

ANDRÉ WALTER

Private address: Steingrüeblistrasse 13 ◊ 9000 St. Gallen ◊ Switzerland

(071) · 223 · 1472 ◊ andre.walter@unisg.ch

Homepage: <https://andrewal.github.io> ◊ Github: <https://github.com/AndreWal>

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Advanced skills in statistics and machine learning with R and Python

Use of time-series, panel, and spatial models, experimental designs, and machine learning algorithms.

End-to-end data pipelines and workflow orchestration

Building reproducible data workflows with Docker, Airflow, and Python/Bash scripts; processing and merging datasets.

Data management and engineering

Designing and querying relational databases with PostgreSQL, efficient data preparation in R/Python, version control with Git/GitHub, and automated replication workflows.

Geodata and spatial analytics

Creating and georeferencing large-scale GIS data in QGIS and applying spatial regression models.

LLM-enabled data applications

Developing and evaluating use cases using current closed and open-weights LLMs for data generation, classification, and ranking tasks.

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

University of St. Gallen

Lecturer

Oct 2021 -
St. Gallen

- Teaching courses in statistics and statistical software (R, Python)

University of Zurich

Research Group Leader

Oct 2021 - Sep 2025
Zurich, Switzerland

- Lead a three-person team collecting, processing, and merging large-scale data (European election results, Swiss popular-vote surveys 1981–2025; up to one million observations).
- Conduct statistical analyses (regression-discontinuity designs, instrumental variables, panel and spatial models).
- Developing models to predict individual vote choices in referendums, benchmarking multiple supervised machine-learning algorithms (e.g., CatBoost, Random Forest, XGBoost, LightGBM) against large language models (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini, Llama, Mistral).
- Explore LLMs use cases for data generation, classification, and ranking.
- Present and publish findings.
- Conducting courses in Swiss Politics

University of St. Gallen

Postdoctoral Researcher/Research Group Leader

Mar 2018 - Sep 2021
St. Gallen, Switzerland

- Led a five-person team to collect municipal-level Swiss popular-vote data 1866-2020.
- Implemented regression-discontinuity designs, non-linear panel regressions, and spatial models; created GIS data; georeferenced historical datasets.
- Taught statistics, political economy, and Swiss politics; disseminated research nationally and internationally.

University Lausanne

Postdoctoral Researcher

Dec 2019 - Jun 2021
Lausanne, Switzerland

- Statistical analysis of Brazil and Kenya survey data using linear and non-linear estimators; prepared descriptive reports for local NGO partners.

University St. Gallen

Research Assistant

Nov 2012 - Feb 2018
St. Gallen, Switzerland

- Dissertation on Swiss cantonal social policy.

- Compiled long-term demographic, economic, and political time series and using survival analysis and autoregressive panel methods for data analysis.
- Teaching assistant in research design and statistics.

RESEARCH VISITS

Dept. of Politics and Public Administration, University of Konstanz <i>Visiting Scholar</i>	Sep 2019 - Feb 2020 Konstanz, Germany
Research Center on Inequality and Social Policy, University Bremen <i>Visiting Scholar</i>	Oct 2018 - Mar 2019 Bremen, Germany

ACADEMIC DEGREES

University of St. Gallen PhD in Political Science Focus Democratization, Political Economy, Quantitative Methods, Machine Learning Grade 5.7/6 (very good, Swiss scale).	Feb 2018
University of Zurich M.A. Sociology Minors Social/Cultural Anthropology, Gender Studies Grade 5.9/6 (very good, Swiss scale).	Sep 2012
University of Jena B.A. in Sociology Minor Political Science Grade 2.0/6 (good, German scale)	Aug 2010

