

Amalia Álvarez Benjumea

Kurt-Schumacher-Str. 10
D-53113 Bonn
Germany

Phone: +49 (0) 228 91416-856
Mobile: +49 (0) 176 600 26 652
alvarezbenjumea@coll.mpg.de
alvarezbenjumea.me

Academic Position

Senior Research Fellow, Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods, Bonn (Germany), 2019-present

P.I.: Fabian Winter

Junior Research Fellow, Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods, Bonn (Germany), 2015-2019.

Education

PhD in Sociology, Cologne Graduate School in Management, Economics and Social Sciences, University of Cologne, Germany, August 2019.

Dissertation title: "The spreading of hostility: unraveling of social norms in communication"
Supervisor: Clemens Kroneberg

Visiting researcher, Department of Sociology, New York University. April-July 2018, USA.
Host: Delia Baldassarri

Visiting researcher, Norms and Networks Cluster (NNC) at University of Groningen (RUG), The Netherlands. February 2018. Host: Andreas Flache

International Max Planck Research Graduate School Adapting behaviour in a fundamentally uncertain world, 2018

M.Sc. Applied Social Research, Department of Sociology, Stockholm University, Sweden, 2015.

Master's thesis: "Friendship choices and ethnic homophily"
Supervisor: Jens Rydgren

M.Sc. Social Cognition: research and motivations, Division of Psychology & Language Sciences, University College London, UK, 2011.

B.Sc. Sociology, Faculty of Sociology and Political Science, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain, 2010.

Research Interests

My work applies quantitative methods, particularly online and field experiments, to investigate conditions under which social norms change, such as the effects of social and contextual information on conformity to social norms. Most of my work has been concerned with social norms stigmatizing the overt expression of prejudice. I investigate the

role of social norms as a bulwark against hate speech online, how anti-prejudice norms are affected by sudden events, or how political identity shapes these norms. I am also involved in empirical research examining how anomie affects deep-rooted social norms like honesty.

Publications in Peer-Reviewed Journals

1. **Álvarez-Benjumea, A.** (2020). [Exposition to xenophobic content and support for right-wing populism: The asymmetric role of gender.](#) *Social Science Research*, 92, 102480. DOI: [10.1016/j.ssresearch.2020.102480](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssresearch.2020.102480)
2. **Álvarez-Benjumea, A., & Winter, F.** (2020). [The Breakdown of Anti-Racist Norms: A Natural Experiment on Hate Speech after Terrorist Attacks.](#) *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 117(37), 22800-22804. DOI: [10.1073/pnas.2007977117](https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2007977117)
3. **Álvarez-Benjumea, A., & Winter, F.** (2018). [Normative Change and Culture of Hate: An Experiment in Online Environments.](#) *European Sociological Review*, 34(3), 223-237. DOI: [10.1093/esr/jcy005](https://doi.org/10.1093/esr/jcy005)

Working Papers

1. **Álvarez-Benjumea, A.,** Freund, L., Luckner, k., and Winter, F. Public Signals as Coordination Devices: the Moderating Effect of Group Identity. *Under Review*
2. **Álvarez-Benjumea, A.** Uncovering Hidden Opinions: The spread of Xenophobic Views.

Work in Progress

1. Partisanship as social identity (together with Winter, F., and Zhang, N.)
2. Partisan Normative Polarization in the age of Trump (together with Winter, F., and Zhang, N.)
3. Tracking the Trump Effect (together with Winter, F., and Zhang, N.)
4. The Effect of Anomie on a Honesty norm: A Natural Experiment (together with Winter, F.)
5. Evidence of Spontaneous Countercomments against hateful comments online.

Teaching Experience

2nd RECSM Winter Methods School 2021 at Pompeu Fabra University. 18, February, 2021.
Online

[Online and lab-in-the-field experiments](#)

Conferences and Seminar Presentations

Invited Talks

Uncovering Hidden Opinions: The contagion of Xenophobic Views. Opening workshop of the *Red de investigación en Ciencias Sociales Experimentales (RedEx)*, 17 December, 2020. Online.

