Christine Sheldon, PhD

Research Fellow in Computational Social Science
Centre for AI in Government & Institute for Data & AI
University of Birmingham

✉ c.r.sheldon@bham.ac.uk
🌐 christine-sheldon.com
⌨ github.com/C-Shels
in LinkedIn Profile

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Centre for AI in Government, University of Birmingham 02/2024 – 01/2027
Research Fellow in Computational Social Science
Topic: LLM Multi-Agent System Simulation of Political Deliberation.

Westminster Bridge, Nuffield Politics Research Centre 03/2022 – 08/2023
Research Review Writer
Topic: Unequal Representation in Liberal Democracies

Inter-Parliamentary Union 09/2020 – 08/2021
Research Assistant for the Global Parliamentary Report
Topic: Parliamentary Public Engagement

HONOURS & FELLOWSHIPS

Institute for Data and AI, University of Birmingham 06/2025 – 01/2027
Research Associate
Focus: Interdisciplinary Data Science
Selected as part of a university-wide data science network established to initiate and fund
interdisciplinary research.

Schmidt Foundation 01/2025 – 12/2025
International Strategy Forum Fellow
Focus: Technological Innovation & Democratic Resilience.
Selected as one of 80 emerging leaders worldwide to examine the intersection of technology
and democracy, strengthening international collaboration and research engagement.

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

University of Oxford, Oxford 2020-2024
DPhil in Politics, Hertford College *No Corrections*
Supervised by Petra Schleiter
Thesis: Capturing Coalition Government Bargaining with Computational Text Analysis

University of Oxford, Oxford 2018-2020
MPhil in Politics (European Politics and Society), St. Antony's College *Distinction*
Supervised by Radoslaw Zubek
Thesis: Coalition Governance and Institutional Change in the Dutch Parliament

Erasmus University College, Rotterdam 2015-2018
Bachelor of Arts, Double Major in Political Science and Sociology, Minor in Computer Science *Cum Laude*
Supervised by Roy Kemmers & Ward Vloeberghs
Thesis: The Brussels Leviathan: A discourse analysis of five hard Eurosceptic parties

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

MSc Supervision	**Peer Reviewing**	**Professional Service**
MSc in AI and Government	British Journal of Political Science	AI Paper Lab,
Juan Herrada & Amanda Putriutari	(BJPS)	LLM Special Interest Group,
		Oxford Politics Colloquium

Teaching

Machine Learning and AI (Graduate)   **Autumn 2023 & 2024**
Course Convenor & Lecturer
MSc in Digital Scholarship, University of Oxford
Cohort size of 15 • 9 contact hours per week (4 weeks).

Machine Learning (Graduate)   **Spring 2023**
Teaching Assistant
Oxford Spring School in Advanced Research Methods, University of Oxford
Cohort size of 20 • 15 contact hours (1 week intensive).

Fundamentals of Social Data Science in Python (Graduate)   **Autumn 2022**
Teaching Assistant
MSc in Social Data Science, Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford
Cohort size of 25 • 8 contact hours per week (8 weeks).

Wrangling Data (Graduate)   **Spring 2022**
Teaching Assistant
MSc in Social Data Science, Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford
Cohort size of 30 • 8 contact hours per week (8 weeks).

Comparative Politics & Politics of Europe (Undergraduate)   **2020 & 2021**
Tutor
PPE, Jesus College, St. Anne's College, and Hertford College, University of Oxford
Cohort size of 2 • 1 contact hour per week (8 weeks).

Publications

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

Sheldon, C. (2023) **Closing the gap: establishing a "feedback loop" for effective parliamentary public. engagement**, *Journal of Legislative Studies*, 29(3), 425–441.

Working Papers

Sheldon, C. (2025) **Coalition Differentiation at Scale: Measuring Intra-Coalition Conflict with Supervised Text Classification**, under review at *Political Science Research and Methods*.

Sheldon, C. (2025) **Who gets to be different? Assessing the Failure to Present Coalitional Unity in Parliamentary Speech.**, submitted to *American Political Science Review.*

Arnold, C., Sheldon, C., Henrichsen, T., & Cross, J. (2025) **How Useful is Your LLM Output? A Probabilistic Approach to Assessing Synthetic Text Data for Domain Specific Applications**, preparing for submission at *Political Analysis.*

Sheldon, C., & Küpfer, A. (2025) **Polarization in Bi-Directional Political Communication: Analysing the Language of Abgeordnetenwatch Questions and Answers.**, preparing for submission at *British Journal of Political Science.*

Other Publications

Sheldon, C. (2025). **AI Tools for Democratic Strategy**, *Special Competitive Studies Project*

Sheldon, C. (2024). **Het gebruik van AI door politici**, *Sociologie Magazine*, (3), 14-15.

Sheldon, C. (2022). **Australia's Unprecedented Coalition Politics: Unpacking Scott Morrison's Ministerial Self-Appointments**, OxPol Blog

Sheldon, C. (2020). **Undoing the Fixed Term Parliaments Act**, OxPol Blog

Languages

Dutch:	**English:**	**German:**
Native Proficiency	Native Proficiency (Bilingual)	Upper Intermediate Proficiency
	Certification: Cambridge English C2	Certification:Goethe-Institut B2

Conference & Workshop Presentations

Digital Democracy Workshop, University of Zurich	**2025**
COMPTEXT Conference on Computational Text Analysis	**2023, 2024, 2025**
American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting	**2025**
European Political Science Association (EPSA) Annual Conference	**2023, 2025**
UK Political Science Association (PSA) Annual Conference	**2023, 2025**