THIRD-PARTY FUNDING

Ambizione Grant Swiss National Science Foundation Project "Endogenous Electoral Markets, Party Entry, and Democratization" 700'000 CHF (850'000 \$)	2021
Project Grant Swiss National Science Foundation Project "Democratic Consolidation in Switzerland, 1848-1918. Suffrage Restrictions, Redistricting, and Direct Democracy" [with Patrick Emmenegger und Lucas Leemann] 380'000 CHF (460'000 \$)	2019
International Postdoctoral Fellowship University of St. Gallen Project "The Roots of Electoral Systems Choice. The Rise of Social Democracy, Multipartism, and the Shift to Proportional Representation" 310'000 CHF (380'000 \$)	2017
Summer School Grant Swiss National Science Foundation GIS & Spatial Econometrics Summer School 21'600 CHF (26'000 \$)	2016

AWARDS

- 2023 **Socio-Economic Best Article Award (Shortlisted)** for the paper "The Social Origins of Christian Democracy. Rural-Urban Migration, Interest Group Preemption, and the Rise of the Catholic Workers Movement, Socio-Economic Review, 20(2), 687-710"
- 2022 **Fritz-Thyssen Foundation Prize (runner-up)** for the paper "International Trade, the Great War, and the Origins of Taxation: Sister Republics Parting Ways, Swiss Political Science Review, 28(4), 585-603 (with Patrick Emmenegger)"

2017 **Early Career Workshop Award** for the paper "How the Hinterland Caught up. Internal Migration, Cost Shifting and Welfare State Expansion in Federal States", Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE) Annual Conference, Lyon, France

2013 **Dirk Berg-Schlosser Best Poster Award (runner-up)** for the paper "Opposition Towards Immigration. A large-N Qualitative Comparative Analysis" (with Dominik Schraff), ECPR Summer School in Methods and Techniques, Ljubljana, Slovenia

ACADEMIC TEACHING

Political Science, University of Zurich

Swiss Democracy since 1848

2024

Bachelor, seminar, German

International Affairs, University of St. Gallen

Statistics Refresher

2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

Master, multiple workshops, English

Doing Quantitative Research in Political Science

2021

Bachelor, seminar, English

Political Analysis using R

2020, 2021

Master, multiple workshops, English

Swiss Democracy, 1848-1971

2020, 2021

Bachelor, seminar, English

Quantitative Methods

2019, 2020

Bachelor, lecture, English/German

International Politics and Market Economy

2020

Master, seminar, English

The Politics of Electoral Systems: Political Conflict and Representation

2018

Master, seminar, English

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Consulting

2019-

Agora Strategy, Munich, Germany (2024)

Varieties of Democracy, University of Gothenburg, Schweden (2019-)

Reviewer for multiple journals

2017-

Web of Science profile [Link]

Co-Chair

2020-2025

Working Group on Political Economy and Social Policy, Swiss Political Science Association (2020-2025)

Virtual ESPAnet Workshop (2020-2023)

Early-Career Representative

2018-2021

Program Committee, PhD Program "International Affairs and Political Economy"

University of St. Gallen

Organizer

2016

GIS and Spatial Econometrics Summer School

University of St. Gallen

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Statistics, Machine Learning & Scripting	R (10+ years), Python (5 years), Bash (3 years)
GIS	QGIS (6 years)
Containers & Workflows	Docker (2 years), Apache Airflow (2 years)
Data Management	PostgreSQL (2 years), Excel (10+ years)
Version Control	Git (3 years), GitHub (3 years)
Cloud	Terraform (1 year), Azure (1 year)
Web-programming	HTML (3 years), CSS (3 years)
IDEs	RStudio (10+ years), VSCode (5+ years)
Documents & Presentation	L ^A T _E X (10+ years), MS Office (10+ years), Markdown/Quarto (2 years)
OS	Windows (10+ years), Linux Mint (3 years)

LANGUAGES

German	Native speaker
English	Fluent
French	Basic

REFERENCES

Prof. Patrick Emmenegger

Professor of Political Science
University of St. Gallen
Müller-Friedberg-Strasse 8
9000 St. Gallen
Switzerland
Tel.: +41 71 224 2332
patrick.emmenegger@unisg.ch

Honorata Kaczykowski

Managing Director, School of Finance
University of St. Gallen
Gärtnerstrasse 6
9010 St. Gallen
Switzerland
Tel.: +41 71 224 76 06
honorata.kaczykowski@unisg.ch

