

Zeth Isaksson

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ABOUT

Max Weber Fellow at the European University Institute. I work in comparative politics, historical political economy, political behavior, and quantitative methods, with a focus on long-run political legacies, radical-right support, and political participation. I received my PhD from Stockholm University in November 2025 and have held visiting positions at the EUI, WZB, and Stockholm University's Department of Political Science.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Max Weber Postdoctoral Fellow <i>European University Institute (EUI), Florence, Italy</i> - Mentor: Filip Kostelka - Parental leave October - November 2025	Sep. 2025 – Ongoing
Research assistant <i>University of Linköping, Linköping, Sweden</i> Analysed local level polarization and inter-municipal cooperation at the Centre for Local Government Studies.	Mar. 2021 – Sep. 2021
Research assistant <i>Barcelona Center for European Studies (BACES), Barcelona, Spain</i>	Feb. 2021 – Sep. 2021
Research and Data Trainee <i>European Union Agency for the Fundamental Rights, Vienna, Austria</i>	Oct. 2020 – Feb. 2021
Student Research Assistant <i>Ludwig-Maximilian Universität, Munich, Germany</i>	May 2020 – Sep. 2020

Worked in conference and event planning for organizations such as the Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU) and the Swedish Association of International Affairs, before entering academia.

EDUCATION

PhD in Sociology <i>Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden</i> - Supervisors: Jens Rydgren, Jan Teorell, and Sirus H Dehdari - Committee: Lenka Bustikova (Chair), Andrej Kokkonen, Magnus Bygren, Andrea Bohman and Karl Loxbo - Visiting doctoral researcher at: - Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB), Oct. 2024 – Nov. 2024 (Hosted by Daniel Ziblatt) - European University Institute, Florence, Jan. 2023 – Jun. 2023 (Hosted by Hanspeter Kriesi) - Stockholm University - Department of Political Science, Apr. 2022 – Jun. 2022	Sep. 2021 – Nov. 2025
Double Master's Degree in Political Science and Current Democracies <i>Ludwig Maximilian Universität, Munich & Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona</i> - LMU: Average grade 1.35, supervised by Martin Gross - UPF: Average grade 9.11/10, double degree with LMU Munich	Sep. 2018 – Sep. 2020
Double Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and History <i>Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden</i> Awarded Best Bachelor Thesis in History	Sep. 2014 – Jun. 2018

PUBLICATIONS

Solo-Authored Publications in Peer-Reviewed Journals

- Jumping on the Bandwagon or off the Sinking Ship: Electoral Support and Candidate Supply [Accepted in *Scandinavian Political Studies*]
- How Car Culture Drives Political Preferences in Rural Regions: Evidence from Sweden, *Sociologia Ruralis*, 2026
- Persistent Breeze from the Winds of Change: Political behavior among protest participants after democratic transition *Electoral Studies*, 2025 *
- Repression, Party Ties, and Political Beliefs: Ideological Continuities Among Voters After Socialism, *Party Politics*, 2025 *
- Spirited Away: Access to Alcohol and Support for the Populist Radical Right, *Electoral Studies*, 2024 [Covered in: Dagens PS, Dagens ETC]
- Candidate Shortages and the Electoral Consequences for Radical Right-Wing Parties: Insights from Sweden *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion & Parties*, 2024
- Behind the Wall - Did the Lack of Interaction Between East and West Contribute to the Rise of the Radical Right? *Acta Politica*, 2024 *
- Political Effects of Rural School Closures – Evidence from Sweden, *Journal of Rural Studies*, 2023 [Covered in: Altinget, Dagens Arena, Dagens Samhälle]

Co-Authored Publications in Peer-Reviewed Journals

- Political Expectations and Electoral Responses to Wind Farm Development in Sweden [w/ Simon Gren] *Energy Policy*, 2024 [Covered in: Extrakt]

Dissertation

- Political Behavior in the Shadow of Socialism *Stockholm University*, 2025

Work in Progress

- Legacies of Communism: State of the Art and Future Directions [R&R]
- Social Mobility and Cross-Pressured Preferences [R&R]
- From Repression to Participation: How Historical Political Repression Shape Long-term Political Participation [Under review] *
- Social Mobility and the Two Faces of Gender Backlash [Under review]
- Democratic Protests as a Catalyst for Long-term Political Participation [In preparation] *
- Beyond Borders: Landed Elites, Rural Conflict, and Diverging Political Behavior in Transferred Regions [In preparation]
- The Political Circus [In preparation]

Chapters & Reports

[transl.] Intermunicipal Cooperation: What are the Known Effects? A Literature Review. (2021), Kommuninvest. [w/ Gissur Erlingsson & Bo Persson]

Other Publications

- Isaksson, Zeth. (2019). "Hjärnan bakom Podemos" [The brain behind Podemos], *Ordfront Magazine*
- Isaksson, Zeth. (2017). "Åkesson hos Heimdal" [Åkesson at Heimdal], *Ordfront Magazine*
- Isaksson, Zeth. (2016). "100 nya frivilliga" [100 new volunteers], *Ordfront Magazine*

* Part of doctoral thesis

SUPERVISION

2x Master Theses, 2x Bachelor theses

TEACHING

Introduction to Quantitative Methods (PhD level)

Fall 2026

European University Institute, Italy

- Full responsibility for designing, developing, and teaching an introductory quantitative methods course for first-year PhD students.

