Curriculum Vitae — Dr. Sandro Lüscher

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Summary

Postdoc at the Centre for Democracy Studies Aarau (ZDA), University of Zurich. My research lies at the intersection of electoral systems, political behavior, and public governance. My doctoral dissertation examined the adoption and political effects of the divisor-based biproportional apportionment method ("doppelter Pukelsheim") in Swiss cantons, combining comparative case study research with quantitative causal methods.

A central strand of my current work focuses on public policy and public governance, with particular attention to consultation procedures and pre-legislative decision-making. Ongoing research analyzes when and how stakeholder consultation produces substantive versus symbolic outcomes, identifying administrative mechanisms that structure influence across policy fields. This interest connects directly to my work on decentralized decision-making and democratic innovation, where DAO-inspired governance is used as an analytical lens to study programmable aggregation, delegation, and weighting in consultation processes, notably in the context of the Swiss E-ID reforms. Further projects address affective polarization in party evaluation and the design of blockchain-based democracy vouchers.

Work Experience

Postdoc, Centre for Democracy Studies Aarau (ZDA) Jan 2025 – present

Research on digital democracy and participatory governance.

Assistant, Department of Political Science (IPZ), University of Zurich Jul 2019 – Sep 2024

Assistant at the Chair of Policy Analysis and Evaluation. Assisting four times in the two-semester seminar *Decision-making processes in Swiss politics*.

Student Research Assistant, University of St.Gallen (HSG) Jan 2019 – May 2019

Student research assistant in the project *Municipality-Level Outcomes of Direct-Democratic Votes in Switzerland, 1866–2023*, led by Prof. Dr. Patrick Emmenegger and Dr. André Walter.

Student Research Assistant, University of Zurich (UZH) Sep 2015 – Dec 2015

Research assistant in the project *Years of Turmoil: The Political Consequences of the Financial and Economic Crisis in Europe*, led by Prof. Dr. Silja Häusermann and Dr. Bruno Wüest.

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 behavior; design of questionnaires, analysis, reporting, and publishing.

Decentralized Decision-Making in DAOs: Learnings for Digital Democracy

SNSF Project, 2024–2027 SNSF grant 10000911

Political-science contribution on decision making: study DAO voting and smart-contract rules as democratic procedures; build proposal/participation datasets; evaluate programmable aggregation with causal analyzes, agent-based simulation, and network methods; apply insights to digital participation and Swiss pre-legislative consultations.

Education

2019–2024	PhD / Dr. phil., Political Science, University of Zurich.
2017–2019	MA Social Sciences (Political Science & Modern History), University of Zurich; with 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.

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 Policymaking*. Finalization of the manuscript prior to journal submission.
- 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*. Contribution to a special issue upon invitation. In progress.

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. uri:hdl.handle.net/10125/111673
- Bernhard, L., Cheon, J., Lüscher, S., Koelewijn, 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
- 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 thesis, University of Zurich). doi: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
- 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

Skills

Methods	Causal inference; statistical analysis (large N); data visualization; simulation.
Software	R; Git; APES; LaTeX; HTML-Coding.

Languages

German (native); English (fluent); French (intermediate); Italian (basic).

Memberships

- Digital Society Initiative of the University of Zurich (DSI)
  - DSI Community "Democracy"
- European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR)
  - Standing Group on Political Psychology
  - Standing Group on Affective Polarization