

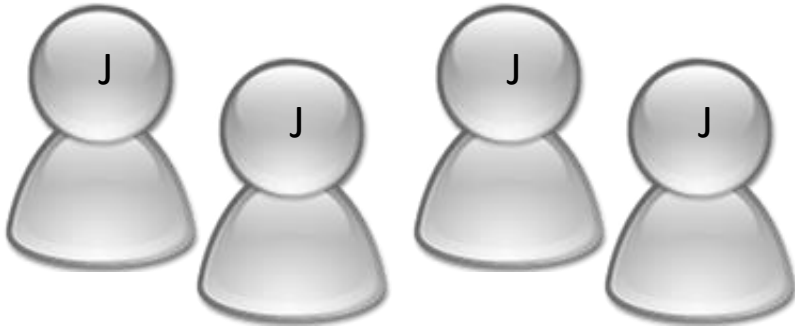
# Public Opinion, Democracy, and Journalism in Germany

- Dr. Thomas Roessing
- Kristina Beckmann
- Jakob Henke
- Charlotte Groß-Hohnacker
- Niklas Kastor
- Leonie Krzistetzko
- Nils Makrutzki
- Hannah Schmidt
- Prof. Dr. Michael Steinbrecher

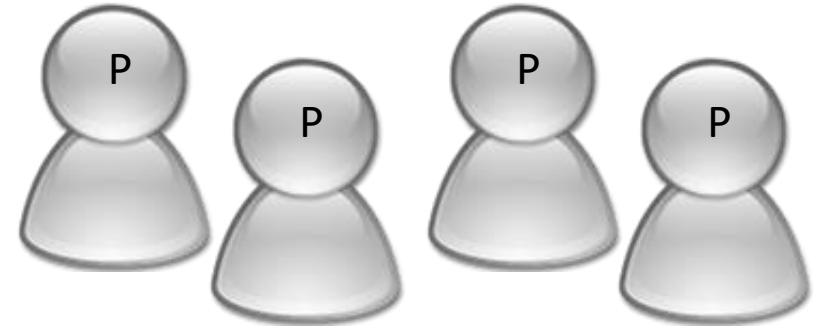
**Seoul, Republic of Korea  
WAPOR Annual Conference  
2024**



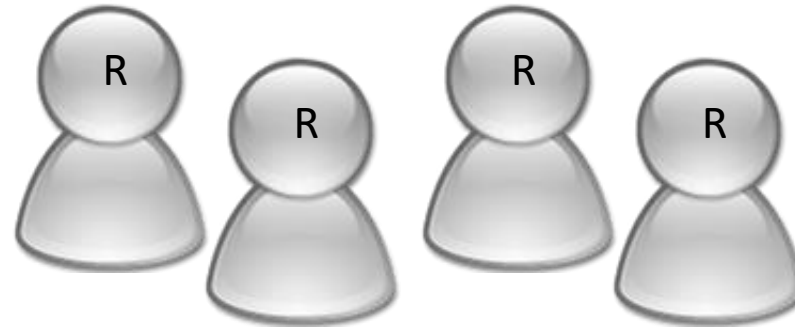
# Multiple perspectives



Survey among  
Journalists



Survey among  
Politicians



Survey among  
Recipients/general  
Public

## Surveys among the general public

Representative sample (population of Germany over 18), based on online-access-panel, n=about 1000 each year.

Field organization: Forsa

**forsa.**

„How credible do you think journalism in Germany is?“  
Wave II, 2024

n=1018

Not credible	16%
Part-part:	31%
Credible:	53%

# Satisfaction with democracy?

„All things considered, are you satisfied with the way democracy works in Germany?“

n=1018

Not at all satisfied	10%
Not very satisfied	26%
Quite satisfied	52%
Very satisfied:	10%
no Answer	3%

