

Curriculum Vitae — Sandro Lüscher

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SUMMARY

Postdoctoral researcher at the Centre for Democracy Studies Aarau (ZDA), University of Zurich. My research focuses on political institutions, electoral systems, and public governance, with particular attention to consultation procedures and pre-legislative decision-making.

My doctoral dissertation examined the adoption and political effects of the divisor-based biproportional apportionment method in Swiss cantons, combining comparative case studies with quantitative causal inference. Current work analyses stakeholder consultation and decentralized decision-making, including DAO-inspired governance applied to Swiss digital identity reforms and democratic innovation.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Postdoc, Research Associate	Jan 2025 – present
Centre for Democracy Studies Aarau (ZDA), University of Zurich	
Research on digital democracy and participatory governance.	
Assistant and Doctoral Candidate	Jul 2019 – Sep 2024
Department of Political Science (IPZ), University of Zurich	
Assistant at the Chair of Policy Analysis and Evaluation; teaching assistance in the seminar <i>Decision-making processes in Swiss politics</i> .	
Student Research Assistant	Jan 2019 – May 2019
School of Economics and Political Science (SEPS), University of St.Gallen	
Student research assistant in the project <i>Municipality-Level Outcomes of Direct-Democratic Votes in Switzerland, 1866–2023</i> .	
Student Research Assistant	Sep 2015 – Dec 2015
Department of Political Science (IPZ), University of Zurich	
Research assistant in the project <i>Years of Turmoil: The Political Consequences of the Financial and Economic Crisis in Europe</i> .	

PROJECTS

FOKUS Aargau — Post-vote surveys on cantonal elections and referendums	
Centre for Democracy Studies Aarau (ZDA), ongoing	Latest report (DOI)
Post-referendum and post-election surveys in the Canton of Aargau to explain voting behaviour; questionnaire design, analysis, reporting, and publication.	
Decentralized Decision-Making in DAOs: Learnings for Digital Democracy	
SNSF Project, 2024–2027	SNSF grant 10000911
Political-science contribution on decision-making: analysis of DAO voting and smart-contract rules as democratic procedures; dataset construction; evaluation of programmable aggregation using causal inference, agent-based simulation, and network methods; application to Swiss pre-legislative consultation procedures.	

EDUCATION

- 2019–2024 PhD / Dr. phil., Political Science, University of Zurich.
- 2017–2019 MA Social Sciences (Political Science & Modern History), University of Zurich; Diploma Supplement (track in Swiss Politics).
- 2013–2016 BA Social Sciences (Political Science & Modern History), University of Zurich.
- 2007–2012 Swiss Matura (track in Philosophy, Psychology and Pedagogy), Public Academic High School of Baden.

PUBLICATIONS

Lüscher, S., & Serdült, U. (2026). DAO Decision-Making Simulation for Legislative Consultation: the Case of the Swiss E-ID Law 2019. *Proceedings of the 59th Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS)*, 2310–2319. [hdl:10125/111673](https://hdl.handle.net/10125/111673)

Bernhard, L., Cheon, J., Lüscher, S., Koelewyn, K. S., Sorrentino, G., & Serdült, U. (2025). *FOKUS Aargau: Studie zu den Aargauer Volksabstimmungen vom 18. Mai 2025*. Zentrum für Demokratie Aarau (ZDA). [doi:10.5167/UZH-278944](https://doi.org/10.5167/UZH-278944)

Lüscher, S. (2024). *Redeeming the Pledge of Electoral Equity? A Study of the Roads to and Effects of the Divisor-Based Biproportional Apportionment Method in Switzerland*. PhD dissertation, University of Zurich. [doi:10.5167/UZH-264856](https://doi.org/10.5167/UZH-264856)

Lüscher, S. (2023). Parlamentswahlen nach dem doppelt-proportionalen Sitzzuteilungsverfahren im Lichte der territorialen Repräsentation. *Zeitschrift für Parlamentsfragen*, 54(3), 571–595. [doi:10.5771/0340-1758-2023-3-571](https://doi.org/10.5771/0340-1758-2023-3-571)

Lüscher, S. (2021). Proportionality in two dimensions: resolving an old dilemma of political (mis)representation. In *Swiss Political Science Association Annual Congress 2021*. [doi:10.5167/UZH-206811](https://doi.org/10.5167/UZH-206811)

FORTHCOMING WORK

Lüscher, S. *When Reason Bows to Emotion: Affective Polarization and Cognitive Bias in Party Evaluation*. Under review.

Gharbi, H., Badertscher, C., Lüscher, S., & Serdült, U. *Toward Blockchain-Based Election Campaign Vouchers*. Under review.

Lüscher, S. *Mechanisms of Stakeholder Consultation: Explaining Symbolic and Substantive Outcomes in Policy-making*. Manuscript in finalization.

Lüscher, S., Walla, A., & Serdült, U. *DAO Logic in Public Consultation: A Dyadic Simulation of Swiss Digital Identity Reforms*. In progress.

Lüscher, S. *Marginal Votes under Biproportionality: The Local Costs of Global Proportionality*. Invited contribution for a special issue. In progress.

Lüscher, S., Cheon, J., Bernhard, L., & Serdült, U. *Who Benefits from Citizen-Directed Funding? Democracy Vouchers and Party Competition in a Multiparty Context*. In progress.

WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

- 2026 Workshop “Polarized Democracies”, MIDEM, TU Dresden. Paper presentation; travel and accommodation grant awarded.
- 2026 Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS-59), Maui. Paper presentation (by co-author).
- 2026 Conference on Policy Process Research (COPPR), University of Bern. Participation.
- 2025 European DAO Workshop (DAWO25), ZHAW. Participation.
- 2021 SVPW-ASSP Annual Conference, University of Bern. Paper presentation.
- 2020 ECPR Virtual General Conference. Participation.
- 2020 SVPW-ASSP Annual Conference, University of Lucerne. Participation.

SKILLS

Methods	Causal inference; statistical analysis (large N); data visualization; simulation.
Software	MS-Office; R; Python; Git; APES; L ^A T _E X; HTML.
Languages	German (native); English (fluent); French (intermediate); Italian (basic).

MEMBERSHIPS

- Digital Society Initiative of the University of Zurich
- European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR)