

RESEARCH STATEMENT

My research interests concern the origins and consequences of political identities at the intersection of comparative politics, historical political economy and international relations. I rely on novel observational data and computational methods to measure and study nationalist and ethnic processes in new settings and with innovative research designs. My other research interests concern the dynamics of public opinion and religious clientelism.

EMPLOYMENT

- **Princeton University** USA
Postdoctoral Researcher, Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace and Justice September 2024 – August 2025

EDUCATION

- **ETH Zurich** Switzerland
PhD in Political Science September 2020 – August 2024
Splitting or Making the Difference? Border Change and the Assimilation of European Elites 1816–1938
Committee: Lars-Erik Cederman (main supervisor), Daniele Caramani, Vasiliki Fouka
- **University of California Berkeley** USA
Visiting Scholar, ISEEEES February 2022 – August 2022
Host: John Connelly, PhD
- **ETH Zurich and University of Zurich** Switzerland
MA ETH UZH in Comparative and International Studies September 2018 – August 2020
- **University of St. Gallen** Switzerland
BA HSG in International Affairs September 2014 – June 2018

WORKING PAPERS

- Yannick Pengl, Carl Müller-Crepon, **Roberto Valli**, Lars-Erik Cederman and Luc Girardin. The Train Wrecks of Modernization: Railways, Nationalism and Conflict in Long Nineteenth Century Europe. *American Political Science Review*, conditionally accepted. [To working paper](#).
- Lars-Erik Cederman, Luc Girardin, Maria Muñoz, **Roberto Valli** and Julian Wucherpfennig. Peace Through Partition? A Spatial Analysis of State Splits and Conflict. *International Organization*, revise & resubmit.
- Massimo Troncone and **Roberto Valli**. Domestic Minority Status and Supranational Integration. [To working paper](#).
- **Roberto Valli** and Massimo Troncone. Shifting Partisan Attachments: The Impact of Electoral Defeat on Voter Preferences. [To working paper](#).

WORK IN PROGRESS

- **Roberto Valli**. Back and Forth with the Tide? Border change and the Nationalization of Elite Culture in Alsace-Lorraine. *Available upon request*.
- Massimo Troncone and **Roberto Valli**. Who Pays for the Church? Electoral Institutions and Religious Clientelism in Post-War Italy.

TEACHING

- Partition: A solution to civil war? *Guest lecture at Konfliktforschung II, ETH Zurich* (May 2023).
- Recent Developments in Methods for Causal Inference with Cross-Sectional Time-Series data. *Workshop at Center for Comparative and International Studies PhD retreat* (February 2023).

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

- **ETH Zurich** Switzerland
Student research assistant, Lars-Erik Cederman July 2019 – August 2020
- **University of St. Gallen** Switzerland
Student research assistant, Tina Freyburg September 2017 – August 2019
- **University of St. Gallen** Switzerland
Student research assistant, Oliver Westerwinter March 2018 – September 2018
- **Scuola Universitaria Professionale della Svizzera Italiana** Switzerland
Student research assistant, Siegfried Alberton July 2017 – August 2017

INVITED TALKS

- **2024:** Ethnicity & Migration workshop Aarhus University

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

2024: American Political Science Association, Conflict & Change workshop University College London

2023: Swiss Political Science Association, European Political Science Association, Network of European Peace Scientists, Zurich Political Economy Seminar Series

2022: Swiss Political Science Association, Midwestern Political Science Association, Association for the Study of Nationalities, American Political Science Association

2021: University of Zurich PoliTics Workshop

GRANTS

- Anthony D. Smith Fellowship London School of Economics and Political Science [shortlisted] (January 2024)
- Center for Comparative and International Studies Collaborative Research Grant, with Massimo Troncone (May 2022, CHF 5'000)
- ETH Mobility Travel Grant (August 2021, CHF 15'630)

SERVICE

- Panel chair and discussant: EPSA 2023
- Member of student working group to reform PhD curriculum (ETH Zurich, 2020–2021)
- Student representative: ETH Zurich, teaching Commission and Department Conference (2020–2021); University of St. Gallen, hiring committee for assistant professorships and Student Parliament (2016–2017)

SKILLS

- **Software:** R, L^AT_EX, QGIS, Git, Subversion
- **Languages:** Italian (native), English (proficient), German (advanced), French (intermediate)