Curriculum Vitae — Dr. Sandro Lüscher

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SUMMARY

Junior researcher / Postdoc at c2d, Centre for Democracy Studies Aarau (ZDA), University of Zurich. My academic background lies in electoral systems and political behavior. My doctoral dissertation, *Redeeming the Pledge of Electoral Equity? A Study of the Roads to and Effects of the Divisor-Based Biproportional Apportionment Method in Switzerland*, examined the introduction, functioning, and medium-term political consequences of the divisor-based biproportional apportionment method ("doppelter Pukelsheim") in Swiss cantons, combining qualitative institutional analysis with causal and quantitative approaches.

In my current SNSF-funded research on decentralized decision-making in DAOs, I extend this interest in rule-based political procedures to digital governance. I develop structured datasets on proposals and participatory input, apply programmable aggregation rules, and use comparative simulations to analyze how alternative weighting, delegation, and salience logics shape consultation outcomes. Conceptually, my work situates DAO infrastructures within debates on democratic innovation and applies them to Swiss pre-legislative consultation as a counterfactual lens for understanding procedural legitimacy and institutional design.

WORK EXPERIENCE

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

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	Academic High School (track in Philosophy, Psychology and Pedagogy) Public Academic High School of Baden.

Forthcoming Work

- Lüscher, S., & Serdült, U. *DAO Decision-Making Simulation for Legislative Consultation: the Case of the Swiss E-ID Law 2019.* To appear in the Proceedings of the 59th Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS).

- Lüscher, S. *When Reason Bows to Emotion: Affective Polarization and Cognitive Bias in Party Evaluation.* Manuscript under review at the *Swiss Political Science Review*.

Publications

- 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