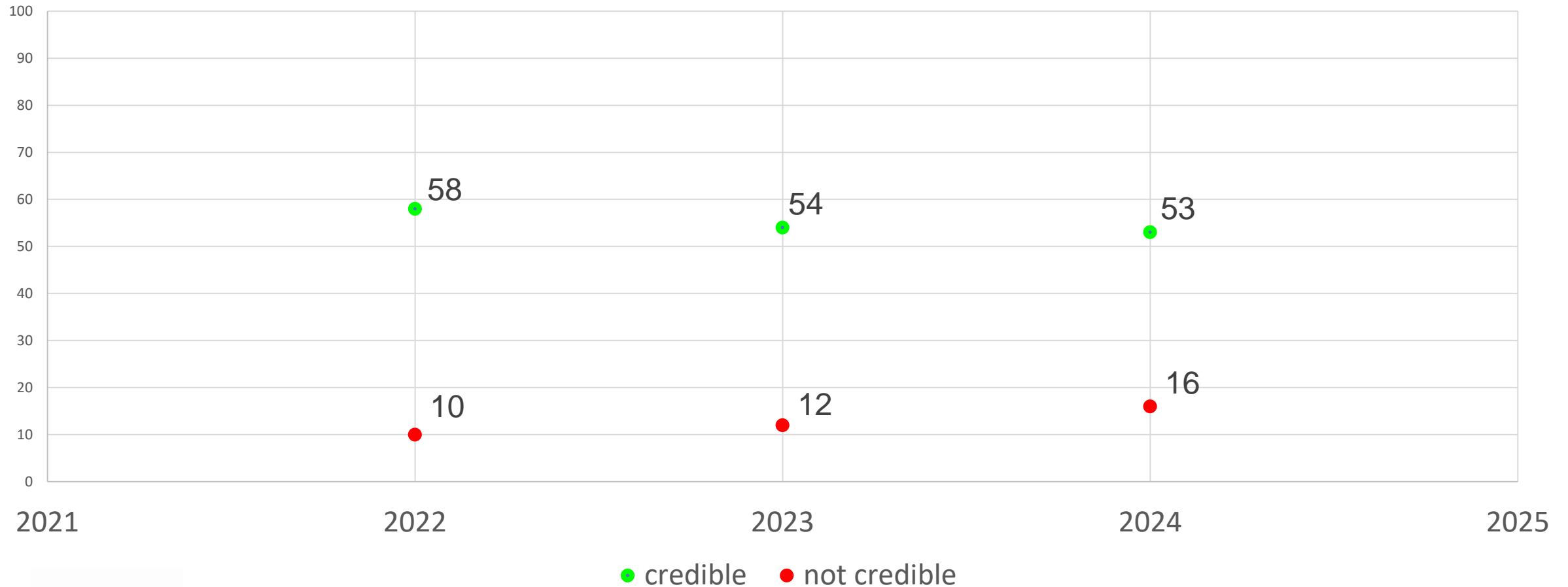
# Correlation between credibility and satisfaction

