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Dear SPSA members,

Welcome to the third issue of our newsletter in 2024. In this issue, you can expect information on exciting events and current studies.

We would also like to remind you once again that the next annual conference at the University of Geneva will take place on 9 and 10 January 2025. We look forward to your participation and hope you enjoy reading the newsletter.

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Swiss Political Science Review (SPSR)

The next issue of the Swiss Political Science Review (SPSR) will be published in September 2024 with the following articles:

Debate

- [Introduction to the Debate: How Does Political Science Matter? The Relevance and Impact of the Discipline](#) (Diego Garzia, Yannis Papadopoulos)
- [Impotence Through Relevance? Faustian Bargains, Beyond Impact and the Future of Political Science](#) (Matthew Flinders)
- [The Political Scientist as a Critical Friend: A Comment on Flinders](#) (Mark Bovens)
- [The Potential for Political Scientists to Remain Relevant: A Comment on Flinders](#) (Marleen Brans, Arco Timmermans)
- [The Mis-conceptualisation of Societal Impact: Why the Swiss Approach to Societal Impact is Productive and not Inexistent](#) (Michael Ochsner)
- [Beyond Social Impact: The Value of Science for Society: A Comment on Ochsner](#) (Laura Bernardi)
- [The Swiss Approach to Societal Impact is Good, but Might Become Even Better: A Comment on Ochsner](#) (Benedetto Lepori)
- [Postface: Concluding Remarks on Relevance and Impact of Political Science in Switzerland](#) (Karin Ingold, Isabelle Stadelmann-Steffen)

Original Articles and research notes

- [Everything for the people, but trust? Exploring the link between populist attitudes and social trust in Italy, Portugal, and Spain](#) (Hugo Marcos-Marné, Mariana Sendra)
- [Deservingness and Welfare Attitudes Through Young Eyes: The Future of the Swiss Welfare State](#) (Jakub Sowula)
- [Wie institutionelle Hürden die soziale Selektivität der Wahl verschärfen: Das Beispiel von Formfehlern bei der Briefwahl](#) (Dominic Nyhuis, Morten Harmening, Tilko Swalve)

Book reviews

- Robin Stähli: [Lobbyierende Kantone. Subnationale Interessensvertretung im Schweizer Föderalismus](#) (2024). By Rahel Freiburghaus
- Olga Litvyak: [The Origin of Dialogue in the News Media](#) (2020). By Regula Hänggli
- Jessy Sparer: [Lutter contre les pauvres. Les politiques de la mendicité. L'exemple suisse](#) (2023). By Jean-Pierre Tabin, René Knüsel

The last edition has been published in June 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: [The crisis in youth wellbeing – Is it due to the COVID-19 pandemic?](#)

(Dawid Gondek, Marieke Voorpostel)

[More about DeFacto](#).

General Information

SAGW ASSH

Call for new members of the SNSF Research Council

From April 2025, the SNSF Research Council will be organised into five Programme Committees and a Policy Committee. The SNSF is looking for new Research Council members who are interested in serving on these committees and who complement the expertise of the current members who wish to continue their mandates. Almost all committees are explicitly looking for humanities scholars and/or social scientists.

You will find the mandates and specifications about the application procedure here: [Research Council mandates \(snf.ch\)](#). For more information on the new structure of the SNSF please consult the [website](#).

Application deadline: 30 September 2024

Please send your application to rc-election@snf.ch.

Candidates are asked to clearly state in their application which position(s) they are interested in. Applications must comprise a motivation letter (max. 2 pages), a CV (max. 2 pages) and a description of your major research achievements and contributions to the academic community or to society more broadly (max. 2 pages).

SAGW ASSH

SAGW/ASSH prize for young scholars

At its Annual Meeting on 24 and 25 May 2024, the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences (SAGW/ASSH) awarded our member, Dr. Tabea Palmtag, a post-doctoral researcher at the Department of Political Science at the University of Zurich, the Silver Prize for Young Scholars for her study on the relationship between economic recovery and individual welfare. Further information on the 2024 Young Scholar Awards can be found on the [SAGW website](#).

Zentrum für Demokratie Aarau (ZDA)

Drohungen, Ausraster, Tötlichkeiten – Gewalt gegen Politiker:innen in Schweizer Städten

Die Mitglieder der Parlamente der Schweizer Städte erleben immer wieder Aggressionen. Das beeinflusst ihre Zufriedenheit mit dem Amt, wie der neue Studienbericht des Zentrums für Demokratie Aarau zeigt. Und er macht deutlich, warum manche gar aus der Politik aussteigen.

