

Minutes of the Members' Meeting of the Section "Methods of Political Science" of the German Political Science Association (DVPW) (tentative until approved)

Thursday, March 12, 2026, at Leibniz University Hannover

5:45 – 6:30 pm

Chair: Denis Cohen

Minutes: Theresa Gessler

Agenda:

1. Minutes of the last meeting
2. Agenda for today's meeting
3. Reports by the speakers
 1. DVPW council meeting 2025
 2. Update on the Section's DAGStat membership
4. 2026 speaker election & election committee
5. Annual meeting 2026: submission and acceptance statistics
6. Proposal for a possible special issue in German Political Science Quarterly
7. Annual meeting 2027
8. Miscellaneous

23 members, including the speakers, are present.

1. Minutes of the last meeting

Denis Cohen welcomes the members of the section who unanimously approve the minutes of the last meeting, with some abstentions.

2. Agenda for today's meeting

No amendments to the agenda are proposed. The agenda is unanimously approved.

3. Reports

DVPW council meeting 2025 & 2026

Lukas Rudolph reports that he participated in the DVPW Ratssitzung for the Section in 2025 and will participate in 2026. The most important aspects announced at last year's meeting are:

- First, the emphasis by the DVPW Executive Board on academic freedom which implies support structure, i.e., that the DVPW will offer help to members struggling with backlash of any kind (e.g., shitstorms). Members can reach out to DVPW (also via the section) if they need support or advice of any kind.
- Secondly, a plan to set up a support fund for early career researchers to participate in events, possibly including section events.

Update on the Section's DAGStat membership

At last year's SekMethoden Members' Meeting, members discussed whether to continue membership in the DAGStat. Initially, this led to a majority vote in favor of leaving DAGStat due to the high membership fees that cut into the Section's annual budget.

Lukas Rudolph reports that the Section Speakers decided to adjourn this decision. This is because the Section was able to request funding from the DVPW Executive Board, which agreed to cover the Section's DAGStat fees from the general DVPW budget for 2025 and 2026.

DAGStat Membership fees have since increased from 1€ per member to 2€ per member in 2026. The DVPW Executive Board already agreed to cover the additional fees in 2026. From 2027 onward, the Section will regularly submit renewed motions for coverage of its annual DAGStat fees to the DVPW Executive Board. The Section Speakers will continue to adjourn exiting DAGStat for as long as they can secure these additional funds to cover the membership fees.

Next to reduced fee participation at DAGStat conferences, benefits of the DAGStat membership include a channel to policy makers through DAGStat.

Finally, Lukas Rudolph proposes a resolution to set up the position of DVPW's Methods Section representative for DagStat. This can be a section member (who is not among the

Speakers) to participate and represent DVPW Methods Section interests at DAGStat meetings, including voting in the name of the Methods Section in DAGStat meeting votes.

The Speakers nominate Martin Elff as section representative, who has been effectively serving in this role in the last year and is willing to continue to do so.

The Speakers propose the following resolutions:

“SekMethoden creates the position of DAGStat Representative.”

“SekMethoden appoints Martin Elff as the Section’s DAGStat Representative for the duration of two years.”

The resolutions are unanimously approved.

4. 2026 speaker election & election committee

Denis Cohen’s first term as section co-speaker (2023-2026) is ending. Denis Cohen is willing to run for a second term (2026-2029).

G Brückmann and Martin Elff are nominated as the election committee.

The election committee will initiate the election by distributing the official call for nominations via the Section’s mailing list. Nominations must then be emailed to the election committee within the announced time frame.

5. Annual meeting 2026: submission and acceptance statistics

Denis Cohen presents statistics on this year’s meeting (attached).

Denis Cohen reports on the statistics for submissions and acceptance: SekMethoden’s annual meetings continue to grow, with last year being an outlier due to travel funding being offered. The conference receives more submissions from people in the qualification phase, FINTA* (women, intersex, non-binary, trans and agender) researchers stagnate around 1/3rd and international submissions are slightly increasing.

There is a discussion on the presentation:

Members raise the question how FINTA* representation can be increased. Various suggestions from among the members encompass: specifically reaching out to women among the Section Members and previous conference participants, encouraging them to submit abstracts; using possible DVPW funds to fund participation by underrepresented groups; considering childcare opportunities, as e.g. used by Psychology Associations; reminding all section members to encourage FINTA* colleagues to submit, especially colleagues that they know personally; members suggests to offer the possibility to reach out ahead of the deadline to ask about fit with the CfA, given self-labelling as methodologists is a part of an issue – something which could be emphasized in the email accompanying the call.

The discussion touches upon the most appropriate wording of the encouragement to submit, and members mention the EPSS mentoring scheme to offer contact for submissions very early on, and emphasizing past conference programs online to see past submissions. Others suggest uploading pictures of conference participants.

Additional discussion evolves around whether it is possible to expand the conference to also accept more waitlisted papers. The speakers note that waitlist management has to be reconsidered due to administrative burden, but that in any case all waitlisted participants are invited to participate as observers.

6. Proposal for a possible special issue in German Political Science Quarterly

The PVS recently released a call for special issues proposals: SIs on “a topic of general interest to the discipline, relevant across different subfields” in English language with the following deadlines:

- May 31, 2026: Proposals with editorial introduction + abstracts for 6-8 proposed contributions
- June 2026: Decisions
- July 2026: Open call for additional contributions
- Early 2027: Deadline for complete submissions → peer review

SekMethoden considers a proposal “*Methodological Advances for the Study of German Politics*” that introduces and showcases novel or recently introduced data and methods with applications to phenomena that epitomize the ongoing transformation of German politics. Broadly: electoral, legislative, and party politics; party competition; political communication

Proposed abstract:

“Over the past decade, German politics has undergone substantial transformation: rising electoral volatility, increasing party system fragmentation, changing modes of political communication, and the growing relevance of parliaments, parties, and citizens’ digital traces. At the same time, political methodology has evolved rapidly. New forms of data — including experimental data, administrative records, geospatial data, as well as text, image, and audio-visual data — now allow researchers to study political behavior and institutions at an unprecedented level of temporal and substantive granularity. Parallel advances in causal inference, machine learning, statistical modeling, and computational social science have fundamentally expanded the empirical toolkit of political science.

This special issue aims to synthesize these developments by bringing together contributions that showcase methodological innovation in combination with substantive applications. We particularly encourage contributions that introduce or adapt recent methodological approaches — including computational text and media analysis, novel modeling and measurement strategies, or advanced causal inference techniques — and demonstrate their value through empirical applications to German

politics — including on questions of electoral behavior, legislative activity, party politics, political communication, and party competition. By integrating methodological innovation with substantive political research, the special issue seeks to provide both a state-of-the-art overview of contemporary empirical strategies and a roadmap for future research on German politics across subfields.”

Denis Cohen asks for general interest and 10 people state a general interest to contribute.

Members also mention the possibility to submit to Nomos (which was discussed at previous meetings) if there are more contributions than can be included.

7. Annual meeting 2027

The next section meeting will be hosted at University of Hamburg, unless alternative locations are suggested to the speakers. There is no fixed date yet, but a date will be communicated by autumn.

8. Miscellaneous

No miscellaneous points are brought up. Denis Cohen closes the meeting.