David Karpa

Curriculum Vitae November 2026

Contact

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Research interests

Political economy of digital surveillance and repression; public opinion on algorithmic governance and the legitimacy of automated state systems; economic inequality and public demand for state control. Methods: survey and conjoint experiments, process tracing (eye tracking, think-aloud), digital trace and administrative data.

Academic positions

since 09/2025	**Postdoctoral researcher**, Department of Governance, TUM School of Social Sciences and Technology, Technical University of Munich. ERC Starting Grant project *Algorithmic Governance: A Public Perspective* (AGAPP, PI Daria Gritsenko)
01/2025–08/2025	**Postdoctoral researcher**, Centre for Social Data Science, University of Helsinki, Finland. ERC project AGAPP
01/2021–12/2024	**Doctoral researcher**, Faculty of Business Studies and Economics, University of Bremen. Diginomics research group *Information, Digitalization, and Authoritarian Political Systems*
01/2018–03/2020	**Student assistant**, Chair of Economics of Innovation and Structural Change, University of Bremen

Visiting appointments

05/2024–06/2024	**KIMEP University**, Almaty, Kazakhstan. Adjunct professor, summer school *Digital Surveillance and Governance in Autocratic Regimes*
05/2023–06/2023	**Nazarbayev University**, Astana, Kazakhstan. Visiting researcher, Department of Economics

Education

12/2024	**Dr. rer. pol.**, University of Bremen, *magna cum laude*. Thesis: *The Political Economy of Digital Repression*. Supervisor: Michael Rochlitz
10/2018–12/2020	**M.A. Professional Public Decision Making**, University of Bremen. Thesis: *Climate Change Mitigation Behavior Under Uncertainty*
10/2014–09/2018	**B.Sc. Economics**, University of Bremen. Thesis: *Determinants of Foreign Direct Investment in Central and Eastern Europe*
10/2013–09/2014	B.A. studies in Economics and Environmental Systems Science, University of Osnabrück

Awards and fellowships

2026	**Ronald Coase Institute Fellowship**, Workshop on Institutional Analysis, Mexico City
2025	**Bremen Thesis Award** for the doctoral dissertation
2022	Invited lecturer, **Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes**, European Summer Academy, Vilnius

Publications

Monograph

- Karpa, D., and Rochlitz, M. (2026). *Totale Überwachung: Warum wir uns freiwillig vom Staat die Freiheit rauben lassen*. Munich: Heyne (Penguin Random House), 352 pp. ISBN 978-3-453-21935-9. Forthcoming 25 November 2026.
  Develops a theory of public demand for surveillance technology across China, Russia, the United States and Germany.

Articles in peer-reviewed journals

- Karpa, D. (2026). Digital Surveillance and Self-Censorship in Autocracies: Evidence from a Survey Experiment in Kazakhstan. *Political Behavior*. doi: 10.1007/s11109-026-10122-1
- Karpa, D., Pisareva, D., Scoggins, B., Durnev, N., and Rochlitz, M. (2026). Authority Endorsements Backfire and Social Norms Fail to Increase Vaccination Intent in Post-COVID Kazakhstan. *SSM – Population Health* 35, 101935. doi: 10.1016/j.ssmph.2026.101935
- Karpa, D., and Rochlitz, M. (2025). Authoritarian Surveillance and Public Support for Digital Governance Solutions. *Comparative Political Studies* 58(10), 2237–2265. doi: 10.1177/00104140241290208
- Lange, O., Plath, J., Dziggel, T. F., Karpa, D., Keil, M., Becker, T., and Rogowski, W. H. (2022). A Transparency Checklist for Carbon Footprint Calculations Applied within a Systematic Review of Virtual Care Interventions. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 19(12), 7474. doi: 10.3390/ijerph19127474

Book chapters

- Karpa, D., Klarl, T., and Rochlitz, M. (2022). Artificial Intelligence, Surveillance, and Big Data. In L. Hornuf (ed.), *Diginomics Research Perspectives: The Role of Digitalization in Business and Society*, pp. 145–172. Cham: Springer. doi: 10.1007/978-3-031-04063-4_8

Manuscripts under review

- Karpa, D., and Gritsenko, D. How Ends Motivate Means: Unpacking How Motivated Reasoning Shapes Legitimacy Judgments of Automated Travel Authorisation Systems. Revise and resubmit, *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*.

