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Dear SPSA members,

On 8 February, the SPSA General Assembly elected me as its new President 4. Thank you for your confidence! I look forward to this new task and am delighted that Lena Ogi will be supporting me as the new Executive Secretary.

It is largely thanks to my predecessors at the University of Bern, Prof. Karin Ingold and Prof. Isabelle Stadelmann-Steffen, supported by Executive Secretary Manuela Liem, that the SPSA has developed so successfully over the past three years. On behalf of the entire association, I would like to thank Isabelle, Karin and Manuela for their great commitment, which has played a key role in ensuring that the SPSA is in excellent shape.

During my three-year term of office, I would like to focus on two areas. Firstly, I would like to discuss how we can continue to strengthen our membership base. A scientific association like the SPSA thrives on the participation of its members. Secondly, I would like to discuss whether and, if so, how we could extend the reach of the SPSA, which currently has a strong academic focus, to circles beyond academia. I am thinking of research institutions outside the universities, but also of alumni of political science programs who are still interested in political science issues due to their current activities. I would like to invite you to an exchange on these and other topics.

I look forward to the discussions and the collaboration!

The [minutes](#) of the General Assembly and the [2023 yearly report](#) of the presidents can be found online. The next annual congress will take place on 9 & 10 January at the University of Geneva - save the date! Once again, we will award the SPSA Young Scholar Award. If you would like to apply for the prize, which is endowed with CHF 1500, you can find all the information [here](#).

Please notify us of a change of postal or e-mail address: office.assp@bluewin.ch

If you have not yet paid your membership fee, please do so.

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Swiss Political Science Review (SPSR)

The next issue of the Swiss Political Science Review (SPSR) will be published in March 2024 with the following articles:

Original Articles and research notes

- [Making Representative Politics Work: Cross-Segmental Parties in Consociations](#) (Timofey Agarin, Henry Jarrett)
- [Why do people give to their governments? Lab-in-the-field evidence on the role of norms, social information, and political support](#) (Raúl López-Pérez, Aldo Ramirez-Zamudio, Gibrán Cruz-Martínez)
- [Confidence Across Cleavage: The Swiss Rural–Urban Divide, Place-Based Identity and Political Trust](#) (Alina Zumbunn)
- [Ideological Disagreement and the Rejection of Laws by Italian Heads of State](#) (Andrea Ceron) [research note]

Book review

- [Die Grünen in der Schweiz: Entwicklung – Wirken – Perspektiven/Les Vert-e-s en Suisse: Évolution – action – perspectives , Sarah Bütikofer and Werner Seitz \(Eds.\)](#) (Markus Wagner)

The last edition has been published in December 2024 and is available [online](#).

DeFacto

DeFacto is the platform for the dissemination of Swiss political science research. DeFacto features short versions of papers published in scientific journals, summaries of book chapters and other research reports, as well as analyses and commentaries written especially for the platform, in connection with current events. The platform is available to all researchers in political science and related disciplines. Get in touch if you have an interesting publication that you would like to make known to a wider audience!

Recently published: [Digital participation – cooperation between the cantons is needed](#) (von Gabriel Hofmann und Uwe Serdült)

[More about DeFacto](#)

SPSA Young Scholar Award

Every other year, the SPSA awards two prizes for young researchers: one for the best political science journal article and one for the best dissertation. Both prizes are endowed with CHF 1500.

The prize for young researchers (journal article or dissertation) can be awarded to a candidate who is a member of the SPSA and who works at a Swiss research institution or holds a Swiss university degree. The candidate is less than 35 years old (at the opening of the competition) or has defended their doctoral thesis less than two years before the opening of the competition.

The prize for the best journal article will be awarded to a single-authored article published between 1 February 2022 and 31 January 2024 in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

The prize for the best dissertation is awarded to a dissertation defended between 1 February 2022 and 31 January 2024. The candidacy must include the jury's report. You can only apply for one of the two prizes; simultaneous candidacy for both prizes is not permitted. Candidates are selected by three external experts from different fields of political science. If necessary, the Executive Board will make a pre-selection. There is no right of appeal for the candidates.

Candidacies must be sent to the following e-mail address before 30 April 2024:

svpw@sagw.ch

(subject : Young Scholar Award 2024)

General Information

FORS

MOSAiCH 2025 Survey: Call for Question Contributions

Scholars are invited to propose questions for the second part of the MOSAiCH 2025 survey with a thematic focus on Work. Questions from successful proposals will be fielded in spring 2025. The deadline for submissions is Monday April 22nd 2024.