DATA SETS (COMPANION PUBLICATIONS IN PARENTHESIS)

Collected but published

- Ideological ranking of public policies using LLMs for direct democratic proposals in Switzerland, 1875 - 1914 (Direct Democracy, Legislative Gridlock, and Minority Representation)
- Ideological scaling of heads of governments globally using LLMs (Fine-Tuning Ideology. Leveraging Large Language Models to Measure the Ideology of Heads of Government Around the World, 1870 - 2020)
- Data on district electoral outcomes and GIS data on electoral boundaries in multiple European countries, 1850s - 1914 (The Party Politics of Electoral System Choice. Stacking the Deck in First-Wave Democracies)

Published (available on Github)

- Data on the economic, political, and social organization of pre-colonial ethnic and religious groups (The Extended Ethnographic Atlas)
- Data on municipality-level outcomes of popular votes in Switzerland, 1866 - 2023 (Municipality-Level Outcomes of Direct-Democratic Votes in Switzerland, 1866-2023)
- Data on the partisan affiliation of Swiss cantonal governments, 1848 - 2024 (The Partisan Composition of Cantonal Governments in Switzerland, 1848-2017. A new Dataset)
- Data on the impact of colonialism in Africa and Asia (Measuring the Impacts of Colonialism: A New Data Set for the Countries of Africa and Asia)

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs (peer-reviewed)

- 2026 The Party Politics of Electoral System Choice. Stacking the Deck in First-Wave Democracies, Oxford University Press, in press (with Patrick Emmenegger).
- 2018 Federalism, Direct Democracy, and the Expansion of the Welfare State. Social Policy Development in the Swiss Cantons 1930-2000. PhD thesis, School of Economic and Political Science, University of St. Gallen, St. Gallen [[Link](#)].

Journal Articles (peer-reviewed)

- 2025 Municipality-Level Outcomes of Direct-Democratic Votes in Switzerland, 1866-2023, *Swiss Political Science Review* [[Link](#)], online first (with Patrick Emmenegger, Lucas Leemann und Andreina Thoma).
- 2025 Who Counts? Non-Citizen Residents, Spatial Sorting, and Malapportionment, *The British Journal of Political Science* [[Link](#)], online first (Lead author, with Patrick Emmenegger).
- 2025 Vox Populi. Popular Support for the Popular Initiative, *American Political Science Review* [[Link](#)], online first (with Patrick Emmenegger and Lucas Leemann).
- 2024 Landholding Inequality, Social Control, and Mass Opposition to Suffrage Extension, *The British Journal of Political Science* [[Link](#)], 16(2), 187-206 (with Patrick Emmenegger and Andreina Thoma).
- 2024 Partisan Districting and the Adoption of Proportional Representation: Gerrymandering and its Discontents, *European Political Science Review* [[Link](#)], 16(2), 187-206 (with Patrick Emmenegger).
- 2023 Designing Electoral Districts for Proportional Representation Systems. How Electoral Geography and Partisan Politics Constrain Proportionality and Create Bias, *The Journal of Politics* [[Link](#)], 85(3), 1123-1138 (Lead author, with Patrick Emmenegger).
- 2023 Ethnic Minorities, Interstate War, and Popular Support for Fiscal Capacity Development, *Comparative Political Studies* [[Link](#)], 56(9), 1365-1397 (Lead author, with Patrick Emmenegger).
- 2022 Does War Exposure Increase Support for State Penetration? Evidence from a Natural Experiment, *Journal of European Public Policy* [[Link](#)], 29(5), 652-669 (Lead author, with Patrick Emmenegger).
- 2022 International Trade, the Great War, and the Origins of Taxation: Sister Republics Parting Ways, *Swiss Political Science Review* [[Link](#)], 28(4), 585-603 (with Patrick Emmenegger), *Winner of the Fritz-Thyssen Foundation Prize (runner-up)* [[Link](#)].
- 2022 The Social Origins of Christian Democracy. Rural-Urban Migration, Interest Group Preemption, and the Rise of the Catholic Workers' Movement, *Socio-Economic Review* [[Link](#)], 20(2), 687-710, *Shortlisted for the 2023 SER Best Article Award* [[Link](#)].
- 2022 Coalition Size, Direct Democracy, and Public Spending, *Journal of Public Policy* [[Link](#)], 42(2), 224-246 (with Patrick Emmenegger and Lucas Leemann).
- 2022 Labour Standards in Global Production Networks: Assessing Transnational Private Regulation and Workers' Capacity to Act, *Development and Change* [[Link](#)], 53(4), 912-937 (with Jimena Sobrino Piazza and Jean-Christophe Graz).
- 2021 Socialist Threat? Radical Party Entry, Electoral Alliances, and the Introduction of Proportional Representation, *American Political Science Review* [[Link](#)], 115(2), 701-708.

