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Section 1: Career Profile and Key Achievements

Career and Employment History

My academic career has centred on advancing our understanding of European Union politics through the development and application of innovative methodological approaches. Since 2014, I have served as an Associate Professor at *University College Dublin*, where I co-founded and serve as Director of the *Connected_Politics Lab* at UCD. The Connected_Politics Lab provides an interdisciplinary hub for computational social science scholarship. Since its inception, we have built an active community of researchers, established programmes at the MSc and PhD levels, and attracted significant research funding (€1.72m as PI or co-PI). In this role, I have developed a research program at the intersection of EU politics, large language models, and text-as-data analysis, while teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in EU and digital politics.

Prior to my current position at UCD, I held prestigious fellowships at the *European University Institute* (2012-2013) as both a *Max Weber* and *Jean Monnet Fellow*, focusing on the internal politics of the Council of Ministers and inter-institutional dynamics. My earliest post-doctoral position at *ETH Zürich* (2011-2012) laid the foundation for my work on legislative transparency in the Council of Ministers. I graduated with a PhD in Political Science from *Trinity College Dublin* in 2011.

Key Achievements in the Generation of Knowledge

1. Integrating data science and EU politics:

- My ongoing interdisciplinary work using data science approaches to study EU politics demonstrates that combining machine learning, text analysis, and network analysis is a fruitful approach to examining diverse aspects of political communications. My contributions examine the evolution of the European Parliament (Greene & Cross, 2015; 2017) and ECB (Cross & Greene, 2019; Cross et al., 2024; Greene & Cross, 2017) policy agendas using speech data, examining policy versus constituency focus in campaign

tweets (Cross et al., 2025), and ongoing work considering the role of precision and vagueness in Council negotiations (Cross & Schoonvelde, 2024).

- In a related and complementary project, I completed two studies demonstrating that minimum edit distances (MEDs) can capture legislative amendments at scale in a replicable and reliable fashion (Cross et al., 2019; Cross & Hermansson, 2017). The results demonstrate that MEDs match human performance in identifying legislative amendments in draft proposals, and can reliably and efficiently be applied to unseen data to provide new insights into what drives bargaining success in legislative negotiations.

2. Large-scale data collection efforts

- I am currently involved in two significant data collection projects that seek to provide the first comprehensive corpora of committee deliberations in the Council of Ministers and European Parliament respectively. The first significantly extends a dataset of Ministerial deliberations in the Council, covering all Council configurations from 2010 to 2024. The second transcribes over 18,000 hours of Committee deliberations in the European Parliament – the first time that these data have been available for academic study at this scale.

3. Transparency in government:

- I co-lead a consortium that has secured €1.5m funding from *Google.org* to develop *ParliView*, an AI-driven transparency tool that bridges the information divide between people and parliament. Building on successful collaborations with my Insight colleague Derek Greene since 2014, *ParliView* uses generative AI techniques to transform information from unwieldy open-access parliamentary databases into concise, user-friendly responses to citizen queries. This tool addresses the critical challenge that despite far-reaching open-access data policies, citizens struggle to monitor parliamentary activities due to overwhelming data quantity and unwieldy user interfaces. By making parliamentary activity genuinely accessible in simple, understandable language, *ParliView* aims to improve trust in democratic institutions (only 50% of respondents were confident in the European Parliament in 2022) and empower citizens with clear insights into how their interests are represented in parliament.

- In my work on EU transparency (Cross, 2013b; 2014; Cross & Boelstad, 2015; Cross & Umansky, 2023), I use the EU's online databases (Consilium; EURlex; Europarl) to provide insight into the way transparency and censorship influences actor behaviour and outcomes.

4. Decision-making in the European Union:

- I was involved in the extension of the project *Decision-making in the EU (DEU)* study (Thomson et al., 2012) and have used these data to publish

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work on the role of policy interventions in negotiations and their influence on bargaining and legislative outcomes (Cross, 2014; 2013a; 2013b; 2012). I have also published work on the influence of legislative rules and procedures on EU policymaking efficiency (Cross & Vaznonytė, 2020; Bølstad & Cross, 2016).

