

Alexander Sobieska

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EDUCATION

Stanford University, Stanford Social Media Lab

Visiting Fulbright Scholar (Prof. Jeff Hancock, Dr. Sunny Xun Liu)

Stanford, California

Oct. 2025 – Jan. 2026

TU München, Institute of History and Ethics in Medicine

Research Associate, Doctoral Candidate (Prof. Marcello Ienca)

Munich, Bavaria

since May 2023

Thesis: “Computational Methods for Digital Bioethics: Developing Empirical Approaches to Public Discourse, Misinformation, and Ethical Analysis in Algorithmic Media”

TU München, School of Social Sciences and Technology

M. Sc. Candidate in Politics & Technology, GPA: 1.2

Munich, Bavaria

February 2023

Thesis: “Towards a Differential Model of Online Radicalization – Insights from a User-Focused Analysis of Radicalized Language on r/Incels”, Grade: 1.0

Relevant Coursework: Computational Social Science, Grade: 1.0; Civil Society and Technological Change, Grade: 1.0; Political Information Processing and Incivility, Grade: 1.0; Advanced Qualitative Methods, Grade: 1.7

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität

B. Sc. in Psychology, Minor: Clinical Psychology, GPA: 2.0

Munich, Bavaria

September 2020

WORK EXPERIENCE & PROJECT LEADERSHIP

TikTalks (Responsible Technology Hub e.V. / TU München)

Project Manager

Munich, Bavaria

2024 - present

Lead two large-scale mixed-methods studies (N=500+) on algorithmic curation and governance, digital rights, radicalization, and misinformation on TikTok. Coordinate multi-institutional teams (TUM, Stanford SML, Responsible Technology Hub e.V.) and supervise four student assistants. Manage data-collection workflows, digital twins, experience-sampling protocols, and large-scale TikTok data pipelines. Since 2026 TikTalks II: expert workshop “Who Shapes Whom?” (June 2026) and an international conference (2027).

TUM Global Incentive Fund Project with Imperial College London

Project Coordinator (PI: Prof. Marcello Ienca)

Munich, Bavaria

2025 - 2026

Project “Global Comparative Study on Censorship in LLM-Based Chatbots”. Coordinate a comparative study of how AI chatbots answer questions about contested historical events across languages, with Prof. Giorgio Gilestro (Imperial College London). Supervise two student assistants.

Siemens Financial Services (SFS)

Working Student, Strategy DEI (Ivonne Maruri)

Munich, Bavaria

May 2022 - May 2023

Supported the DEI Innovators Group in fostering an inclusive working culture. Contributed to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives and strategy development within Siemens Financial Services.

German Centre for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM)

Researcher, Cluster “Daten-Methoden-Monitoring” (Dr. Jacobsen)

Berlin, Berlin

Aug. 2022 - Dec. 2023

Downloaded and analyzed X/Twitter data regarding the Russo-Ukrainian War. Studied the relationship between party affiliation, topic frequency, and discourse development.

PUBLICATIONS

Sobieska, Alexander. “Preparedness under Conditions of Polarization: Media Logics and the Public Positioning of Neuroethics.” In *Developments in Neuroethics and Bioethics*, edited by Katherine Bassil and Lomax Boyd, vol. 8, 235-268. Academic Press, 2026.

Starke, Georg, **Alexander Sobieska**, Kathrin Knochel, and Alena Buyx. “Epistemic Humility Meets Virtual Reality: Teaching an Old Ideal with Novel Tools.” *Journal of Medical Ethics* 52, no. 7 (2026): 439-444.

Sobieska, Alexander, and Georg Starke. “Beyond Words: Extending a Pragmatic View of Language to Large Language Models for Informed Consent.” *The American Journal of Bioethics* 25, no. 4 (2025): 82-85.

Sobieska, Alexander, Max Hampel, Rosa Weidenspointner, Valentin Pauli, Cheng Pan, Seong-Min Jun, and Pia Gutsmedl. “Decoding the Discourse: Analyzing the Linguistic Features and Strategies Behind the Querdenken Movement’s COVID-19 Narrative.” *Health Communication* 40, no. 12 (2025): 2591-2601.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Trust & Safety Research Conference 2026, Stanford – *Inside the For You Page: Algorithmic Content Exposure, Health Misinformation, and Well-Being Among Young Adults on TikTok* (lightning talk, October 2026)

New Directions in Social Media Research and Policy 2026, Cambridge – *TRACE: A Four-Layer Design for Reconstructing Algorithmic Content Environments* (poster, December 2026)