Zum Studienbericht: [Befragung der Mitglieder städtischer Parlamente in der Schweiz — Zentrum für Demokratie Aarau \(ZDA\) \(zdaarau.ch\)](#)

FORS

The results of the Selects study on the 2023 Swiss Federal elections have just been published

The Swiss Election Study Selects has been investigating turnout and electoral behaviour in

federal elections since 1995. In order to gain a better understanding of how citizens form their opinions and decide whom to vote for, Selects also collects data on media coverage and candidates' campaign activities. Selects is funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and conducted by FORS in Lausanne.

The report is available in German, French, and Italian:

<https://forscenter.ch/projects/selects/#Publications>

All datasets are documented and freely available on SWISSUbase for scientific purposes

<https://www.swissubase.ch/en/catalogue/studies/20738/latest>

FORS

Call for Papers: Special Issue on the 2023 Swiss National Elections

The Swiss Political Science Review (SPSR) invites submissions for a Special Issue on the 2023 Swiss National Elections, guest edited by Line Rennwald, Marlène Gerber, and Elie Michel. We seek contributions exploring new aspects of election campaigns and voting behavior in Switzerland, preferably using Swiss Election Study Selects data, though other sources are also welcome. Studies with a longitudinal or comparative perspective and those addressing new questions in the 2023 surveys (e.g., affective polarization) are encouraged. Proposals (max. one page) are due by September 23, 2024. Accepted papers will be presented at a workshop in April 2025 and published in June 2026 after peer review.

https://forscenter.ch/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/cfp_selects_2023.pdf

FORS

FORS Data Re-use Award

Are you using or planning to use FORS social science data? Submit your paper for the FORS Data Re-use Award and win up to 1,000 CHF! This award recognizes outstanding research by young researchers using secondary data.

More information and submission criteria: <https://forscenter.ch/fors-data-reuse-award-2024/>

Universität Zürich, Institut für Politikwissenschaft

Stefanie Walter wurde zum 1. Juni 2024 in das Editorial Board des American Political Science Review berufen.

[APSR Editorial Board](#)

Stefanie Walter wurde in den Council der European Political Science Association gewählt und wird dem EPSA Council von 2024-27 angehören.

[epsa council](#)

Awards

Universität St. Gallen (HSG), Department of Political Science

- Leslie Fischer (PhD candidate at the Department of Political Science, HSG) was awarded the 2024 Stuart A. Bremer Award for Best Graduate Student Paper "Gendered War Experiences: A natural experiment on the political consequences of institutional non-responsiveness to conflict-related sexual violence.
- Leslie Fischer (PhD candidate at the Department of Political Science, HSG) was awarded the 2024 Christiane-Rajewsky-Award for her master thesis "Victimized societies and voter turnout: A natural experiment assessing the price of indifference to conflict-related sexual violence».
- Cecilia Ivardi and Linda Wanklin (both PhD candidates at the Department of Political Science, HSG) won the [ECPR Knowledge Politics and Policies Excellent paper award 2023](#) for their paper titled "Transnational skill formation and its link to growth models: A case study of the politics of the German dominant growth coalition"
- Christoph Steinert (Postdoc at the Department of Political Science, HSG) und Christoph Dworschak (University of York) were awarded the [2024 NEPS Medal](#) for their paper "Political Imprisonment and Protest Mobilization: Evidence from the GDR" by the Network of European Peace Scientists.

Universität Zürich, Institut für Politikwissenschaft

Johannes Scherzinger's dissertation "Searching for Themes in Chamber Full of Noise? How Language affects United Nations Actions and Decisions" won the Academic Council of the United Nations System (ACUNS) best dissertation award.

For more information see <https://acuns.org/dissertation-award/>

Events

Zentrum für Demokratie Aarau (ZDA)

21. September 2024, Zürich

28. September 2024, Winterthur

Das [Data Donation Lab](#) der Universität Zürich organisiert die Data Donation Days mit Standaktionen in Zürich und Winterthur. Mit dabei ist auch ein Projekt vom Zentrum für Demokratie Aarau (ZDA). Gabriel Hofmann untersucht darin, wie Social Media die politische und demokratische Meinungsbildung beeinflussen. Dazu arbeitet er mit gespendeten Nutzungsdaten von Facebook und Instagram. An den beiden Standaktionen in Zürich und Winterthur stellt er das Projekt vor Ort vor und sammelt Datenspenden von Besucher:innen. Diese erleben dort, wie das wissenschaftliche Upcycling persönlicher Daten funktioniert und erhalten Informationen über Datenspenden für Forschungszwecke. Als zusätzlicher Anreiz erhalten Spender:innen eine Analyse ihrer Nutzung von Facebook oder Instagram für politische Informationen.

