

# Curriculum Vitae — Dr. Sandro Lüscher

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## SUMMARY

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Junior researcher / Postdoc at c2d, Centre for Democracy Studies Aarau (ZDA), University of Zurich. Within the SNSF project *Decentralised Decision-Making in DAOs: Learnings for Digital Democracy* ([grant 10000911](#)), I study DAO-based decision mechanisms as experimental democratic procedures. My research develops structured datasets on proposals and participatory input and applies programmable aggregation rules to assess how alternative logics of weighting, delegation, and salience shape outcomes. Methodologically, I use rule-based simulations and comparative assessments of aggregation models to evaluate transparency, inclusiveness, and responsiveness in decision-making. Conceptually, my work links DAO infrastructures to debates on digital democratic innovations and applies them to the Swiss system of pre-legislative consultation as a counterfactual lens for understanding procedural legitimacy and institutional design.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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- Postdoc, Centre for Research on Direct Democracy (c2d), ZDA Aarau** Jan 2025 – present  
Research on digital democracy and participatory governance.
- Assistant, Department of Political Science, 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*.

## PROJECTS

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- 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.
- Decentralised 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 analyses, agent-based simulation, and network methods; apply insights to digital participation and Swiss pre-legislative consultations.

## EDUCATION

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- 2019–2024 PhD / Dr. phil., Political Science, University of Zurich.
- 2017–2019 MA Social Sciences (Political Science & Modern History), University of Zurich.
- 2013–2016 BA Social Sciences (Political Science & Modern History), University of Zurich.

## PUBLICATIONS

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- 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](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 thesis, 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)

## SKILLS

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Methods Causal inference; statistical analysis (large N); data visualization; simulation.  
Software R; Git; APES; L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X; HTML-Coding.

## LANGUAGES

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

## MEMBERSHIPS

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- 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