



EMMA GORDON

Doctoral Researcher

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PROFILE SUMMARY

Third-year doctoral researcher, examining the patterns and processes behind democratic transitions in small states and self-governing non-state territories, and the lessons we can learn from such territories in wider research into democratic transition. Passionate about democracy, democratisation, small states, and self-governance. Experience with both quantitative and interview-based research.

EDUCATION

Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich

2022 - Present

- PhD, Political Science (Comparative Politics Chair)
- Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Nicole Bolleyer and Prof. Dr. Laura Seelkopf
- Examining the wider lessons to be learned from democratic transition in small states and self-governing non-state territories

Massey University, New Zealand

2020 - 2024

- Graduate Diploma in Arts, Economics endorsement
- Undertaken part-time, provides the equivalent of an undergraduate major

University of Canterbury, New Zealand

2020-2021

- Master of Arts, Political Science and International Relations
- Achieved with Distinction
- Thesis: Dwarves of Dispute Settlement: Examining the Factors of Small State Success in the WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism

University of Canterbury, New Zealand

2019-2020

- Bachelor of Arts with Honours: Political Science and International Relations
- Achieved with First-Class Honours

University of Canterbury, New Zealand

2016-2019

- Bachelor of Arts, double major: Political Science and International Relations, and German
- Semester Exchange (2018): University of Freiburg

CURRENT PROJECTS

Democracy without Statehood: Systematising Patterns of Exclusion in the Democratic Transition Literature

- Intended job market paper
- Adapted from conference paper

Sequences of Transition: Self-governance, independence, and democratic transition

- Planned second PhD paper

CONFERENCES

Democratization and Autocratization: IPSA 75th Anniversary Conference

- Discussant and presenter for panel: Transitions to/from Democracy
- Presented paper: Patterns of Democracy: Uncovering Selection Bias in the Democratic Transition Literature

ACADEMIC TEACHING

Democratisation from a Comparative Perspective

2025

- Designed and taught in SoSe 25
- Aims to give undergraduate students an understanding of theories of democratisation and how and why it happens in different countries across historical time periods.

Small States in the International System: A Comparative Perspective

2022-2024

- Designed and taught in SoSe 22, 23, and 24
- Aims to give undergraduate students an understanding of the unique perspectives, challenges, and advantages faced by small states in the international system.

Democratic Development and Stability in Germany

2023-2025

- Designed and taught in WiSe 23/24 and 24/25
- Aims to give undergraduate students an understanding of the unique development of German democracy in light of both democratisation theory and in comparison to other developed countries.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- R (Intermediate)-- Statistical analysis, data management, data visualisation
- Python (Beginner)
- Stata (Intermediate)- statistical analysis, data management

LANGUAGES

- English (Native)
- German (B2)