

CHRIS SCHMITZ

Berlin, Germany ◇ ch.schmitz@hertie-school.org ◇ [LinkedIn](#) ◇ [Google Scholar](#)

Researcher studying how governments should adapt to a world with increasingly powerful and autonomous AI.

EDUCATION

Centre for Digital Governance, Hertie School

Berlin, Germany

Doctorate in Governance

09/2024 – Current

- Dissertation: “Statecraft in an Age of Intelligent Systems”, supervised by Prof. Dr. Gerhard Hammerschmid
- As Research Assistant, coordinating a [course](#) on AI for public administrators, and teaching a three-day practical module
- Co-founded and secured funding for the “Digital State Forum”, a joint research group with the Oxford Internet Institute

Frankfurt School of Finance and Management

Frankfurt, Germany

MSc in Applied Data Science (GPA: 1.4, German Scale)

09/2019 – 11/2021

- Dissertation: Evaluating Progress in Explainable AI Methods against Philosophical Models of Explanation, supervised by Profs. Gregory Wheeler and Sebastian Köhler

University of Glasgow / UCLA

Glasgow, UK / Los Angeles, USA

MA (Scotland) in Mathematics and Politics (Honors of the First Class)

09/2014 – 06/2018

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (SELECTED)

Centre for the Governance of AI (GovAI)

London, UK

Winter Fellow

01/2026 – 04/26

- Project: Resilience to *Agentic Flooding* of Government Services, supervised by Alan Chan and Lewis Hammond
- Compiled a [case database](#) and [policy report](#) with recommended actions for governments; writing an academic paper

McKinsey & Company

Berlin, Germany

Analytics Fellow (*Associate* equivalent)

09/2022 – 12/2025 (On leave from 09/24)

- Co-founded the firm’s AI regulation service line:
 - * Initiated and led a [survey of 150 organizations](#) on the governance and financial impact of the EU AI Act
 - * Wrote a chapter of the firm’s first internal document on global AI regulation; contributed to a related [article](#)
- Worked on international digital governance projects in both developing and strategic capacities, e.g.:
 - * Handled product management in the founding and scaling of a ministry’s data innovation unit
 - * Implemented from-scratch data protection compliance at a tax authority
 - * Led development of a LLM-based product for citizen communication in the German public sector
- Contributed to several other AI projects in forward-deployed roles, incl. heading a 6-person developer team building a TB-scale marketing analytics pipeline

Tech4Germany, German Chancellery

Berlin, Germany

Engineering Fellow

08/2021 – 11/2021

- Wrote backend for a resource allocation tool used in the Bundestag (Parliament), available at azur.bundestag.de
- Drafted and advocated for a unified Open Data offering to Bundestag IT leadership, based on a systematic review of GovData offerings and a survey of external developers and journalists

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Frankfurt, Germany

Advisory Intern: Responsible AI

05/2021 – 08/2021

- Developed an AI explainability scoring “engine”: derived a scoring schema from XAI literature, implemented it in Python as a service backend, and authored documentation and marketing materials.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- **Schmitz, C.**, Hammond, L., & Chan, A. (2026). Characterizing Agentic Flooding of Government Services. *To appear in proceedings of AIES’26*.
- **Schmitz, C.***, Rystrom, J.*, Davies, N., Hammerschmid, G., Meijer, A., & Russell, C. (2026). Technically Not Generalizable: A Typology of AI Systems for Public Administration. *Under review*.

- **Schmitz, C.** and Joanna Bryson (2026). [A Moral Agency Framework for Legitimate Integration of AI in Bureaucracies](#). Abstract in *Proceedings of AIES 2025*; to appear in "Public Administration and Emerging Technologies", Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Rystrom, J., **Schmitz, C.**, Korgul, K., Batzner, J., & Russell, C. (2026). [Agent Benchmarks Fail Public-Sector Requirements](#). In *Proceedings of IASEAI 2026*.
- Bean, A., Kearns, R. et al. (2025). [Measuring what Matters: Construct Validity in Large Language Model Benchmarks](#). In *Proceedings of NeurIPS2025 Datasets & Benchmarks Track*.
- **Schmitz, C.**, Rystrom, J., & Batzner, J. (2025). [Oversight structures for Agentic AI in Public-Sector Organizations](#). In *Proceedings of REALM @ACL2025*.

POLICY PUBLICATIONS

- **10.04.26** [Agentic Flooding: Preparing Government Services for an AI-Enabled Surge in Demand](#) *Self-published*.
- **12.05.25** [Digital Sovereignty and Large Language Models in German Federal Government](#). [sic] Report by Fraunhofer FOKUS for German Federal Ministry of Digitalization. Contributed Chapter 5 & 8.

PRESS

- **The Economist**, 06.08.26 [From parking tickets to planning, the state is under siege by AI](#). Cited.
- **Computer Weekly**, 14.04.26 [Flood warning: How citizens' AI agents will swamp public services](#). Cited extensively.
- **Tech Policy Press**, 10.2.26 [Governments Are Using AI To Draft Legislation. What Could Possibly Go Wrong?](#) Cited extensively.

TEACHING AND MENTORING

- [SPAR](#), Fall 2026: "Public-Sector AI Resilience Agenda"
- [Safe AI Germany \(SAIGE\) Incubator](#), Summer 2026: Mentored 2 fellows on "Improving the Deutschland-Stack's approach to AI procurement and access"
- Teaching:
 - * 2025-26: AI in Action: Technical Practical Module. *Lecturer; executive education for public servants*
 - * 2025-26: AI in Local Public Administration. *Lecturer; project course for masters students*
 - * 2025-26: Introduction to Python for Social Scientists. *Lecturer; block seminar for PhD students*

INVITED TALKS

- **AlgorithmWatch**, May 2026 "A Moral Agency Framework for Legitimate Integration of AI in Bureaucracies"
- **German Government Digital Service**, January 2026 "Don't Patch Analog Government with AI – Rebuild it Instead"
- **EU JRC FreshMinds Seminar**, November 2025 "Agent Benchmarks Fail Public-Sector Requirements"
- **OZG Taskforce Conference**, October 2025 "Debureaucratization, State Modernization, Citizen Focus: Will AI transform German government (like this)?" [translated]