[More information.](#)

Awards

**Universität St. Gallen (HSG) / School of Economics and Political Science /
Department of Political Science**

Financial Times Responsible Business Education Award

Anna Stünzi (University of St.Gallen), together with Malte Toetzke and Florian Egli (both ETH Zurich) received this year's Best Academic Research with Societal Impact award by the Financial Times. They developed a natural language processing model — called ClimateFinanceBERT — that identifies and categorises these climate projects. Countries self-report the climate projects and the money they contribute, all using different methods and in a process that is not transparent.

[Link to the paper](#); [Link to the FT-article](#)

2023 Palmer Prize

Christoph Steiner (University of St.Gallen) received the award for the best paper published in the journal of the Peace Science Society. The paper reveals that political imprisonment lengths in China are influenced by perceived threat and ethnicity, with ethnic minorities facing longer sentences. Steiner's work contributes significantly to understanding China's political imprisonment, addressing its prevalence and opacity.

[Link to the paper](#)

Universität Bern, Année Politique Suisse (APS)

Die Akademien der Wissenschaften Schweiz haben erstmals den «[National Open Research Data Prize](#)» vergeben. Swisvotes, die von Année Politique Suisse am Institut für Politikwissenschaft (IPW) der Universität Bern betriebene Datenbank zu den eidgenössischen Volksabstimmungen (www.swisvotes.ch), erreichte unter 36 eingereichten Projekten aus allen Wissenschaftsdisziplinen den 2. Platz («Silver-Award», dotiert mit CHF 7'000). Speziell positiv hervorgehoben wurden von der Jury die freie Zugänglichkeit der Swisvotes-Daten sowie ihre breite Nutzung, die über die Grenzen der Politikwissenschaft, aber auch der Wissenschaft überhaupt hinaus reicht.

Events

Zentrum für Demokratie Aarau (ZDA)

16. Aarauer Demokratietage «Föderalismus und Demokratie»: 14.+15. März 2024, Kultur- und Kongresshaus Aarau

Der Föderalismus ist – zusammen mit der direkten Demokratie – eine der tragenden Säulen des schweizerischen Bundesstaates. Das föderale System ermöglicht den einzelnen Ebenen ein grosses Mass an Gestaltungsmöglichkeiten. Aber es gibt auch Kritik am Föderalismus: Er sei zu teuer und zu kompliziert oder verhindere notwendige Reformen. Was ist an diesen Vorwürfen dran? Die Aarauer Demokratietage greifen aktuelle Fragen zum Verhältnis von Demokratie und Föderalismus auf und geben der interessierten Öffentlichkeit die Möglichkeit, diese mit Expert:innen zu diskutieren.

[Zum Programm.](#)

DeFacto

«Polit-Forum und DeFacto live in Bern»: Neues Parlament, neue Regierung – die Herausforderungen 2024

Die Konkordanz gilt als zentrales Element der Konsensdemokratie und des politischen Systems der Schweiz. Im Gegensatz zur Mehrheitsdemokratie sollen möglichst viele Interessen in einen politischen Entscheid eingebunden werden. Dadurch sollen einvernehmliche Lösungen gefunden werden, die von allen wichtigen Kräften und Interessensgruppen mitgetragen werden.

Doch in den letzten Jahren wurde es zunehmend schwieriger, breit akzeptierte Lösungen zu finden. Polarisierung, Personalisierung und Mediatisierung haben auch in der

Schweizer Politik ihre Spuren hinterlassen.

Wie können das neugewählte Parlament und die neue Regierung unter diesen Umständen tragfähige Lösungen finden? Wie kommen stabile Mehrheiten zu Stande oder ist dies gar nicht mehr erwünscht? Welche Themen muss das Parlament ab 2024 vordringlich anpacken? Hat das Schweizer Konkordanzsystem überhaupt noch eine Zukunft?

Podiumsdiskussion mit:

- Andrea Fopp, Bundeshausredaktorin NZZ
- Adrian Vatter, Professor für Schweizer Politik und Direktor am Institut für Politikwissenschaft der Universität Bern

Moderation: Sarah Bütikofer, Herausgeberin DeFacto.

Donnerstag, 29.02. 19:00 - 20:30 Uhr, Podiumssaal, 4. OG, Demokratie-Turm (Käfigturm, Marktgasse 67, 3011 Bern)

[Weitere Informationen.](#)

Projects

Universität St. Gallen / Department of Political Science

Debating Human Rights

In this FNS Spark Project Simon Hug (Université de Genève), Léa Meyer (Université de Genève), and Christoph Steinert (University of St.Gallen) examine debates in the UN Human Rights Council in comparison with its predecessor organization, the UN Commission on Human Rights, which was replaced by the UN Human Rights Council in 2006. They focus on the measurement of emotions in human rights debates based on new algorithms that use video data to measure emotions.

