

**Von:** bureau@svpw-assp.ch im Auftrag von Lena Ogi <bureau@svpw-assp.ch>  
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**An:** bureau@svpw-assp.ch  
**Betreff:** SPSA Info / February 2026



Dear SPSA members,

The University of Zurich hosted the SPSA Annual Congress on 15 - 16 January 2026. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the organizing committee for this successful event, which was attended by 415 participants. The [minutes of the General Assembly](#) as well as the [President's Annual Report 2025](#) are available online. The Annual Report also contains further information about the SPSA Outreach Award, which will be presented for the first time this year.

The next Annual Congress will take place on 1 - 2 February at the University of Lucerne - save the date!

As every two years, the **SPSA Young Scholar Award** for the best dissertation and the best journal article will be awarded there. Those who wish to apply for one of the prizes, each endowed with CHF 1500.-, can find all relevant information in this newsletter.

We now wish you an enjoyable read of the first newsletter of 2026.

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## Swiss Political Science Review (SPSR)

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

Original Articles and research notes

- [Integration as a Precondition for Enfranchisement? Swiss Public Opinion on Noncitizen Voting Rights](#) (Alyssa M. Taylor)
- [Swiss Euroscepticism in Comparative Perspective](#) (Mirco Good & Fabio Wasserfallen)
- [Some Are More Equal than Others: Exploring Competition Among 'Mirror Parties'](#) (Gianluca Piccolino & Leonardo Puleo)
- [Uniform for all? A framing experiment on the acceptance of a gender-neutral compulsory service in Switzerland](#) (Johanna Hornung, Basil Vifian & Pirmin Bundi)
- [Why Do Politicians Overestimate Richer Voters' Opinions? Social Background and Interest Group Influence](#) (Awenig Marié)
- [Threatened by the "other"? How Swiss integration policies impact on immigrant perceptions within the framework of reflective solidarity](#) (Cristina El Khoury)
- [All Social Comparisons are Local? Inequality, Coethnicity and Subjective Economic Position](#) (Gerlinde Theunissen & Nils Weidmann)
- [Populist radical right parties and pension privatization](#) (Thomas Mayer)

Book reviews

- [Victor Sanchez-Mazas: A Systemic Theory of Democracy. Towards the Democratic Diagnosis of Political Systems](#) (Yves Sintomer)

The last issue has been published in December 2025 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:

[When local policies matter: how perceptions of migrants change – evidence from Switzerland](#) (Christina El Khoury)

[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 2024 and 31 January 2026 in a peer-reviewed scientific journal. The prize for the best dissertation is awarded to a dissertation defended between 1 February 2024 and 31 January 2026. 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 2026: [bureau@svpw-assp.ch](mailto:bureau@svpw-assp.ch) (subject : Young Scholar Award 2026)

## General Information

Through SPSA working groups or the Young Scholars Forum, SPSA members may apply to the SPSA Board for financial support for thematic workshops (outside the annual congress). The guidelines are available [here](#).

### IPSA Call for Unit Proposals

Research Committees (RCs), Collective Members and Executive Committee Members are invited to organize units on focused topics. Two RCs and/or Collective Members may also submit a joint unit proposal. The unit (focused topic) proposal must be in English and should include: Unit title , Description of the unit (theme/topic), Two convenors (1 required), RCs and/or PSAs submitting the topic, Preferred dates (3) of the unit workshops, Preferred time block (1) of the unit workshops.

[Submit a Unit Proposal](#)

### Universität St. Gallen / Departement für Politikwissenschaft

Profs Tina Freyburg (University of St.Gallen) and Lena Schaffer (University of Lucerne) have taken over the editorship of the Swiss Political Science Review from Profs Nathalie Giger and Nenad Stojanovic (both University of Geneva). Prof Patrick Emmenegger will replace Tina Freyburg during her sabbatical in Spring 2026. The new managing assistant is Dr Alexander Geisler (University of St.Gallen). We wish to warmly thank Nathalie and Nenad, as well as Iris Meyer (former managing assistant), for their excellent work and their important contributions to the development of the journal. The new editorial team looks

forward to working with authors and reviewers from across the discipline to further strengthen the journal as a vibrant forum for high-quality political science research.

## **FORS / Selects**

Neuste Daten des Selects-Panels verfügbar

Die neusten Daten der Wellen 1 bis 5 der Selects-Panelbefragung sind nun [auf SWISSUbase verfügbar](#). Diese Umfrage begleitet dieselben Personen seit der eidgenössischen Wahlkampagne 2023 bis zu den Wahlen 2027. In der 5. Welle finden Sie aktuelle Fragen wie die Abstimmungsabsicht zur Initiative «Keine 10-Millionen-Schweiz!» oder Meinungen zu den Beziehungen zwischen der Schweiz und der EU. Darüber hinaus wurden seit 2023 mehrfach Module zur affektiven Polarisierung und zu sozialen Gruppen integriert. [Hier gelangen Sie zur Übersicht über die Konzepte](#) und Fragen, die in jeder Welle gestellt wurden.

