

Call for Papers for the 2021 Annual Conference of the Swiss Political Science Association
Urban policy-making *with/without/against* national states

For the *Annual Congress of the Swiss Political Science Association (SVPW/ASSP)*, to be held at the University of Bern (Switzerland) on 4–5 February 2021, the FEDERALISM & TERRITORIAL POLITICS working group invites papers in the area of “Urban policy-making *with/without/against* national states.”

Cities are ‘burning glasses’ of our society (Kaufmann and Sidney 2020). The speed, intensity, and relentlessness of global transformative processes such as climate change, capitalist economic globalization, migration, digitization or pandemics manifest themselves first and foremost in cities. Similarly, confrontations between public and private property, inclusion and exclusion, power and justice, wealth and poverty take their physical form in the urban realm (e.g. Magnusson 2011; Boudreau 2016). But this also puts cities in a privileged position to react rapidly to changing environments as well as plan and develop solutions much earlier, differently, and in more radical, collaborative and innovative ways than supralocal governments.

Various examples from across the globe, such as participatory planning and budgeting (Friendly and Stiphany 2019), carbon neutrality (Hughes 2019), sanctuary cities (Collingwood and O’Brien 2019; Kaufmann 2019), or progressive drug policies (Kübler and Wälti 2001) reveal the innovative and transformative potential of urban policies. Some of these policies have diffused to other cities and other levels of government, sometimes profoundly challenging nation-state supremacy. This panel wants to examine whether and how cities plan more intensely, innovatively, or radically than nation-states (“with”), ignore or circumvent them (“without”), or directly oppose and undermine them (“against”).

We thus invite conceptual and empirical contributions across the social sciences, notably political geography, sociology, migration studies. PhD candidates in all stages of their research are especially welcome to apply. Submissions may want to address the following themes:

- How do cities plan for and react to global transformations (e.g., climate change, migration, digitization, pandemics)?
- What consequences do global transformations have for local governments and governing processes? Which implications does it entail for local democracies?
- How do cities specifically address urban policy challenges (e.g., housing affordability, public and private transport)?
- What is the ‘urban’ component in urban policy designs and urban policy processes?
- How do diverse actors participate in the formulation and implementation of urban policies?
- What role do multilevel governance arrangements (e.g. federalism, metropolitan governance) play in the formulation and implementation of urban policies?
- What are urban policy reactions to conservative, exclusionary or nationalist supralocal policies (e.g., sanctuary cities or “We are Still In”)?

Depending on submissions, the workshop will be grouped into one to three thematic sessions. Interested colleagues should upload their abstract at <https://www.svpw-assp.ch/conference-2020/call-for-papers/> until 15 September 2020. Acceptance notes will be sent on 15 October 2020, the final paper needs to be submitted a week before the Conference. Paper givers will also act as discussants.

For questions, please contact one of the working group convenors:

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