Kata Moravecz

PhD Candidate in Comparative Politics
Central European University

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CEU website
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Research Interests

Political Behavior; European Politics; Democratic Backsliding; Public Opinion; Comparative Politics; Political Institutions; Experimental Methods, Gender and Politics

My research lies at the intersection of comparative politics, political behavior, and European politics, with a focus on how public opinion and political institutions interact. My primary research examines the role of public pressure in shaping institutional responses to democratic backsliding in the European Union. Adopting a behavioral approach, I study how information, issue visibility, and public attitudes shape the incentives of political elites and institutions. I use survey and field experiments, text analysis, and formal modeling to study these questions. A methodologically related strand of my research focuses on gender and politics, particularly how gender stereotypes and selective information acquisition shape political attitudes and candidate evaluation.

Education

PhD in Comparative Politics,Central European University, *2022–Present*
Comprehensive Exam Passed (2023)

MSc in European Politics and Policy, University College London *2020–2021*
Merit

BA in History, Politics and Economics, University College London *2017–2020*
First Class Honours

Publications & Working Papers

Moravecz, Kata. "Do Citizens Reward Democratic Norm Enforcement? Experimental Evidence on EU Backsliding Disputes." *Revise and Resubmit, Journal of European Public Policy.*

Moravecz, Kata. "Issue Salience, Public Visibility, and Elite Responsiveness: A Correspondence Field Experiment in the European Parliament." *Working Paper.*

Moravecz, Kata. "Breaking the Inaction Equilibrium: A Formal Model of Politicization and EU Sanctions on Democratic Backsliding." *Working Paper.*

Moravecz, Kata, Bence Hamrak, Mariyana Angelova, Levente Littvay, and Gabor Simonovits. "Partisan Favoritism or Out-Party Fear? Understanding Democratic Hypocrisy in Germany's Multi-Party Context." *Working Paper.*

Research in Progress

Moravecz, Kata. "Choosing What to Know: Selective Information Acquisition and Gender Bias in Candidate Evaluation." *Ongoing Research.*

Moravecz, Kata., Carlotta Sallach "National Cues in a Transnational Electoral Reform: How Domestic Partisanship Shapes European Electoral Choice." *Ongoing Research.*

Moravecz, Kata and Gabor Simonovits. "Historical Memory and Political Contradictions: Experimental Evidence from Hungary on Support for Ukraine." *Ongoing Research.*

Moravecz, Kata. "Gender Roles and the Legitimation of Violence: How Traditional Gender Norms Shape Support for Violence." *Ongoing Research.*

Research Experience

Research Assistant *March 2026 –*
GroupID Project — PI: Mark Kayser, Jan Rovny, Irene Menendez Gonzalez,, Zsolt Enyedi, Sarah Hobolt

- Cross-country survey and experimental design assistance
- Qualtrics programming
- Paper research and writing

Research Assistant *Jan 2024 – Nov 2024*
Gender and Policy Influence Project — PI: Mariyana Angelova

- Experiment design
- Research design and sourcing
- Literature review and concept development

Research Assistant *Mar 2023 – Jan 2024*
Media Independence in Hungary — LSE-CEU project, PI: Damian Tambini

- Interview protocol design and sampling
- Conducting interviews
- Thematic analysis design and methods writing

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, Central European University

Research Design and Methods -Winter 2025
Introduction to Quantitative Social Sciences -Winter 2025
Introduction to Political Economy -Fall 2025
CIVICA The Future of Europe - Fall 2025
Voting Behavior - Spring 2025
Public Opinion and Surveys — Fall 2024
Introduction to Quantitative Methods — Fall 2024
Introduction to Statistics and Programming with R — Fall 2023

Awards and Certificates

EITM Certificate, EITM Europe Summer Program (2025)
EITM Certificate, ICPSR Summer Program (2024)
Academic Achievement Award for First-Year Doctoral Students, CEU (2024)
UCL Institute for Global Governance Essay Competition, 3rd Place (2021)

Grants

Academic

SGEU Future Grant (2025) — Research grant
Value: €5,000

Non-academic

Journalismfund Europe Microgrant (2022) — Project Lead
NEUrologus Podcast
Value: €4,750
Research Excellence Award, Central European University (2024)
Support for CEU internal grant application, PI: Mariyana Angelova

Dutch Human Rights Fund (2023) — Project Lead
Civil society grant for "I'm dealing with women's matters!"
Value: €10,000

US Embassy Small Grant (2022) — Project Lead
EUrologus project on democracy and the EU in Hungary
Value: €10,000

Conferences

ECPR General Conference 2026 7-11 September 2026 — Panelist

SGEU 13th Biennial Conference 2026 1-3 July 2026 — Panelist

EPSS 2026 18 - 20 June 2026 — Panelist

IPSA 2025 12 - 16 July 2025 — Panelist

EPSA 15th Annual Conference 26 - 28 June 2025 — Panelist

PSA General Conference 14 – 16 April 2025 — Panelist

Austrian Political Science Conference 29 November 2024 — Discussant

ECPR General Conference 12–15 August 2024 — Panelist

CEU Annual Doctoral Conference 17–19 April 2024 — Organiser, Panelist

Annual Elkana Symposium 12–14 June 2023 — Panelist

CEU Annual Doctoral Conference 3–5 April 2023 — Panelist

Austrian Democracy Day 1 December 2023 — Panelist

Additional Training

ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods, University of Michigan (2024) — Box-Steffensmeier Scholarship

- Mathematics for Social Scientists
- Introduction to Python
- Introduction to the LaTeX Text Processing System
- Causal Inference for the Social Sciences
- Advanced Regression: Nonlinear, Nonparametric, and Robustness Analyses

Technical Skills

R, Python, Qualtrics (Java), LaTeX, SQL, Prezi, Microsoft Office, Outlook

Methodological Skills

- Experimental and quasi-experimental design
- Regression analysis (advanced)
- Bayesian statistics
- Text-as-data methods
- Qualitative interviewing, thematic analysis
- Institutional analysis (RCI, SI, HI)
- Formal modeling

Professional Experience

EU Research Journalist, EUrologus (2022–Present)

- Writing and researching articles
- Leading data journalism unit (EDJnet)
- Coordinating journalism projects and grants

Journalist (Trainee), HVG (2022)

- Writing articles for print/online
- Conducting interviews with experts
- Creating original data analysis

Intern, Transparency International Budapest (2020)

- International survey design (European values)
- Research and translation

Political Analysis Intern, Political Capital, Budapest (2018)

- Political analysis for firms (e.g. Mars, Tesco)
- Politician profiles and media briefings

Corruption Research Intern, CRCB (2018)

- Co-authored study on corruption in Hungary's gambling sector

Languages

English: excellent, Hungarian: native, German: intermediate, French: beginner