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An: bureau@svpw-assp.ch
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Dear SPSA members,

The University of Geneva welcomed the SPSA to its annual congress on January 9 and 10, 2025.

We would like to thank the organizing committee for the successful event, which was attended by around 350 people. The next annual congress will take place on January 15 and 16 at the University of Zurich - save the date!

The SPSA is launching a new project: the SPSA Outreach Award. This competition is intended to promote the exchange between academically oriented political science and political practice and to increase the visibility of the SPSA as an academic society in the public eye. Further information will follow in the next SPSA newsletter.

Finally, we would like to congratulate the two winners of the Young Scholar Awards: Delia Zollinger and Timon Forster. Further information can be found in this newsletter.

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Swiss Political Science Review (SPSR)

The next issue of the Swiss Political Science Review (SPSR) will be published in March 2025 with a Special Issue “Political Parties and the Use of Digitalization in Daily Politics” (Sergiu Gherghina, Oscar Barberà, Marco Lisi):

- Introduction to the SI (Sergiu Gherghina, Oscar Barberà, Marco Lisi)
- [The other side of platform politics. Law-making and online participatory democracy in the Five Star Movement](#) (Filippo Tronconi, Francesca Bailo)
- [Clientelism and digitalisation of Roma parties’ electoral campaigns: a case study](#) (Oana Buta, Raluca Fracas)
- [Party digitalization and website features: a comparative study of party organizations](#) (Marco Lisi)
- What drives data-driven campaigning (DDC)?: A comparative analysis of the institutional and organizational factors shaping the adoption of DDC in the French and German party systems (Esmeralda Bon, Rachel Gibson, Philipp Darius, Fabienne Greffet, Andrea Römmele)
- [From Speech to Feed: How Parliamentary Debates Shape Party Agendas on Social Media](#) (Željko Poljak)
- [Taking their Game to the Next Level: Why Members Support Party Digitalization](#) (Sergiu Gherghina, Claudiu Marian)
- Maduro’s machines against paper coalitions: Party digitalization and narratives on machine voting in Bulgaria (Peter Bankov)

The last issue 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: [Turning the page after Covid-19 – not such a good idea](#) (Daniel Saraga)

[More about DeFacto](#)

SPSA Young Scholar Award

Every two years, the SPSA presents two awards for young researchers in political science: One for the best political science dissertation and one for the best political science article in a scientific journal. Eligible for the competition were persons who are members of the SPSA and who work at a Swiss research institution or hold a Swiss university degree. Candidates must be less than 35 years old or have defended their doctoral thesis less than two years ago. A person could only enter the competition for one of the two prizes.

The call for applications was published in the SPSA newsletter on February 23, 2024. By the end of the application period on April 30, 2024, seven dissertations and three articles had been received. At its meeting on June 13, 2024, the SPSA Board pre-selected the competition entries and appointed a three-member jury for each. By November 30, 2024,

the juries had selected the winners and formulated the laudatory speeches. The award ceremony took place on January 9, 2025 as part of the SPSA annual conference at the University of Geneva.

The jury, consisting of Prof. Alexandre Afonso (Leiden University), Prof. Christine Rothmayr (Université de Montréal) and Prof. Gabriele Spilker (University of Konstanz), selected the article 'Respected individuals: when state representatives wield outsized influence in international organizations' by Timon Forster, published in the journal *International Affairs* in 2024, as the best article.

The jury, consisting of Prof. Kathrin Ackermann (University of Siegen), Prof. Daniel Bochsler (Central European University) and Prof. Alessandro Nai (University of Amsterdam), selected Delia Zollinger's thesis entitled 'Structural Change, Identity Formation, and Cleavage Consolidation in 21st Century Politics', which was submitted to the University of Zurich, as the best dissertation.

General Information

ETH Zürich / Center for Comparative and International Studies

Livia Schubiger ist seit Juni 2024 ordentliche Professorin für Internationale Beziehungen und Datenwissenschaft im Departement Geistes-, Sozial- und Staatswissenschaften.

FORS, Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Sciences

The Consortium of National Election Studies ([CNES](https://www.cnes.community/)) announces the first release of the "CNES Knowledge Bank": www.cnes.community/index.php/resources/cnes-knowledge-bank/

This public resource provides a single access point to institutional information, data, and questionnaires from 27 national election study programs. Further developments, including new modules and expanded country-year coverage, are planned for 2025. For inquiries, contact info@cnes.community.

