

Von: [Romann, Beatrice](#)
An: [Romann, Beatrice \(IKMB\)](#)
Betreff: SPSA Info / February 2022
Datum: Montag, 28. Februar 2022 14:30:12

Schweizerische Vereinigung für Politikwissenschaft

Dear SPSA members

The SPSA Annual Congress is behind us. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Lausanne organising committee for their efforts and for successfully staging the second virtual congress in the history of the SVPW.

You will also find the [minutes of the General Assembly](#) and the presidents' [Annual Report 2021](#) online. The next Annual Congress will be held on 2 & 3 February 2023 at the University of Basel - Save the date!

The **SPSA Young Scientists Award** will again be presented there in accordance with tradition. If you would like to apply for the prize, which is endowed with CHF 3000.-, you will find all the information [here](#).

Furthermore, we are pleased to present two new research projects:

**Università della Svizzera italiana / Faculty of Communication,
Culture and Society / Institute of Communication and Public
Policy**

Deliberative Quality in Trade-Related International Organizations

Deliberative quality is rooted in the idea that decision-making is not a simple aggregation of pre-existing preferences, nor an arena where the most powerful wins, but a process where different actors interact and justify their positions to find common ground for agreement. In the face of strong headwinds against multilateralism, eroding trust, and decreasing perceived legitimacy and relevance of trade-related international organizations (IOs), a solid and effective strategy of Deliberative Quality allows to better address such challenges, particularly paving the way for a renewed role for IOs.

This project aims to develop the concept of Deliberative Quality, focusing on its application in trade-related International Organizations (IOs), analyzing decision-making processes and stakeholder engagement strategies of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the United Nations Conference on Trade And Development (UNCTAD), and the International Trade Centre (ITC).

The work on this project was accepted for funding last summer by the Swiss Network for International Studies (SNIS) and will last for two years (2022-2023). The project was developed by a consortium of researchers from Università della Svizzera italiana, the University of International Business and Economics of China, the University of Bern, the University College of Dublin, Universidad Autónoma de Chile, and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies of Geneva. [More information](#)

Coordinator: Prof. Jean-Patrick Villeneuve; Co-Coordinator: Dr. Alberto Bitonti, Host Institution: Università della Svizzera italiana

Institut für Politikwissenschaft, Universität Bern (IPW)

The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) is funding a project which investigates the political psychology of pandemics. The project lead by Markus Freitag is concerned with how exposure to pandemic threat affects a set of social and political preferences related to the control and avoidance of disease contamination. The premise is that the appraisal of a pandemic threat is critical to predicting the emotional states that it will stimulate and therefore the impact that exposure to the Covid-19 pandemic threat will have on social and political orientations (social trust, tolerance towards people who appear especially likely to pose some risk of pathogen transmission, attitudes toward immigrants, conceptions of nationhood and political preferences with regard to technocratic, right-wing populist or authoritarian rule). [More information](#)

As always, you will find links to job advertisements, congresses or training and further education at: www.svpw-assp.ch

Kind regards from Bern and see you soon,

Karin Ingold, Isabelle-Stadelmann-Steffen & Beatrice Romann

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.