Selects. (2026). Selects 2023 Panel Survey (waves 1-5) (Version 3.0) [Data set]. FORS. <https://doi.org/10.48573/4h6g-3p07>

## **Universität Bern / Institut für Politikwissenschaft**

Karin Ingold, Caroline Schlauffer und Fritz Sager haben die Conference on Policy Process Research, die COPPR2026 Konferenz in Bern vom 20-23. Januar 2026 organisiert. Mehr als 400 Personen aus 47 Ländern waren Teilnehmende an dieser Konferenz und haben 281 Präsentationen in 85 Panels und 12 Workshops abgehalten. Die Konferenz hat auch mehr als 40 Mitglieder der SVPW angezogen und war ein grosser Erfolg für die Sichtbarkeit der Public Policy Forschung der Schweiz. Mehr Informationen unter: [Conference on Policy Process Research –](#)

## **Awards**

**Dr Aydin Yildirim** has been awarded a Starting Grant by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) for his project “Reshore: Political Economy of Firms’ Relocation Decisions in Europe.” The five-year project will receive CHF 1.77 million in funding and will be hosted at the Institute of Political Science at the University of St.Gallen. It aims to develop a novel understanding of how European firms respond to geopolitical tensions and of the complex motivations shaping their strategic relocation decisions in an increasingly fragmented global economy. <https://www.unisg.ch/en/newsdetail/news/new-research-project-examines-the-withdrawal-of-european-companies-from-china/>

## **Events**

As always, you will find links to congresses or training and further education at: <https://www.svpw-assp.ch>

## **Aargauer Demokratietage, 12. – 13. März 2026**

Vertrauen ist tragendes Element von Demokratie und Voraussetzung für die Handlungsfähigkeit der Regierung. Bürger:innen müssen sicher sein können, dass staatliche Informationen verlässlich sind, dass Verfahren fair ablaufen und dass politische Akteur:innen sich am allgemeinen Wohl orientieren. Gerade in der Schweiz mit ihrer halbdirekten Demokratie ist Vertrauen notwendig, dass sich Bürger:innen an Wahlen und Abstimmungen beteiligen und dass die Demokratie widerstandsfähig gegen Desinformation und Polarisierung bleibt.

Auf welches und auf wieviel Vertrauen der Bevölkerung können also Politik, Verwaltung und Medien heute noch bauen? Wie stellen diese Akteur:innen auf der anderen Seite das Vertrauen her? Wie kann insbesondere die Bundeskanzlei vor diesem Hintergrund mit ihren Botschaften Vertrauen der Bevölkerung herstellen und bewahren? Wie gelingt ihr eine vertrauensbildende Kommunikation im Vorfeld von Volksabstimmungen und welches sind die Herausforderungen? Was braucht es, dass der Brückenschlag in Zeiten von Digitalisierung, Künstlicher Intelligenz, Fragmentierung der Gesellschaft und tiefgreifender Veränderungen in der Medienlandschaft gelingt? Diese und weitere Fragen diskutieren wir am Abendanlass der Aarauer Demokratietage. Mehr Informationen finden Sie [hier](#).

## **Projects**

### **Universität Zürich / Institut für Politikwissenschaft**

Matthias Leese in Zusammenarbeit mit Rocco Bellanova und Rosamunde van Brakel, VUB Brüssel: SNSF WEAVE Projekt «Infrastructuring International Security: A comparative analysis of algorithmic passenger security (INFRASEC)»

Laufzeit: 01.04.2026 – 31.03.2030

Fördersumme: CHF 1'048'635

### **Universität Bern / Institut für Politikwissenschaft**

Der NCCR Clim+ wird finanziert. Unter der Ko-Leitung von Karin Ingold der Universität Bern und in Zusammenarbeit mit der ETH Zürich startet im 2026 endlich wieder und erst zum zweiten Mal ein NCCR unter der Leitung einer Politikwissenschaftlerin. Der NCCR Clim+ fokussiert sich auf die Forschung von extremen Klimaereignissen wie Hochwasser, Trockenheit, oder Hitze und interessiert sich für deren Einfluss auf die Gesellschaft. Dabei stehen auch Fragen der politischen Dimension und der Regulierung solcher Extremereignisse im Zentrum. Fast 1/5 der involvierten leitenden Forschenden sind Mitglieder der SVPW und engagieren sich in der politikwissenschaftlichen Klimaforschung. Mehr Informationen und offene Stellen finden sich auf: [NCCR CLIM+ — Climate Extremes and Society](#)