Globalization

Spring 2024, Spring 2025

Stockholm University, Sweden

- Seminar leader; assessed and graded student papers.

Basic Methods

Spring 2022, Fall 2022

Stockholm University, Sweden

- Seminar leader; supervised undergraduate students and assessed written exams.

External Examiner

Fall 2022

University of Oslo, Norway

- Assessed and graded one master's thesis as external examiner.

PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING

University Teaching and Learning

Stockholm University, Sweden

- Five weeks of full-time training in university teaching and learning.

ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Museum Educator

Various museums

- Delivered lectures and educational programming in political history for adult and junior audiences prior to entering academia.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2026–2028: **Swedish Research Council**, 4.7 million SEK, Co-applicant, project with Jens Rydgren and Sirius H. Dehdari.
- 2026: **EUI**, 1,265 €
- 2025: **Karl Staaf Foundation**, 37,500 SEK
- 2025: **Stiftelsen Siamon**, 11,000 SEK
- 2024: **European Consortium for Sociological Research**, 1,750 €
- 2024: **Helge Ax:son Johnsons Stipend**, 10,000 SEK
- 2024: **Gustaf Björklunds Memorial Stipend**, 21,235 SEK
- 2024: **Elisabeth and Herman Rhodins Stipend**, 8,765 SEK
- 2017: **Best Bachelor's Thesis in History**, Uppsala University — 10,000 SEK
- 2017: **Henrik Gahns Scholarship**, 15,000 SEK

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2026

Max Weber Annual Conference, June 2026, Florence.

Centre for Baltic and East European Studies (CBEES), May 2026, Stockholm

Internal Seminar, EUI, March 2026.

2025

EPSA, June 2025, Madrid

Contested Solidarities: Contentious Politics Between Resistance, Backlash and Change – CEU, June 2025, Vienna

Politics Inside and Outside Parliament in Central and Eastern Europe and the Baltic Countries – Workshop, May 2025, Stockholm

2024

Lunch Seminars in Comparative Politics – Dept. of Political Science, Sep 2024, Lund

East European Politics Graduate Workshop, Aug 2024, Online

Life Styles and Politics – Workshop, June 2024, Skåvsjöholm, Stockholm

Workshop on Political Behaviour in Central and Eastern Europe – EUI, June 2024, Florence

Sociologidagarna – Conference of the Swedish Sociological Association, 2024

EPSA, 2024

SWEPSA, 2024

2023

Stockholm Sessions on Migration – Invited, Oct 2023, Stockholm

Higher Seminar in Political Science – Linnaeus University, Sep 2023, Växjö

European University Institute – Invited, May 2023, Florence

ESSHC – Conference, 2023

ECPR General Conference, 2023

SWEPSA, 2023

2022

Centre for Collective Action Research (CeCAR) – Invited, Oct 2022, Gothenburg

The Anti-Racism Working Group Seminar – Invited, Oct 2022, Stockholm
Swedish Institute for Social Research (SOFI) – Invited, Oct 2022, Stockholm
Political Periodisations – Workshop, Nov 2022, Uppsala
SNES PhD Workshop – Nov 2022, Malmö
NESS – Conference, 2022
SWEPSA, 2022

2021

Centre for Local Government Studies (CKS) – Invited, Nov 2021, Norrköping
SWEPSA, 2021

REFeree SERVICE

Comparative Political Studies (2); Political Behavior; Electoral Studies (2); Environmental Politics; Political Studies; Social Problems; Social Sciences Research; Nations and Nationalism; Election Law Journal: Rules, Politics, and Policy; Genus

MEDIA APPEARANCES

Recognized expert in Swedish politics prior to the 2022 election, featured prominently in hundreds of news articles, radio and TV shows, and podcasts. Acknowledged as one of the most referenced researchers from Stockholm University in a single day, with over 500 worldwide article mentions. Regularly sought after for commentary on Swedish politics in both national and international media.

Selected Media Appearances:

International

- Swedish conservatives close to election win amid crime fears - AP (2022-09-12)
- Parties in Sweden election ‘completely even’ as far right surges - Al-Jazeera (2022-09-11)
- Sweden’s right-wing opposition slightly ahead in election still too close to call - NBC News (2022-09-12)

Swedish

- Högervind bland unga ökar stödet för kärnkraft - Dagens Nyheter (2022-08-06)
- ”Jag skäms inte att säga att jag röstar på SD” - Aftonbladet (2022-09-17)
- Kritiserad klimataktion kan påverka stödet för Miljöpartiet - Sveriges Radio (2022-08-30)
- Stora skillnader i ungas valdeltagande: ”Handlar om information” - Sveriges Television (2024-05-06)
- Varför växer det politiska gapet mellan män och kvinnor? - Sveriges Radio (2026-01-27)

LANGUAGES

- Swedish - Native
- English - C1
- German - B1

AFFILIATIONS

Barcelona Centre of European Studies - BACES UPF
Stockholm University - Department of Sociology

REFERENCES

Prof. Jens Rydgren
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