FORS, Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Sciences

The data from the fourth wave of the Selects Panel 2023 is now archived and available on SWISSUbase.

This new version includes data from the fourth wave, which was conducted after the popular vote on September 22, 2024. The Swiss Election Study repeatedly interviews the same individuals over multiple time points to analyze changes in opinions and behaviors in the context of political events. The fourth wave thus provides valuable insights into the impact of the September 22, 2024 vote.

[Access the data on SWISSUbase](#)

Zentrum für Demokratie Aarau

«The World of Referendums: 2024 Edition» untersucht Schweizer Volksabstimmungen auf nationaler und kantonaler Ebene über die Zeit. Der Bericht basiert auf der Referendum

Database (RDB) des Zentrums für Demokratie Aarau, die Abstimmungen weltweit erfasst und vergleichbar macht.

[Mehr Informationen.](#)

Awards

ETH Zürich / Center for Comparative and International Studies

«Die Universität Bern vergibt den [«Theodor-Kocher-Preis»](#) jährlich an den besten Nachwuchsforschenden. Die mit CHF 50'000 dotierte Auszeichnung wird ohne Einschränkung der Fakultät oder des Gebiets für hervorragende und innovative wissenschaftliche Leistungen verliehen. Das Arbeitsgebiet der Kandidaten oder Kandidatinnen kann intra- oder interdisziplinär sein.

Der Preis wurde 2024 an Herrn Dr. Lukas Fesenfeld verliehen, in Anerkennung seiner herausragenden Leistungen in der politischen Ökonomie und Umweltgovernance.

Universität Zürich / Institut für Politikwissenschaft

Tine Paulsen's paper "Tending the Grassroots: How Local Institutions Impact National Elections" has been awarded [MPSA's Richard E. Matland Award](#). The award is given to the best paper by an emerging scholar in representation, elections, or voting.

Universität Zürich / Institut für Politikwissenschaft

Delia Zollinger was awarded by SIAF for her dissertation «Structural Change, Identity Formation, and Cleavage Consolidation in 21st Century Politics» at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of the University of Zurich.

<https://siaf.ch/en/siaf/awards>

Universität St. Gallen / Department of Political Science

Cecilia Ivardi Ganapini was awarded the 2024 Council of European Studies (CES) Political Economy and Welfare Network 'best paper' prize for her paper "Everything must change for things to remain the same": How resilient ideas shape growth strategies in skill formation', presented at the CES conference in Lyon.

Events

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

Universität Zürich / Institut für Politikwissenschaft

Antrittsvorlesung von Prof. Dr. Hannah Werner:

Democracy in Transition: Citizens Perspectives on Decision-Making in Times of Crisis.

19. Mai 2025, 17:00 bis 17:45

[Weitere Informationen inkl. Livestream](#)

Universität de Lausanne / Institut de hautes études en administration publique

Conférence AD-IDHEAP : [IA et démocrati: quels enjeux?](#)

Avec Mesdames Jacqueline Kucera et Isabelle Chappuis. Jeudi 10 avril 2025 à 18h00, Learning Lab de l'IDHEAP

Universität de Lausanne / Institut de hautes études en administration publique

Rencontre de Politique Locale – Save the date Jeudi 4 septembre 2025, au Château d'Yverdon-les-Bains (Information et page d'inscriptions disponible prochainement)

DeFacto

Durch die Bundesratswahl mit Witz, Charme & Kompetenz! Public viewing an der Universität Bern.

Satiriker Michael Elsener und die Politologinnen Isabelle Stadelmann (IPW, Universität Bern) und Sarah Bütikofer (DeFacto) ordnen die Bundesratswahl live mit humoristischen Kommentaren und fachlichen Einschätzungen ein.

Mittwoch, 12. März 2025, ab 8 Uhr.

Kuppelraum an der Universität Bern, Hauptgebäude, Hochschulstrasse 4

Eintritt frei

Zentrum für Demokratie Aarau

An den Aarauer Demokratietagen werden aktuelle politische Themen aufgegriffen und debattiert. Die jährlich stattfindende Veranstaltung umfasst einen Abendanlass und eine wissenschaftliche Konferenz. Die Aarauer Demokratietage richten sich an Vertreter:innen aus Wissenschaft, Politik, Medien und an die interessierte Öffentlichkeit

Die [Aarauer Demokratietage](#) finden dieses Jahr vom 3. – 4. April zum Thema 'Demokratie im Krieg: die Rolle der Schweiz' statt.

