

CHRIS SCHMITZ

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

ary researcher synthesizing how frontier AI reshapes economies, institutions, and governance—and translating findings for policy and pub

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

London, UK

Winter Fellow

01/2026 – Present

- Three-month full-time onsite research fellowship on topics in AI Governance, admission rate of ca. 0.5%
- Project: Resilience to AI-driven *Flooding* of Government Services, supervised by Alan Chan and Lewis Hammond

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](#)
- Led and contributed to AI projects across forward-deployed and backend engineering roles, spanning model evaluation, data pipelines, and public-sector deployment
 - * Ran a large-scale usage evaluation study on millions of interactions with internal LLM tool *Lilli*, which informed firm-wide development and procurement decisions
 - * Was lead developer on a LLM-based product for citizen communication in the German public sector
 - * Designed and implemented semantic and PII guardrails for the firm’s shared LLM guardrail library
- 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

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.

PUBLICATIONS

- **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](#). To appear 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*.

PRESS AND POLICY

- **Tech Policy Press, 10.2.26** [Governments Are Using AI To Draft Legislation. What Could Possibly Go Wrong?](#) *Cited extensively*.
- **German Federal Ministry of Digitalization, 25.11.25** [Digital Sovereignty and Large Language Models in German Federal Administration](#). [sic] *Contributed Chapter 5 8*.