Bavarian State Ministry for Family, Labor, and Social Affairs 2026, Munich – *The TikTalks Project* (invited presentation, networking meeting on radicalization prevention)

ETH Zurich, Health Ethics and Policy Lab (Prof. Effy Vayena) 2026 – *Digital Methods* (invited workshop)

re:publica 2025, Berlin – *Gen Z “Radicalized through TikTok” – Myth or Reality?* (with Yasmin Al-Douri)

Neuroethics 2025, Munich – *Digital Bioethics: Computational Methods for Addressing Neuroethical Questions* (INS & SIne Annual Meeting, joint session with Georg Starke, Ralf Jox, and Sabine Salloch)

Neuroethics 2025, Munich – *Exploring Public Discourse on Neurotechnology: A Computational Analysis of Sentiment, Terminology, and Ethical Concerns on Social Media* (poster, Best Presenter Award)

Hybrid Minds 2024, Geneva – *Neuroethics on YouTube: Investigating Ethical Considerations of Neurotechnology in Public Discourse*

DFG Network “Digital Bioethics” 2024, Hannover – *Neuroethics on YouTube: Investigating Ethical Considerations of Neurotechnology in Public Discourse*

EASST-4S 2024, Amsterdam – *Neurorights on YouTube: Investigating Ethical Considerations of Neurotechnology in Public Discourse* (panel “Exploring the Transformative Powers of Neurosciences”)

SIne 2024, Rome – *Neurorights on YouTube: Investigating Ethical Considerations of Neurotechnology in Public Discourse* (Italian Society for Neuroethics, “Mind Matters: Navigating Neuroethics in the 21st Century”; with Marcello Ienca)

Neuroethics 2024, Baltimore – *Neurorights on YouTube: Investigating Ethical Considerations of Neurotechnology in Public Discourse* (INS Annual Meeting, poster, Best Presenter Award)

Bridging the Gap between Neurorights and Cyberrights 2024, Pisa – *Neurorights on YouTube: Investigating Ethical Considerations of Neurotechnology in Public Discourse* (Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna)

IC2S2 2023, Copenhagen – *Decoding the Discourse: Analyzing the Linguistic Features and Strategies Behind the Querdenken Movement’s COVID-19 Narrative*

AWARDS & GRANTS

2026-2027: TikTalks II (Funder: Bavarian State Ministry for Family, Labor, and Social Affairs, Funding: approx. 100 000 EUR)

2026: 2nd Prize, “Speaking Across Differences”, Verein für die Förderung des McCloy-Stipendienprogramms, awarded to TikTalks (Responsible Technology Hub e.V.), 2 000 EUR

2025: Fulbright Visiting Scholar Award

2025: Best Presenter Award at the International Neuroethics Society Meeting (Neuroethics 2025, Munich)

2024-2026: TikTalks: Programm zur Akteuranalyse radikaler Inhalte auf TikTok (Funder: Bavarian State Ministry for Family, Labor, and Social Affairs, Funding: approx. 130 000 EUR)

2024: Scholarship of the Graduate Center for Doctoral Researchers of the **Bavarian Research Institute for Digital Transformation** (bidt)

2024: Best Presenter Award at the International Neuroethics Society Meeting (Neuroethics 2024, Baltimore)

2021-2023: Scholar of the **TUM: Junge Akademie** (Research Scholarship for Outstanding Students)

2016-2020: Scholar of the **Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes**

TEACHING EXPERIENCES

Courses Developed and Taught:

Seminar on Medical Ethics and Palliative Care (from 2023 ongoing, Technical University of Munich); Globalization of Politics; Globalized Societies (2024, Fresenius University, Munich); Political Theory (2023, Fresenius University, Munich)

Mentoring:

Tutor, TUM: Junge Akademie, Team voTUM (2025-2026, with Rosa Weidenspointner): interdisciplinary student research project on how elections in foreign countries influence voting preferences

LEADERSHIP & EXPERIENCE

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Student’s Union

Munich, Bavaria

President, LGBTQ+ Society

2019 - 2022

Represented queer students in university politics, focusing on improving visibility, policies and addressing discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals at LMU. Organized events to foster community and developed educational materials to increase awareness around gender and sexual diversity. Conducted a comprehensive survey on queer student experiences.

SKILLS & LANGUAGES

Languages

German (mother tongue), English (fluent, C2), French (fluent, B2), Spanish (A2), Italian (A2)

Technical

R (advanced): statistical modeling, regression, clustering, word embeddings, sentiment and moral-value analysis, text mining, network analysis, web-scraping, API workflows, JSON/CSV pipelines, large-scale social media data handling.