Universität Bern / Kompetenzzentrum für Public Management

The next Conference on Policy Process Research (COPPR) will take place at the University of Bern, Switzerland, from January 20-23, 2026. You can access the official COPPR website at the following link: [Conference on Policy Process Research](#)

Important Dates to Remember:

June 2, 2025 – August 31, 2025: Open call for pre-COPPR workshops, papers, panels, and roundtable proposals

September 30, 2025: Notification of accepted or rejected proposals announced

October 31, 2025: Preliminary program published

October 1, 2025 – December 19, 2025: Registration period

December 19, 2025: Final program complete

January 20-23, 2026: COPPR 2026, Bern, Switzerland

If you have any questions or need further assistance regarding COPPR 2026, please don't hesitate to contact us at karin.ingold@unibe.ch.

We encourage you to spread the word to your friends and networks and eagerly look forward to welcoming you to Bern next year!

Projects

Universität Bern / Institut für Politikwissenschaft

Leandra Bias wurde vonseiten des SNF eine Ambizione Karriereförderung zugesprochen. Das vierjährige Projekt «Russian and Ukrainian elites instrumentalizing gender for system legitimacy: frames, policies and feminist civil society» startet im September an der Universität Fribourg und ist mit 940'500CHF dotiert.

Universität St. Gallen / Department of Political Science

Hannah Smidt has been awarded a project grant by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) for her project 'UN-Popular: The Causes and Consequences of Citizens' Opposition to UN Peace Missions.' The four-year project started on September 1, 2024.

Universität St. Gallen / Department of Political Science

Roberta Fischli has been awarded an SNF Postdoc Mobility grant for the DLCL (Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages) & the McCoy Family Center for Ethics in Society, Stanford University. The three-year project will start on September 1, 2025.

Books

Universität Bern / Kompetenzzentrum für Public Management

Sager, F., Mavrot, C., & Keiser, L. R. (Eds.). (2024). Handbook of Public Policy Implementation. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781800885905>

In this comprehensive Handbook, international experts examine theoretical and empirical research to analyse a core element of the public policy process: implementation. Traversing

numerous sub-disciplines and traditions including top-down and bottom-up approaches to public policy implementation research, the chapters present a synthesis of the state of scholarship and stimulate future thinking in the field.

‘Since its inception in the 1970s, the field of implementation research has opened investigation into the myriad processes and practices that take place under the rubric of policy once the legislative ink has dried. This Handbook offers a review of approaches and issues to the study of implementation that should be of considerable interest to students, researchers, and practitioners.’

– Evelyn Z. Brodtkin, University of Chicago, US

<https://www.e-elgar.com/shop/gbp/handbook-of-public-policy-implementation-9781800885899.html>

Dissertations

ETH Zürich / Center for Comparative and International Studies

- Florian Lichtin: “Societal Changes for Effective and Feasible Climate Policy: Understanding Behavioural Dynamics and Mass Public Policy Preferences”
- Leopold Peiseler: Decarbonising Lithium-Ion Batteries: Environmental, Economic and Policy Insights
- Alessandra Stampi-Bombelli: “Immigration and Naturalization”
- Christoph Grössmann: “Data Science for Public Policy”
- Lena Klaassen: “Financing Low Carbon Technologies: Insights for Investor and Policymakers”
- Sarah Gomm: “Public Opinion and the Environment - Barriers and Pathways to Policy Support”
- Yaron Weissberg: “Digging a Green Path to Peace: Resource Conflicts in a Decarbonising World”
- Claudia Wiehler: “In the Shadow of Civil War. The Interdependence of Civil Wars and Conflicts between Informal Armed Groups”
- Massimo Troncone: “Electoral Rules, Religious Brokers, and Clientelism: Studying Public Resource Distribution in Italy”
- Katrin Hofer: “Towards a more nuanced understanding of public participation in urban development”
- Roberto Valli: “Splitting or Making the Difference? Border Change and the Assimilation of European Elites
- Sven Hegewald: “Cosmopolitan Cities Against Nationalist Hinterlands: The Return of the Urban-Rural Divide in European Politics”

Universität St. Gallen / Department of Political Science

- Remo Berlanda: "The Impact of China's Infrastructure Projects in Africa – A Comparative Case Study Analysis of Three Railway Lines"
- Christof Bucher: "A Quantitative Analysis of the Chinese Economy"

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

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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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) know.

