

## 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

---

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

## EDUCATION

---

- University of California Berkeley, ISEES  
*Visiting Scholar* Berkeley, USA  
Host: John Connelly, PhD  
February 2022–August 2022
- ETH  
*PhD in Political Science* Zurich, Switzerland  
Main Supervisor: Prof. Lars-Erik Cederman  
Committee: Prof. Daniele Caramani, Prof. Vasiliki Fouka  
September 2020–August 2024
- ETH  
*M.A. in Comparative and International Studies* Zurich, Switzerland  
September 2018–August 2020
- University of St. Gallen  
*B.A. in International Affairs* St. Gallen, Switzerland  
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. Conditionally accepted, *American Political Science Review*. [To working paper](#).
- Lars-Erik Cederman, Luc Girardin, Maria Muñoz, Yannick Pengl, Roberto Valli and Julian Wucherpfennig (2023). Peace Through Partition? A Spatial Analysis of State Splits and Conflict. *Under review*.
- Massimo Troncone and Roberto Valli. Minority Status and Supranational Integration. *Under review*. [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. Territorial Conquest, Regionalism, and the Nationalization of Elite Identities 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  
*Student Research Assistant, Prof. Lars-Erik Cederman* Zurich, Switzerland  
July 2019–August 2020
- University of St. Gallen  
*Student Research Assistants, Prof. Tina Freyburg* St. Gallen, Switzerland  
September 2019–August 2018
- University of St. Gallen  
*Student Research Assistant, Prof. Oliver Westerwinter* St. Gallen, Switzerland  
March 2018–September 2018
- Scuola Universitaria Professionale della Svizzera Italiana (CH)  
*Student Research Assistant, Prof. Siegfried Alberton* Lugano, Switzerland  
July 2017–August 2017

## CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

---

- 2024:** American Political Science Association, Conflict & Change workshop University College London, Ethnicity & Migration workshop Aarhus University
- 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<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, QGIS, Git, Subversion
- **Languages:** Italian (native), English (proficient), German (advanced), French (intermediate)