

Magdalena Breyer

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER · POLITICAL SCIENCE

Department of Political Science, University of Basel, Bernoullistrasse 14-16, 4056 Basel, Switzerland

✉ magdalena.breyer@unibas.ch | 🌐 www.magdalenabreyer.net | @mabreyer.bsky.social

Education

University of Zurich, Switzerland

PHD IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

09/2019 - 05/2023

- Title of dissertation: Social status politics - The role of shifting cultural hierarchies
- Advisors: Prof. Tarik Abou-Chadi, Prof. Silja Häusermann
- Committee: Prof. Noam Gidron, Prof. Tarik Abou-Chadi, Prof. Silja Häusermann
- Grade: *Summa cum laude*

University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

VISITING PHD RESEARCHER

08/2021 - 01/2022

- Host: Prof. Sarah de Lange
- Program group: Challenges to Democratic Representation

Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

MASTER OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

10/2016 - 08/2019

- Master thesis: Mainstream parties and their use of populism in Germany and Austria, 1990-2018
- Supervised by Prof. Thorsten Faas and Prof. Dieter Ohr

University of Freiburg, Germany

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND HISTORY

10/2012 - 09/2016

- Erasmus stay at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland (2015)

Academic Positions

Since 08/2023	Postdoctoral researcher , Department of Political Science, University of Basel, in the SNSF project 'Class identity politics: The (new) political role of social class in Western Europe' (with Prof. Denise Traber)
2019-2023	PhD Researcher , Department of Political Science, University of Zurich in the SNSF project 'Social Status and the Transformation of Electoral Behavior' (with Prof. Tarik Abou-Chadi)
2017-2019	Tutor for Methods of Political Science and Data Analysis , Research Group Methods of Empirical Research, Freie Universität Berlin
2013-2015	Research Assistant , Chair for Comparative Politics, University of Freiburg
2013-2014	Tutor for Statistics and Methods of Political Science , University of Freiburg

Publications

PEER-REVIEWED

- Breyer, Magdalena** (2024): Perceptions of the social status hierarchy and its cultural and economic sources. *European Journal of Political Research*, Early View, DOI: 10.1111/1475-6765.12712.
- Breyer, Magdalena** (2024): Backlash or progressive mobilization? Voter reactions to perceived trajectories of women's representation. *Comparative Political Studies* 57:13, DOI: 10.1177/00104140231223745.
- Breyer, Magdalena** (2023): Populist positions in party competition: Do parties strategically vary their degree of populism in reaction to vote and office loss? *Party Politics* 29:4, DOI: 10.1177/13540688221097082.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Breyer, Magdalena**, Tabea Palmtag, Delia Zollinger (2023): Narratives of backlash? Perceptions of changing status hierarchies in open-ended survey responses. *URPP Equality of Opportunity Discussion Paper Series, No. 15*, [URL](#). Under review.

Abou-Chadi, Tarik, **Magdalena Breyer**, Theresa Gessler (2021): The (re)politicization of gender in Western Europe. Gender Update, in: *European Journal of Politics and Gender* 4(2), p. 311-314, DOI: 10.1332/251510821X16177312096679. Added to 'Most Read' collection of the journal.

WORKING PAPERS

The mobilizing effect of class appeals to the new and old working class (co-authored with Robin Weisser and Denise Traber). *Conference paper*.

Who deserves recognition? How the discrepancy between perceived and desirable changes to the social hierarchy relates to vote choice (co-authored with Tabea Palmtag and Delia Zollinger). *Conference paper*.

Progressive momentum and the dynamics of political competition: The case of #metoo (co-authored with Theresa Gessler and Tarik Abou-Chadi). *Conference paper*.

Cultural backlash? Political reactions to progressive policy change – The case of the Swiss referendum on marriage equality (co-authored with Thomas Kurer, Tarik Abou-Chadi, and Reto Mitteregger). *Conference paper*.

Grants & Awards

- | | | |
|------|--|------------|
| 2023 | Awarded best PhD Thesis , at the Department of Political Science at the University of Zurich in the academic year 2023 | |
| 2023 | Nomination for ECPR Rudolf Wildenmann Prize , awarded for paper presented at the ECPR Joint Sessions | |
| 2021 | Inequality Research Fund (with Delia Zollinger) , by the University Research Priority Program 'Equality of Opportunity', University of Zurich | CHF 12,000 |

Outreach

Appearance on the podcast *Political Science? No problem et al.!*: Episode 3 - Magdalena Breyer on Women's Representation and its Effects on Political Behavior, March 2024, [URL](#).