Key Achievements in the Development of Individuals and Collaborations

1. Research Leadership and Team Development through the Connected_Politics Lab

- My commitment to developing future scholars is evidenced through the creation and leadership of the *Connected_Politics Lab*. Within this dynamic interdisciplinary research environment, I currently supervise 3 PhD students, I have successfully guided three PhD candidates to completion and mentored 38 Master's students, fostering a new generation of political scientists equipped with both traditional and computational research skills.

2. International Research Network Building

- I have built extensive international research networks, establishing collaborative partnerships across both academic institutions and civil society (*Transparency International*; *European Citizens Action Service*). These efforts have resulted in numerous successful collaborations, creating lasting research partnerships that continue to advance EU politics scholarship.

3. Teaching Excellence and Innovation

- My dedication to teaching excellence was recognised by a *UCD Teaching Excellence Award* (2024) and a *Political Studies Association of Ireland Teaching Award* (2019). I have secured €77,872 from the European Commission's *Jean Monnet Programme* to develop innovative curricula that integrate traditional political science with cutting-edge computational methods, preparing students for careers in a fast-evolving labour market. I launched the *M.Sc. Politics and Data Science* in 2019, which is now the third largest programme cohort in the school out of 27 programmes in terms of recruitment.

Key Achievements in Supporting Broader Society

1. Policy Impact Through Research

- My research has made significant contributions to policy understanding and development. My work on ECB communications has provided crucial insights into central bank policymaking, resulting in 2x stakeholder workshops in collaboration with central bank policymakers, and a special issue in the *European Journal of Political Economy*. My research on legislative transparency has enriched debates about democratic accountability in EU institutions and directly informed policy discussions about transparency reform in the EU.

2. Public Engagement and Knowledge Transfer

- I have actively engaged with public discourse on EU politics and digital democracy, translating complex research findings into accessible insights for broader audiences. I led the Irish contribution to the *EUandI Voter Advice Application* (2014; 2019; 2024), which sought to inform citizens about their voting choices ahead of European elections. The 2024 edition garnered 3.5m views ahead of the elections in June 2024. Through 2x successful Jean Monnet grant acquisitions, I have initiated projects that bridge academic research with practical applications, enhancing public understanding of EU decision-making processes.

3. Industry and Public Sector Collaboration

- My collaboration with industry (*Google.org*) and civil society (*Transparency International*; *European Citizens Action Service*), through IRC and industry-funded projects, has resulted in practical tools for increasing transparency around EU policy-making processes. Most notably, the *ParliView* project exemplifies how AI-powered transparency tools can bridge the knowledge gap between citizens and their representatives, addressing the crisis of trust in democratic institutions. These initiatives demonstrate the real-world impact of academic research in addressing societal challenges.

Key Achievements in Supporting the Research Community

1. Leadership in Academic Organisations

- I have taken leadership roles in the field of computational political science, serving as co-founder and Secretary of the COMPTEXT Association and as co-founder of the computational methods specialist group of the Political Studies Association of Ireland. These community-building efforts have established computational political science research at the national and global level.

2. Research Culture Enhancement

- My contribution to research culture includes organising international conferences, workshops, and summer schools that have created inclusive spaces for knowledge exchange and collaboration (COMPTEXT 2022; PSAI Annual Conference 2021; 6x workshops on text analysis in political science). These events have specifically targeted early-career researchers for inclusion through travel grants and other supports, fostering a new generation of scholars in the field.

3. Research Integrity and Open Science

- I have championed open science practices in political science, developing open-source methodologies for political text analysis, and releasing large-scale datasets on EU politics (Cross & Hermansson 2017; Greene & Cross

2017). This work has advanced reproducible research practices in the study of EU politics.

