

# CALL FOR PAPERS

## Annual Conference of the Swiss Political Science Association University of Lucerne, 1 – 2 February 2027

The deadline for the submission of contributions is **31 August 2026**. A notification of acceptance or rejection of your contribution is expected to be sent to you until the end of October.

Please submit your abstract [here](#).

The conference panels are organized in cooperation with the permanent working groups of the Swiss Political Science Association. The working groups cover most sub-disciplines of political science and provide the specific thematic framework for your submission. When submitting, you will be asked to indicate to which working group you would like to submit your paper. Please note that, while you may submit more than one paper to the conference, multiple submissions of the same paper to different working groups are not permitted. Further information regarding the 14 working groups can be found [here](#).

### Theme of the conference: The End of Progress?

For more than two centuries, the idea of progress has shaped the political imagination of modern societies. Democratization, constitutionalism, economic growth, social protection, technological innovation, and international cooperation were widely seen as — however contested — steps forward. Today, this confidence appears shaken. The liberal international order is in decline. Democratic backsliding, polarization, and eroding trust in political institutions are widespread. Climate change, artificial intelligence, geopolitical fragmentation, mounting public debt, and widening inequalities seem to strain the capacity of politics to respond effectively. Some observers go so far as to suggest that we may be witnessing the end of progress itself.

But is this diagnosis warranted? Or are we instead experiencing a profound transformation of progress — its drivers, its institutional foundations, and its normative meaning? The Annual Meeting of the Swiss Political Science Association invites scholars to critically reflect on these questions. Political Science offers indispensable tools for this debate. Its diverse methodological toolkit allows the discipline not only to empirically assess claims of decline, but to rethink the conditions under which progress may be sustained or reimagined.

### Organizing Committee

[Prof. Dr. Joachim Blatter](#)

[Stephanie Deuber](#)

[Aline Quinche](#)

[Monika Spinatsch](#) (Office SPSA/ASSP)

### Contact for further questions

- For any enquiries regarding the programme: [congress@svpw-assp.ch](mailto:congress@svpw-assp.ch)
- For all general enquiries: [office@svpw-assp.ch](mailto:office@svpw-assp.ch)