Wieso Identität, «Wokeness» und Gender mit Status und Anerkennung zusammenhängen. *Blog post on DeFacto, a Swiss science communication blog*, December 2023, [URL](#).

Disappointed citizens and the reaction of institutionalized democracy - experiences from Switzerland, Germany and France. *Public presentation for an event of the Anny-Klawe-Morf Foundation*, November 2023.

The strategic use of populism. *Interview on the Blog Populism Observer*, October 2022, [URL](#).

Presentations

INVITED TALKS

June 2024. *Perceptions of the social status hierarchy and its cultural and economic sources*. Invited talk: Democracy Seminar, Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz.

February 2023. *Narratives of backlash? Perceptions of changing status hierarchies in open-ended survey responses*. Invited talk: Connected Politics Seminar Series, University College Dublin.

April 2022. *Are shifting gender relations perceived as a social status threat?*. Invited talk: Conference cycle of the GREC research group, Université de Lausanne.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

APSA (American Political Science Association) Annual Conference 2023

EPSA (European Political Science Association) Annual Conference 2021, 2022, 2024

ECPR (European Consortium for Political Research) Joint Sessions of Workshops 2023

ECPR General Conference 2022

ECPG (European Conference on Politics and Gender) 2022, 2024

MPSA (Midwest Political Science Association) Annual Conference 2022

COMPTExT Annual Conference 2022, 2024

European Graduate Network Conference, European University Institute, Florence, 2022

SPSA (Swiss Political Science Association) Annual Conference 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024

Conference on Populism, Gender and Feminist Politics, Scuola Normale Superiore Florence, December 2020

DVPW (German Political Science Association) 2018, 2024

Teaching Experience

- Instructor **Gender and the radical right: Assessing parties, voters, and issues in Western Europe**, Undergraduate Seminar, University of Basel, *Spring 2024*
- Instructor **Gender and the radical right**, Undergraduate Seminar, University of Zurich, *Spring 2022 & Fall 2020*
- Tutor **Methods of Political Science**, University of Freiburg and FU Berlin, *Fall 2013, 2017-2019*
- Tutor **Data Analysis**, FU Berlin, *Spring 2017 and 2018*

DIDACTICAL TRAINING

- 2024 **Planning kick-off events in teaching**, University of Basel
- 2020 **Introduction to University Teaching**, University of Zurich
- 2020 **Introduction to Course Design**, University of Zurich

Skills & Professional Development

SKILLS

- Software **R, \LaTeX**
- Languages **German**, Native speaker
- English**, Fluent
- French & Spanish**, Intermediate

FURTHER TRAINING

- Summer School for Women in Political Methodology, University of Basel, July 2023
- ECPR Aarhus Summer School on Political Parties 2021
- Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis 2020: Causal Inference
- ECPR Winter School in Methods and Techniques 2020: Conjoint Experiments and Logistic Regression
- Courses on Quantitative Text Analysis, Computational Social Science, Data Visualization at the University of Zurich

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- EPSA
- SVPW
- DVPW

SERVICE

- Representative of the PhD Students and Postdocs in the management of the Department of Social Sciences, University of Basel, since November 2024
- Organised Seminar: Zurich Political Economy Seminar Series, Fall semester 2022

Peer group and women’s group at the Center for Comparative and International Studies (CIS) in Zurich, 2019-2023

Referee for: American Political Science Review, Comparative Political Studies, European Journal of Political Research, British Journal of Political Science, Journal of European Public Policy, Legislative Studies Quarterly, Party Politics, Swiss Political Science Review, Journal of Contemporary European Studies, Sexuality research and social policy, European Political Science Review.

NON-ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

	Infratest dimap , Freelance work to analyze and visualize election day survey results	
2019-2021	conducted for the German public broadcaster ARD, for the European Parliament elections 2019 and the German Bundestag elections 2021	Berlin
2018	Infratest dimap/Kantar Public , Internship at polling institute for three months	Berlin
2016	Mediendienst Integration , Internship at online editorial/science communication platform for three months	Berlin
2016	Federal Statistical Office of Germany, Destatis , Internship in the International Cooperation area for two months	Bonn