital Tool to Centralize Collective Action in Russia. Presented at the annual conference of the International Communication Association (ICA), 9-13 June, Fukuoka, Japan
2015	Invited talk: Breaking the Stalemate of Leaderless Protest: Alternative Internet Elections as a Digital Tool to Centralize Collective Action in Russia. At the international expert workshop "Media Practices. Transregional Perspectives on Changing Social Orders" at Free University of Berlin , 29-30 October, Berlin, Germany.
2014	Invited talk: Kommentarbereiche von Nachrichten-Webseiten als gegenöffentliche Räume. Eine Fallstudie zur Berichterstattung über die AfD nach der Bundestagswahl 2013. Research presentation at the Siemensstiftung, organized by the Department of Media Studies and Communication Research, LMU Munich , 3 December, Munich, Germany.
2014	Conference presentation: Challenging hegemonic public spheres: Online newspapers' comments' sections as novel spaces for emerging counterpublic discourses. Presented at the ECREA conference, 12-15 November, Lisbon, Portugal.
2014	Conference presentation: De-Westernizing the Four Theories: A Discursive Approach to the Comparative Analysis of the Media and Politics. Presented at IAMCR conference, 15-19 July 2014, Hyderabad, India.
2014	Conference presentation: The Making of Representative Claims: Internet Votes, the Mass Media, and the Struggle for Power in Russia's Hybrid Regime. Presented at IAMCR , 15-19 July 2014, Hyderabad, India.
2013	Conference presentation: Critical News Literacy in a Non-Democratic Regime. How Young Russians Navigate Their News. Presented in the Global Communication & Social Change Division at the conference of the International Communication Association (ICA), June 17-21, London, UK.

2013	Conference presentation: Making Sense of the News in a Hybrid Regime. How Young Russians Decode State Television and an Oppositional Blog. Presented in the Political Communication Division at the conference of the International Communication Association (ICA), June 17-21, London, UK.
2013	Poster presentation: What Does It Mean to "Trust"? Using Decodings of News Items to Capture Complex Concepts. Presented at the pre-conference "Audiences Elsewhere" of the International Communication Association (ICA), June 16, University of Leicester, UK.
2013	Invited roundtable: Neue Medien und Politik in Deutschland und Russland, 52th Annual Conference „Mass Media in the Modern World. St. Petersburg Readings ", April 18-19, St. Petersburg State University, Russia.
2013	Conference presentation: Generating Legitimacy in the Absence of Fair Elections: Digital Participation and the Struggle for Power in Contemporary Russia. Presented at the conference "Europe: Crisis and Renewal", the European Congress of the International Council for Central and East European Studies (ICCEES & BASEES), April 5-8, Cambridge, UK.
2013	Conference presentation: How Young Russians Make Sense of Election News. Presented at the conference "Audiences, Media Environments and Democratization After the Arab Spring" organized by the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism , February 28 to March 1, Oxford, UK.
2013	Invited talk: Mediated politics. Presented in the Research Dialogues series of the Department of Media and Communications at the London School of Economics and Political Science , January 16, London, UK.
2012	Invited talk: Making Sense of the News in a Hybrid Regime. Presented in the research seminar at the Institute for Communication Science and Media Research (IfKW) at LMU University Munich , Germany.
2011	Invited talk: Choosing between Oppositional Blogs and State Television: How Young Russian Follow and Make Sense of the News. Presented in the research seminar series at the "Institute for New Media and Society" at the New Economic School (Rossiskaya Ekonomicheskaya Shkola), September 30, Moscow, Russia.
2011	Invited talk: How young Russians read blogs. Presented at the Faculty of Sociology at the Higher School of Economics , September 8, St. Petersburg, Russia.
2011	Conference presentation: 'Efficient Manager' and 'Bloodthirsty Tyrant'? Strategic Framing of the Historic Figure 'Stalin' in Contemporary Russia'. Presented at the Joint Annual Conference on Political Communication of the German Association for Journalism and Communication Studies (DGPuK) and the German Association for Political Science (DVPW), February 10-12, Münster, Germany

2011	Conference presentation: The Power of the Internet in Russia's 'Sovereign Democracy'. Presented at the symposium 'The Internet and International Relations: New Challenges, New Approaches', organized by the Center for International Studies and Research, Science Po , and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, January 21, Paris, France.
2010	Discussant of the panel 'Russian Media, Business, and State' at the 10 th Annual Aleksanteri Conference 'Fuelling the Future. Assessing Russia's Role in Eurasia's Energy Complex', October 27-29, Helsinki, Finland.
2010	Conference presentation: Reconstructing the Image of Stalin. A Comparative Study of Media Discourses on State Television, in Print Media and in the Blogosphere. Presented at the workshop Tagung Junger Osteuropa-Experten (JOE) , October 22-24, Berlin, Germany.
2010	Invited talk: Managing Public Outrage: Power, Scandal, and New Media in Contemporary Russia. Presented at the research colloquium of the Aleksanteri Institute , Finnish Centre for Eastern European and Russian Studies, October 5, 2010, Helsinki, Finland.
2010	Conference presentation: Police Corruption Scandals on the Russian Internet. Presented at the conference 'The Ecology and Etiology of Post-Soviet Communication', May 7-9, Columbia University , New York, USA.
2010	Invited presentation: Media Scandals on the Russian Internet. A Series of Case Studies. Presented at the workshop 'New Media in New Europe-Asia', March 30, University of Birmingham , UK.
2009	Workshop presentation: Towards a Typology of Defective Media Systems. Presented at a research colloquium of the project 'New Modes of Communication in Post-Soviet Russia', October 15, Columbia University , New York, USA.

Teaching & Supervision

Experience

PhD and postdoctoral level	2015-2019: Supervision of one PhD student and one postdoctoral researcher (members of my Emmy Noether research group at FU Berlin).
Postgraduate level	<p>Since 2014: (Co-)supervision of Eastern Europe-related MA theses at the Institute for Media and Communication Studies, FU Berlin.</p> <p>2016/17: Postgraduate seminar. New Media & Politics in the Post-Soviet World. FU Berlin.</p> <p>2015/16: Postgraduate seminar. New Media & Politics in (Semi-)Authoritarian States. FU Berlin.</p>

Undergraduate level	2014/15: Postgraduate seminar. Technology of Liberation. The Power of the Internet in Democratic and Authoritarian Regimes. FU Berlin.
	2009: Two-Week Postgraduate Seminar. Comparing Media Landscapes: A Global Perspective. Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan.
	2009: Postgraduate Seminar: The Mediatization of Politics. LMU Munich.
	Since 2014: (Co-)supervision of Eastern Europe-related BA theses at the Institute for Media and Communication Studies, FU Berlin.
	2012: Two BA Seminars on Mass Media in Germany (Medienlehre). LMU Munich.
	2008: BA Seminar. Media Systems in Transition. University of Passau.
	2006/07: BA Seminar. International Media Systems. University of Passau.

Formal training

2015	Three-day training in academic instruction (Hochschuldidaktik: kompetenzorientierte Lehre entwickeln und gestalten). Organized by the German Research Foundation (DFG).
2014	One-day "Training for Principal Investigators". Offered by the London School of Economics.
2012	Half-day training on "Supervising PhD students". Offered as part of the orientation week for new staff at the London School of Economics.

Language Skills

German	Native	English	fluent
Russian	very good	Italian	very good
Czech	reading skills	Spanish	reading skills
French	reading skills	Latin	