## Publications

**Patrick Emmenegger and André Walter (2026):** *The Party Politics of Electoral System Choice. Stacking the Deck in First-Wave Democracies.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

[The Party Politics of Electoral System Choice: Stacking the Deck in First-Wave Democracies](#)

## Dissertations

### Universität Zürich / Institut für Politikwissenschaft

- Flavia Caroni: *Hunderttausend gültige: Eine qualitative Analyse der Unterschriftensammlung für Volksinitiativen in der Schweiz und ihrer Erfolgsfaktoren*
- Reto Mitteregger: *Generational Voting Effects in Western Europe*
- Verena Reidinger: *Descriptive Representation and Perceptions of Democratic Institutions*
- Nora Meier: *Formal Theory of Mediation in Secession Conflicts: Analysis of Possible Cooperation Based on a Game Theoretical Model*
- Mael Kubli: *Framing Artificial Intelligence: Understanding How AI Is Framed in EU Political and Media Discourse Using Large Language Models*
- Mingyi Zhang: *The Power of Invisibility: Caretaker Governments in Advanced Parliamentary Democracies, 1945–2022*
- Michaela Fischer: *Direct Democratic Campaigning in the Digital Age. An Analysis of the Adoption and Transformation of Campaign Practices in Swiss Direct Democratic Campaigns*
- Alix D'Agostino: *Who Governs Biodiversity? Belief Homophily, Coordination, and Policymaking in Swiss Biodiversity Policy*
- Thomas Reiss: *Fremdplatzierungen von Minderjährigen im Wandel: Eine Analyse der kantonalen Policy-Regime von 1970 bis 2018*

### ETH Zürich / Center for Comparative and International Studies

- Florian Lichtin: *Societal Challenges for Effective and Feasible Climate Policy: Understanding Behavioural Dynamics and Mass Public Policy Preferences*
- Claudia Marangon: *Identity and Narratives. Three Essays in Political Economy*
- Katrin Sievert: *Cost Projections of Carbon Management Technologies: Economic and Policy Insights*
- Alessandra Stampi-Bombelli: *Immigration and Naturalization*
- Christophe Grössmann: *Data Science for Public Policy*
- Leopold Peiseler: *Decarbonising Lithium-Ion Batteries: Environmental, Economic and Policy Insights*
- Matteo Pinna: *Behavioural and Data Science for Public Economics*
- Paul Tautorat: *Pathways for Decarbonization of the Industrial Sector*
- Maria Murias Muñoz: *Political Instability in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Historical Legacies of Colonial Elections*

## ETH Zürich / Institute for Spatial and Landscape Development

- Theresia Morandell: *Planning Across Boundaries: Urban-Rural Linkages and Multi-Level Governance in Europe's Intermediate Cities*

## Universität St. Gallen / Departement für Politikwissenschaft

- Michael Asiedu: *Internet Shutdowns before Authoritarian Courts*
- Scherwin Michael Bajka: *Collective Skill Formation in the Knowledge Economy – How Institutions, Demand and Supply navigate the Digital Transition*
- Cecilia Ivardi Ganapini: *The Knowledge Economy and Skills Ecosystems: A Discursive-Historical Theory of Institutional Change*
- Sabrina Mili: *On the path to net zero: Managerial decision-making for corporate decarbonization*
- Katharina Reidl: *Power to the People! Citizen participation in the Energy Transition*
- Juliane Seika: *Circular Economy Solutions for Electric Vehicle Batteries: A System Dynamics Simulation of Consumer Demand and Emerging Business Strategies*
- Manuel Weibel: *The Strategic Utility of Cyber Operations – Introducing a State Perspective*
- Nina Zachlod: *Entrepreneurship in Adverse Contexts: A Spatial Approach to Structural Inequalities and Institutional Presence*

## Jobs

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

## Administratives / Kontakt

Please notify us of a change of postal or e-mail address: [office@svpw-assp.ch](mailto:office@svpw-assp.ch)

If you have not already done so, we would like to remind you to pay the membership fee and ask you to make the payment for the annual fee as soon as possible.

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SVPW  
Geschäftsstelle / Mitgliederverwaltung  
Postfach  
CH-3000 Bern  
Tel. 031 332 33 61  
[office@svpw-assp.ch](mailto:office@svpw-assp.ch)  
[www.svpw-assp.ch](http://www.svpw-assp.ch)

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 ([office@svpw-assp.ch](mailto:office@svpw-assp.ch)) know.