- 2021 Disproportional Threat. Redistricting as an Alternative to Proportional Representation, *The Journal of Politics* [[Link](#)], 83(3), 917–933 (with Patrick Emmenegger).
- 2021 No Direct Taxation Without New Elite Representation. Industrialization and the Domestic Politics of Taxation, *European Journal of Political Research* [[Link](#)], 60(3), 648-669 (with Patrick Emmenegger and Lucas Leemann).
- 2019 When Dominant Parties Adopt Proportional Representation. The Mysterious Case of Belgium, *European Political Science Review* [[Link](#)], 11(4), 433-450 (with Patrick Emmenegger).
- 2019 A Race to the Middle. The Politics of Interstate Cost Distribution and Welfare State Expansion, *The Journal of Politics* [[Link](#)], 81(3), 952-967.
- 2019 Majority Protection: The Origins of Distorted Proportional Representation, *Electoral Studies* [[Link](#)], 59, 64-77 (Lead author, with Patrick Emmenegger)
- 2019 The Partisan Composition of Cantonal Governments in Switzerland, 1848-2017. A new Dataset, *Swiss Political Science Review* [[Link](#)], 25(1), 1-18 (Lead author, with Patrick Emmenegger)
- 2019 Taking the Initiative! Direct Democracy, Coalition Governments, and Welfare State Expansion, *Journal of European Social Policy* [[Link](#)], 29(3), 446-459.
- 2017 Measuring the Impacts of Colonialism: A New Data Set for the Countries of Africa and Asia, *Journal of World-Systems Research* [[Link](#)], 23(1), 156-190 (with Patrick Ziltener and Daniel Kuenzler).

Contributions to Edited Volumes

- 2021 The Father of All Things or Rather an Obsession? The Effect of War on the Politics of Taxation, In: Seelkopf, Laura and Lukas Hakelberg: *Handbook on the Politics of Taxation* [[Link](#)], Edward Elgar Publishing, 32-46 (with Patrick Emmenegger).

Other Publications (peer-reviewed)

- 2014 QCA, the Truth Table Analysis and Large-N Survey Data: The Benefits of Calibration and the Importance of Robustness Tests, *COMPASSS WP Series* [[Link](#)], 2014-79. (with Patrick Emmenegger and Dominik Schraff).

Public Outreach

- 2025 Wer zählt? Wie Wahlsysteme und Immigration politische Repräsentation prägen *DeFacto* [[Link](#)].
- 2025 Vox populi: Unterstützung des Volkes für die Volksinitiative, *DeFacto* [[Link](#)].
- 2021 Steuerpolitik: Die Rolle kriegerischer Auseinandersetzungen, *DVPW-Blog* [[Link](#)].
- 2019 Electoral Reform: The Fine Print Matters, *Democratic Audit* [[Link](#)].
- 2019 Das Proporzwahlrecht: Schutz der Mehrheit, nicht der Minderheit?, *DeFacto* [[Link](#)].
- 2019 Dominante Parteien nutzen den Proporz zu ihren Gunsten, *Higgs* [[Link](#)].