[Link to the project](#)

Universität Bern, Année Politique Suisse (APS)

Année Politique Suisse verfasst neben der Chronik (www.anneepolitique.swiss) seit einigen Jahren Jahresrückblicke zu den wichtigsten politischen Ereignissen in der Schweiz. Im Jahresrückblick 2023, der Ende Dezember letzten Jahres erschienen ist, werden drei Perspektiven eingenommen: Aus einer Medienlogik dominierten 2023 die eidgenössischen Wahlen, aus einer Vorstosslogik Gleichstellungs- und Asylfragen und aus einer Geschäftslogik das Bundesgesetz über eine sichere Stromversorgung mit erneuerbaren Energien. Im ausführlichen Jahresrückblick finden sich zahlreiche weitere wichtige Ereignisse in 23 unterschiedlichen Themenfelder. Er kann [hier](#) heruntergeladen werden.

Zentrum für Demokratie Aarau (ZDA)

Digitale Partizipation – es braucht die Zusammenarbeit der Kantone

Der DigiPart-Index erfasst auf einer Skala von 0 bis 100, inwiefern es in den Kantonen der Schweiz möglich ist, sich digital an politischen Prozessen zu beteiligen. Im dritten Jahr seiner Erhebung bleibt der Durchschnittswert über alle Kantone hinweg relativ tief. Zum dritten Mal in Folge unterscheiden sich Spitzenkanton und Schlusslicht um Faktor zehn. Während sich in den Kantonen in der Schlussgruppe in den vergangenen drei Jahren in Sachen digitale Teilhabe nur wenig getan hat, kam es in der Spitzengruppe dieses Jahr zu einer weiteren Steigerung. Das liegt unter anderem an der Wiedereinführung von e-Voting.

[Zur Medienmitteilung.](#)

Universität Zürich, Institut für Politikwissenschaft (IPZ)

Two projects by IPZ members were selected for UZH real-world laboratory funding to develop and test innovative measures for sustainable operation:

- Anticipation and Warning of Air Travel Emissions at UZH (AWAIR) (Project team: Marian Bohl, Lucas Leeman, Oliver Strjibis)
- Successful trajectories for reducing flight-related greenhouse gas emissions at UZH (RED-UZH) (Project team: Thomas Widmer, Marian Bohl, Oliver Strjibis)

Further information is available at [UZH as a real-world laboratory](#)

Dissertations

Universität St. Gallen (HSG) / School of Economics and Political Science / Department of Political Science

Elena Bleibtreu: «Patient-centered approach within healthcare planning and financing» (Supervisor Prof. Kuno Schedler)

Amos Dossi: «Small Can Be Beautiful - How Military-Technological Trade-Offs Influence Efficient Project Size in Armaments Acquisition» (Supervisor Prof. James Davis)

Elisabeth Essbaumer: «Essays on Social Mobility» (Supervisor Prof. Christian Keuschnigg)

Felix Reitz: «Crisis-Era Fiscal Policy» (Supervisor Prof. Simon Evenett)

Marie-Luise Walther: «Rethinking Complexity: European Development Finance, the Benefits of Institutional Overlap, and the Fight against Climate Change» (Supervisor Prof. Dirk Lehmkuhl)

Universität Bern / Institut für Politikwissenschaft (IPW)

Nathalie Hofstetter: «New Insights into the Political Psychology of Intergroup Relations: How Personality and Emotions Shape “Our” Attitudes towards “Them”» (Supervisor: Prof. Markus Freitag)

Jonas Schmid: «Decentralization and wind energy permitting. An evaluation of implementation effectiveness in Switzerland and Europe» (Supervisor: Prof. Adrian Vatter)

Université de Genève / Département de science politique et relations internationales

Jérémie Poltier: « Exploring the determinants of economic attitudes: income growth, inequality and sectoral affiliation. » (co-directeurs de thèse : Prof. Jonas Pontusson & Prof. Pascal Sciarini)

Isabell Burmester : « EU and Russian hegemony in the 'shared neighbourhood': Between coercion, prescription, and co-optation » (directrice de these: Prof. Sandra Lavenex)

Paula Hoffmeyer-Zlotnik : « The trade-migration policy nexus in the European Union: a conceptual and empirical analysis » (directrice de these: Prof. Sandra Lavenex)

Jobs

You can find all job advertisements [here](#).

Administratives / Kontakt

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As always, you will find links to Call for papers [here](#).

Kind regards from Zurich and see you soon,

Thomas Widmer & Lena Ogi

PS: We write to you here in English because you have indicated that this is your language of correspondence. If you would like to receive the newsletter in French or German in the future, please let Monika Spinatsch know.