2024: Pearson's  $R=0,481$ ,  $p<0,001$

2023: Pearson's  $R= 0.613$ ,  $p<0.001$

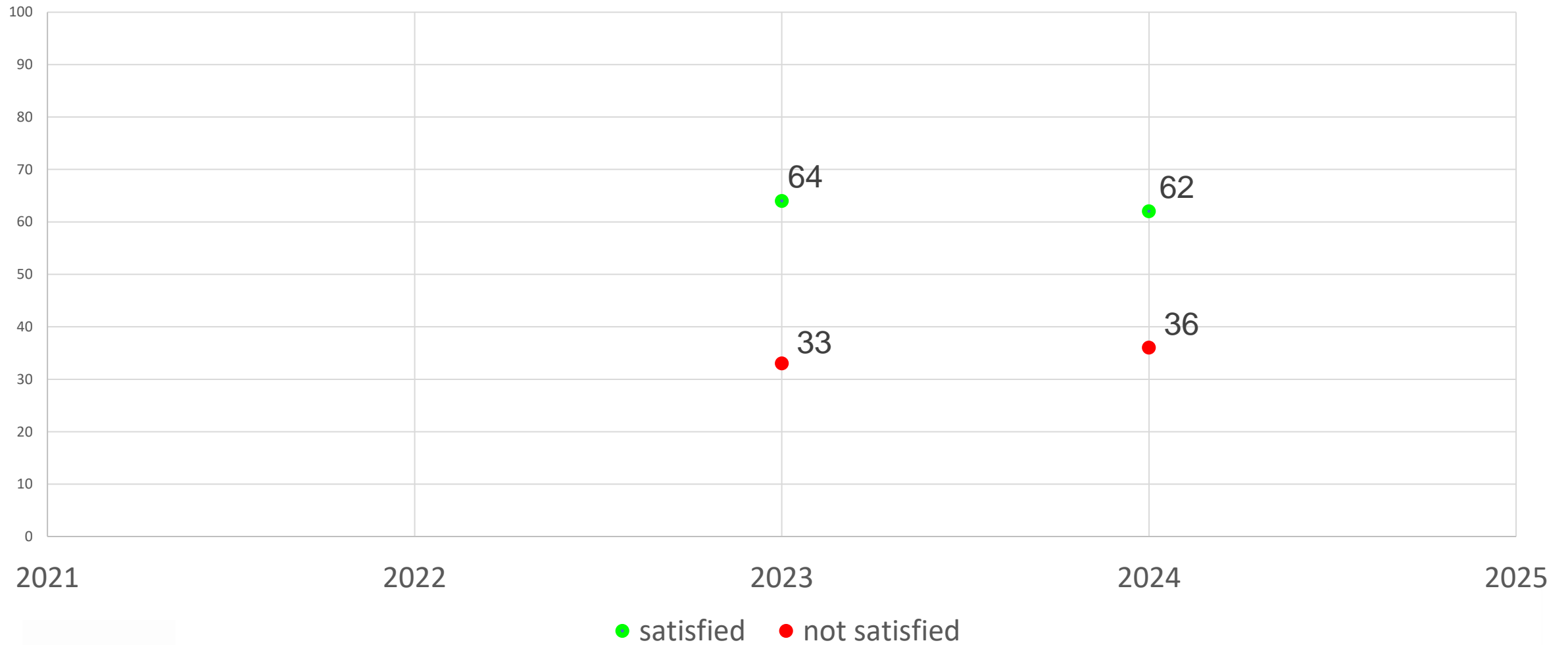
# Perception of credibility over time

## Perception of journalism in Germany as *credible* and as *not credible* -- Percentages



# Satisfaction with democracy over time

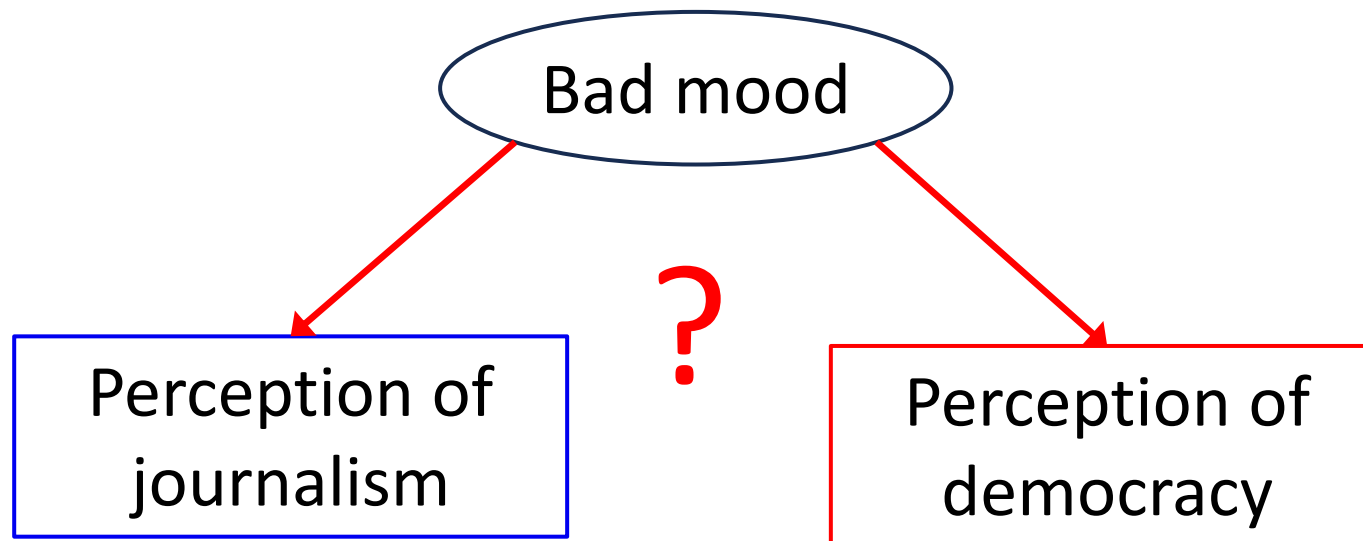
## Satisfaction with democracy in Germany -- Percentages





## What we do not know

- Is there a causal relationship between journalism (credibility) and democracy (satisfaction with)?
- Is there a common cause for dissatisfaction with journalism and dissatisfaction with democracy?



# What might help

Satisfaction with democracy among journalists in Germany (2024, n=525)

Journalists are

Not satisfied: 16%

Satisfied: 84%

Credibility of journalism among politicians (2024, n=668)

Politicians find journalism

Not credible: 17%

Part-part: 35%

Credible: 48%

# What might cause concern

People leaning towards the right-wing AfD mostly find journalism to be not credible (63% in 2024).

They are also quite dissatisfied with democracy (78% in 2024) (and appear to have general trust issues).

Perceived quality issues with journalism and alienation from democracy could be connected to the rise of right-wing (and other peculiar) parties.



Björn Höcke,  
AfD, recently  
convicted for the  
use of Nazi  
slogans



Sahra  
Wagenknecht,  
BSW, big fan of  
Vladimir Putin

# A lot of work to do in the future!

# Thank you for your attention!

Contact:

[thomas@roessing.org](mailto:thomas@roessing.org)

[journalismusstudie@tu-dortmund.de](mailto:journalismusstudie@tu-dortmund.de)