[Data Donation Days](#)

Universität St. Gallen (HSG), Department of Political Science

- Elsa Massoc (Assistant Professor of Political Science) has been an invited speaker at the Florence School of Banking on Finance to present her new paper "(S)tra(te)gic Banking: The Political Economy of European Banking". Please find the video of the pre-presentation interview [here](#).
- Hannah Smidt (Assistant Professor of Political Science) and Sara Hellmüller (ETH Zurich) host an Exhibition about "UN Peace Missions" taking place *between 30.9.2024 and 15.9.2024 at the University of St. Gallen*. The exhibition is based on a five-year research project on UN peace missions, which is hosted at the Geneva Graduate Institute and ETH Zürich and funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation.
- Hannah Smidt (Assistant Professor of Political Science) will moderate the 2024 MIA Lecture & Panel Discussion titled "UN Peacekeeping and its Future" taking place *on 30.9.2024 at the University of St. Gallen, 18:15h-19:45h*.

Universität Zürich, Institut für Politikwissenschaft

Call for Papers Workshop on "The changing boundaries of European integration"

9-12 March 2025 at Monte Verità, Ascona (Switzerland)

Workshop Organizers: Frank Schimmelfennig (ETH Zurich) & Stefanie Walter (University of Zurich)

The boundaries of the European integration project are changing, both with regard to geographical boundaries, and the boundaries between national and European policymaking. While countries from Serbia to Ukraine want to join the EU, the UK has opted to leave the Union, and integration with Switzerland is slowly eroding. Likewise, Europeanization is increasing in some policy fields such as fiscal or military cooperation, stagnating in others, and in some policy fields there is even discussion of a re-nationalization of European competences.

We invite submissions for a workshop that explores this phenomenon and address questions such as: How can we map the expanding and retrenching horizontal and vertical boundaries in European integration? How can the different de-bordering and re-bordering dynamics across countries and across policy fields be explained, and what effects do they have? What role do the public, political parties, member state governments, and the EU bureaucracy play in these dynamics? And what feedback effects do the changing boundaries of European integration have on national and European politics?

This workshop will bring together a diverse group of junior and senior scholars who work on these questions from a variety of perspectives. It bridges research from two ERC-funded projects on boundary formation in European integration (EUROBORD – Frank Schimmelfennig) and the mass politics of disintegration (DISINTEGRATION – Stefanie Walter), and puts it into dialogue with other researchers who specialize in topics related to the breadth, depth, and dynamics of European integration.

The workshop will consist of panels with paper presentations, a keynote speech, and roundtables to allow for a broad discussion. It will take place from 9-12 March 2025 at the Congressi Stefano Franscini (CSF) at Monte Verità, Ascona (Switzerland). Travel and

accommodation costs will be covered for all selected participants. This project is generously funded by the DISINTEGRATION and EUROBOARD projects as well as the Congressi Stefano Franscini.

To apply for the workshop, please submit a 200-300 word abstract at the [following website](#).

Deadline for abstract submission is 15 September 2024.

Projects

Universität St. Gallen (HSG), Department of Political Science

- Elsa Massoc received a Stepping Stone grant for her new project "Power and Purpose in the New Industrial Policy. Governing state-led investment for the green transition in Europe", which will start in September 2024
- Hannah Smidt has received a SNF-fund for her new project "UN-Popular: The Causes and Consequences of Citizens' Opposition to UN Peace Missions." The project starts from the observation that United Nations peace missions rely on domestic support including cooperation from ordinary citizens in their host country. Yet, host state citizens sometimes oppose missions' policies or even reject their presence altogether, as shown, e.g., by this year's mass protests in Mali, DR Congo, and Kosovo. While researchers explore elite opposition and local perceptions of UN peace missions more generally, the project will seek to understand the origins and consequences of popular opposition to UN missions.

Dissertations

Universität St. Gallen (HSG), Department of Political Science

- Roberta Fischli: «Freedom after Algorithms: From Opportunity to Digital Self-Determination»
- Julia Loder: «Overcoming fossil fuel dependence in a carbon-constrained world»
- Wesley van Drongelen: «Small Talk: The Perception of Small State Size in Foreign Policy Formulation»

Jobs

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

Administratives / Kontakt

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As always, you will find links to congresses or training and further education at: <https://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.assp@bluewin.ch) know.

