inma Global Media Awards 2025

**Best Use of Visual Journalism and Storytelling Tools:
Tagesspiegel Innovation Lab „Interactive database on the AfD"**

Interaktive Datenbank

Durchsuchen Sie alle AfD-Reden in allen 16 Landtagen seit 2014

Machen Sie sich selbst ein Bild: In der interaktiven Datenbank aller AfD-Reden in allen 16 deutschen Landtagen seit 2014 können Sie heruasfinden, wie oft bestimmte Begriffe verwendet werden und die Originalzitate dazu lesen.

Von „Messermännern" und „Ficki-Ficki-Bereicherern"

So trug die AfD den Hass in die Parlamente

340.000 Absätze, 15.831.486 Wörter. Unsere Analyse aller Reden der AfD in deutschen Landtagen zeigt: Über „Remigration" spricht sie nicht nur auf Geheimtreffen. Seit zehn Jahren bereitet die AfD dem Fremdenhass den Weg – im Herzen der Demokratie.

Concept: Initial situation

The Correctiv publications in 2024 about the secret meeting in Potsdam revealed the extent of hatred against migrants and minorities within the AfD. Millions were shocked, many of got out on the streets. However, the party's positions are not surprising, nor are they new. If you look at what AfD members of state parliaments have been saying publicly for years, it becomes clear that 'remigration' is just the tip of the iceberg.
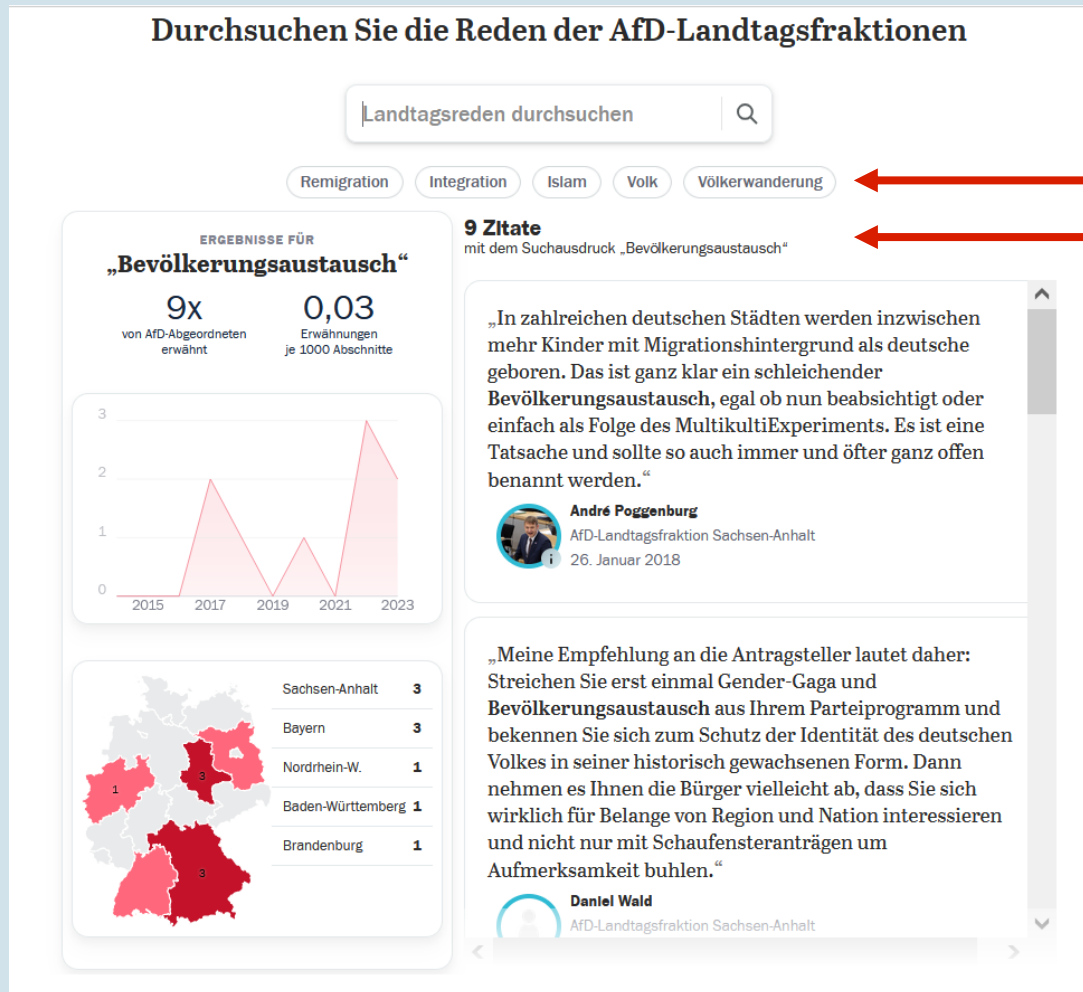
Rather, the demand for mass deportation is the result of a continuous development. With an increasing number of members of state parliaments, the AfD has been continuously pushing the boundaries of what can be said in German parliaments for ten years. All of this can be shown by an exclusive data analysis of the speeches of all AfD MPs in German state parliaments since 2014.

Tagesspiegel Innovation Lab has analysed all of these parliamentary speeches in full, totalling 340,000 paragraphs and over 15 million words. With the help of language models, it was possible to recognise where and in what context xenophobic content is propagated in speeches, in some cases automatically.

Concept: Technical requirements

- Behind the interactive search is a <mark>long-term research project</mark> whose data the application accesses. StateParl (doi.org/10.7802/2744) has provided direct and automatable access to the minutes since August 2024.
  This makes analysing state parliament debates much easier than it was before.

- The data is regularly updated by a team at Freie Universität Berlin and the spokespersons are identified. For this purpose, PDF and Word files are read out, converted into plain text and stored in a database with metadata such as the speaker, the federal state and the parliamentary group. <mark>Based on this data, we first iteratively trained a language model using qualitative methods to identify xenophobic statements.</mark>

Concept: Technical requirements

- With the support of topic modelling and other analysis strategies, the most important narratives were analysed and representative quotes were selected.

- The article is based on the status of the first data publication on 15 July 2024.

The Team behind the project

Multi-disciplinary Team: Eric Beltermann, Hendrik Lehmann, Nina Breher, Markus Günther, Lennart Tröbs (from left to right).

We would like to thank Dr Antonios Souris from Freie Universität Berlin for his advice on content.

Results

- **URL:** https://interaktiv.tagesspiegel.de/lab/von-messermaennern-und-ficki-ficki-bereicherern-so-trug-die-afd-den-hass-in-die-parlamente/

- https://interaktiv.tagesspiegel.de/lab/afd-reden-durchsuchen-so-redet-die-afd-in-den-parlamenten/

- **Launch date:** August 30, 2024

- **Reach:**
  25.000 pageviews
  Hundreds of shares and vivid discussions on social media

Results

340,000 paragraphs, 15,831,486 words:
Our analysis of all AfD speeches in German state parliaments shows:
The AfD doesn't just talk about 'remigration' at secret meetings. The AfD has been paving the way for xenophobia for ten years – in the heart of democracy.