Section 2: Publication Details

My research contributions are demonstrated through publications that have advanced theoretical understanding and methodological approaches in political science. Key works include my work that introduced innovative text reuse methodology for analysing legislative amendments (Cross & Hermansson 2017; Cross et al. 2021), and my work pioneering dynamic topic modelling applications in political science (Greene & Cross 2017). More recent contributions include advancing understanding of central bank communication policy (Cross et al. 2024; Cross & Greene, 2020; Baerg & Cross 2022), enhancing knowledge of legislative efficiency in EU governance (Cross & Vaznonytė, 2020), and developing network-based approaches for analysing policy agenda-setting (Cross et al., 2024).

- Cross, J., Greene, D., Müller, S. and Schoonvelde, M., (2025). Mapping Digital Campaign Strategies: How Political Candidates Use Social Media to Communicate Constituency Connection and Policy Stance. *Computational Communication Research, 7*(1).
- Cross, J. P., Greene, D., Umansky, N., & Calò, S. (2024). Speaking in unison? Explaining the role of agenda-setter constellations in the ECB policy agenda using a network-based approach. *Journal of European Public Policy, 31(11),* 3676-3702.
- Baerg, N., & Cross, J. P. (2022). Central banking in the 21st century - A crisis of accountability?. *European Journal of Political Economy, 74,* 102294.
- Cross, J. P., Eising, R., Hermansson, H. & Spohr, F. (2021). Business interests, public interests, and experts in parliamentary committees: their impact on legislative amendments in the German Bundestag. *West European Politics, 44(2),* 354-377.
- Cross, J. P., & Vaznonytė, A. (2020). Can we do what we say we will do? Issue salience, government effectiveness, and the legislative efficiency of Council Presidencies. *European Union Politics, 21*(4), 657-679.
- Cross, J. P., & Greene, D. (2020). Talk is not cheap: Policy agendas, information processing, and the unusually proportional nature of ECB communications policy responses. *Governance, 33(2)*, 425-444.
- Cross, J. P. & Hermansson, H. (2017). "Legislative amendments and informal politics in the European Union: A text reuse approach". *European Union Politics, 17*(4), 581-602. (Awarded Sage award for best article published in *European Union Politics* in 2017).
- Greene, D. & Cross, J. P. (2017). "Exploring the Political Agenda of the European Parliament Using a Dynamic Topic Modeling Approach". *Political Analysis*, 15(1), 77-94.

- Bølstad, J. & Cross, J. P. (2016). "Not all Treaties are Created Equal: The Effects of Treaty Changes on Legislative Efficiency in the EU". *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies*, 54(4), 793–808.

- Cross, J. P. & Boelstad, J. (2015) "Openness and Censorship in the EU: An Interrupted Time-Series Analysis". *European Union Politics, 16(2)*, 216-240.

- Cross, J. P. (2014). "The seen and the unseen in legislative politics: Explaining censorship in the legislative process of the European Union". *Journal of European Public Policy, 14*(2), 268-285.

- Cross, J. P. (2013b). "Striking a pose: Transparency and position taking in the Council of the European Union". *European Journal of Political Research, 52*(3), 291–315.

- Cross, J. P. (2013a). "Everyone's a winner (almost): Bargaining success in the Council of Ministers of the European Union". *European Union Politics*, *14*(1), 70-94.

- Cross, J. P. (2012). "Interventions and negotiation in the Council of Ministers of the European Union". *European Union Politics*, *13*(1), 47-69.

- Thomson, R., Arregui, J., Leuffen, D., Costello, R., Cross, J., Hertz, R., & Jensen, T. (2012). "A new dataset on decision making in the European Union before and after the 2004 and 2007 enlargements (DEUII)". *Journal of European Public Policy*, *19*(4), 604-622.

All publications are available through institutional repositories or preprint servers, supporting open-science principles.