Working papers

- Chargaziia, L., Karpa, D., and Rochlitz, M. (2026). "Sorry, None of Our Business": Grievances and Support for Defending Ukraine. ifo Working Paper, forthcoming.
- Karpa, D., and Rochlitz, M. (2026). Indiscriminate or Selective? Economic Grievance, Meritocratic Beliefs, and Public Support for Surveillance.
- Tkachenko, A., Karpa, D., Rochlitz, M., Tatkeyeva, M., and Sagyndykova, G. (2026). Speaking the Aggressor's Language: Identity and Sanctions Evasion. SSRN Working Paper. doi: 10.2139/ssrn.5604802
- Klarl, T., Karpa, D., Leusin, M. E., and Rochlitz, M. (2023). Authoritarian Surveillance, Innovation and Growth. SSRN Working Paper. doi: 10.2139/ssrn.4594849

Work in progress

- Karpa, D., Agarwal, V., and Gritsenko, D. Is Algorithm Aversion a Rule or a Weight? Decision Strategies and Reasons Elicited by a Large Language Model.

- Karpa, D., Özdel, S., Gritsenko, D., and Kasneci, E. Evaluation Is Comparative: Eye-Tracking Evidence from a Paired Conjoint Experiment.
- Karpa, D. Attribute Non-Attendance in Conjoint Experiments.
- Karpa, D., Tkachenko, A., Chargaziia, L., and Frye, T. M. Public Opinion in Wartime Russia: Internet Restrictions, Repression, and Support for the War.

Software

- *cjdiag*: R package for diagnosing attribute non-attendance and decision rules in conjoint experiments.

Teaching

TU Munich	Politics of Big Data and Digitalization (M.A., 2026/27); Introduction to Data & Society (M.A., 2026/27); Public Opinion Research Methods (M.A., 2026)
Univ. of Helsinki	Applied Quantitative Research Project (M.A., 2025)
KIMEP University	Digital Surveillance and Governance in Autocratic Regimes (summer school, M.A., 2024)
Univ. of Bremen	Empirical Social Sciences: Asking and Answering Questions with Data (M.A., 2023/24); Applied Quantitative Research Project (M.A., 2023); Innovation Economics: The Case of Artificial Intelligence (M.A., 2022/23); The Political Economy of Innovation (B.A., 2022); Microeconomics (tutorial, B.A., 2017)
Studienstiftung	Artificial Intelligence, Big Data and Political Regimes (European Summer Academy, Vilnius, 2022)
Supervision	Twelve B.A. and M.A. theses at the University of Bremen and the Technical University of Munich

Academic service

- Organisation of doctoral and postdoctoral events at the TUM School of Social Sciences and Technology, including a workshop on doctoral defences (2026)
- Coordination of the DAAD East Partnerships programme, University of Bremen, 2023–2024

Conference presentations

- 2026: ECPR General Conference, Kraków; PolMeth Europe, Dublin
- 2025: ECPR Standing Group on Regulatory Governance, Berlin; Fifth Helsinki Conference on Emotions, Populism and Polarisation, Helsinki
- 2024: Aleksanteri Conference, Helsinki; Second Conference on the Political Economy of Development in Eurasia, Almaty
- 2023: ECPR General Conference, Prague; EPSA Annual Meeting, Glasgow; First Conference on the Political Economy of Development in Eurasia, Astana
- 2022: Analytical Sociology: Theory and Empirical Applications, Venice; workshop The Future of Social Research in and on Russia and Ukraine, Bremen

Public engagement

- Blog on surveillance, technology and governance at davidkarpa.com

Languages and skills

Languages	German (native), English (fluent, written and spoken)
Software	R, Stata, LaTeX, oTree, z-Tree