

My research examines the dynamic landscape of artificial intelligence (AI) policy across analytical levels and national contexts, providing insights into the factors and mechanisms that drive policymaking on emerging issues like AI. Currently, my research broadly addresses three dimensions of emerging AI policymaking.

Problem-definition for AI

One area of my research examines the early stages of policymaking on AI, particularly the process of defining AI as a political problem. I examine how AI is defined as a policy issue in German public discourse and reveals the limited capacity of the German government to control the AI policy agenda during the early phase of the debate. This research emphasizes the need for a comprehensive and cohesive regulatory regime that integrates diverse actors and policy issues. I also propose analyzing the convergence of policy agendas across different institutional venues to distinguish between emerging and established policymaking contexts and apply this argument to the early policy agenda for German AI policy.

Cross-sectoral collaboration in AI policy

Another part of my research focuses on organizations working on AI policy and their collaboration patterns. It provides insights into the dynamics of AI policymaking through the lens of policy organizations' cross-sectoral collaboration and exchange of information. Concretely, I investigate the AI policy collaboration networks of organizations both in the emerging AI policy space, as well as in more established policy sectors affected by AI (Banking and Finance, Health, Social Welfare) in France, Germany, Switzerland and the U.S. Leveraging visually clustered egocentric network graphs and cross-classified multilevel models for egocentric networks, this research allows me to compare organizations' egocentric networks for AI policy across countries and sectors. As a cross-cutting and technically complex issue, policy solutions to AI will likely need to address both horizontal issues relating to all fields of applications as well as vertical issues in specific sectors of application. With my research I will be able to shed light on whether organizations active in different fields already engage in cross-sectoral collaboration on AI policy, which might facilitate the implementation of cross-sectoral policy solutions.

Emerging institutional configurations in AI policy

A third focus of my research are the institutional dimension of emerging AI regulatory regimes. Which ministries and public agencies are becoming active on and are delegated responsibility to regulate an emerging issue such as AI can play a crucial role for the design and implementation of policies on this issue. To investigate this dimension, I draw on survey data to assess and compare how organizations active in the AI policy space assess the influence and competence of different policymakers and whether they support the creation of dedicated national resources for AI policy, such as AI observatories or agencies.