Randomized Experiment in Online Communities. Summer Institute in Computational Social Science Maastricht (SICSS-Maastricht), 22nd June, 2020. Online.

Uncovering Hidden Opinions: The contagion of Anti-immigrant Views. Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales (CCHS) del CSIC, Madrid, 5 June, 2019, Spain.

Uncovering Hidden Opinions: The contagion of Anti-immigrant Views. Mittelbaukolloquium, Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES) at the University of Mannheim, 9 May, 2019, Germany.

When do terrorist attacks increase hate? Evidence from a Natural Experiment. Democracy, Elections and Citizenship (DEC) Seminar at the Department of Political Science of the Autonomous University of Barcelona, 29 November, 2018, Spain.

Presentations in Conferences

Uncovering Hidden Opinions: The contagion of Anti-immigrant Views, Digital Societies, 2nd Conference of the The Academy of Sociology (AS), 25-27 September 2019, Konstanz (Germany)

Uncovering Hidden Opinions: The contagion of Anti-immigrant Views, 12th Conference of the International Network of Analytical Sociologists (INAS), 31 May-2 June 2019, St. Petersburg (Russia)

Asymmetric Contagion of Anti-immigrant Views: The Role of Gender in the Effect of Normative Concerns, 6th International Meeting on Experimental and Behavioral Social Sciences (IMEBESS) at the Utrecht University, 2-4 May 2019, Utrecht (Netherlands)

Normative change and culture of hate: a randomized experiment in online communities, 10th Conference of the International Network of Analytical Sociologists (INAS), 8-9 June, 2017, Oslo (Norway)

Normative change and culture of hate: a randomized experiment in online communities, 10th JDM Meeting, Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods, 31 May-2 June, 2017, Bonn (Germany)

Friendship Choices and ethnic background, XII Spanish Sociology Congress. Spanish Sociological Federation (FES), 30 July, 2016, Gijón (Spain)

Presentations in Workshops

The breakdown of antiracist norms: A natural experiment on hate speech after terrorist attacks. I Jornadas Experimentos en Sociología y política at Universidad Pablo de Olavide, 28-29 January, 2019, Sevilla, Spain.

The breakdown of antiracist norms: A natural experiment on hate speech after terrorist attacks. Workshop on *Rationality and Irrationality in Democracy* at the XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology, 15-21 July, 2018, Toronto, Canada.

Normative change and culture of hate: a randomized experiment in online communities. PhD workshop at the 13th conference of the European sociological association (ESA), 26-28 August, 2017, Athens, Greece.

Normative change and culture of hate: a randomized experiment in online communities. Workshop on Common good and self-interest in the digital Society at the congress of the Swiss sociological association (SSA), 23-24 June, 2017, Zurich, Switzerland.

Organization of Scientific Meetings

Workshop on **Mechanisms of normative change** at the XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology, 15-21 July, 2018, Toronto, Canada.

Selected Courses and Summer Schools

OII Summer Doctoral Programme (SDP 2017) from the Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford, 3 - 14 July 2017

10th IMPRS Uncertainty Summer school from the International Max Planck Research School on Adapting Behavior in a Fundamentally Uncertain World (Uncertainty School), Jena, 24th July-19th August 2016.

9th IMPRS Uncertainty Summer school from the International Max Planck Research School on Adapting Behavior in a Fundamentally Uncertain World (Uncertainty School), Jena, 19th July-21st August 2015.

Scholarships and Prizes

European Sociological Association (ESA) PhD Summer School scholarship, 2017.

Professional Activities

Reviewer

Journal of Economic Psychology, American Sociological Review, American Political Science Review, PLOS One, Nature, Journal of Politics, and Campbell Collaboration

Languages

English: Professional knowledge (European C2 level)

German: Basic knowledge (European A2 level)

Swedish: Basic knowledge

Spanish: Mother tongue

Additional information

Programming Languages and Scientific Applications

Qualtrics, Python, Stata, R, LaTeX.

Other Activities

PhD internal representative, Max Planck Society 2016-2017

Last updated: February 23, 2021