



8th Swiss Summer School in Democracy Studies

Advances in Comparative Democracy Research

12-16 September 2022

University of Zurich



Credits 2 ECTS awarded for the participation in the academic programme

Fees to participate in the academic programme, reduced or no fees can apply

Grants available through a separate application process

Contact democracyschool@ipz.uzh.ch

Website www.ipz.uzh.ch/en/s3ds

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The 8th Swiss Summer School in Democracy in Studies will deal with recent theoretical and methodological advances in the comparative study of democracy.

Students will be exposed to various topics and approaches, including **political institutions, democratic representation, election campaigns, gender and politics, and social media** as a novel source to study democratic politics.

Keynote Stefano Bartolini, European University Institute
The Nature of Political Institutions
Monday 12 September h.16.00

Agenda

Tuesday 13 Panel 1

Democratic Election Campaigns: Challenges and Opportunities	with Laura Sudulich, U. of Essex and Frederico Ferreira da Silva, U. of Lausanne
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Wednesday 14 Panel 2

Social Media, Political Science and the Study of Democracy: From Texts to Images	with Luigi Curini, U. of Milan and Andrea De Angelis, U. of Lucerne
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Thursday 15 Panel 3

Diversity in Democracies: Social Groups, Political Behaviour and Representation	with Daniel Bochsler, Central European University and Samuel D. Schmid, U. of Lucerne
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Friday 16 Panel 4

Gender and Democratic Politics: Are Really Women Who Shy Away from Politics?	with Marta Fraile, Instituto de Políticas y Bienes Públicos and Mathilde van Ditmars, U. of Lucerne
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[Apply online](#) as a **participant** by **Wednesday, June 1st, 2022**

[Register online](#) as an **auditor** from **June 1st to Sept 1st, 2022**



Scientific Committee: Diego Garzia and Alexander Trechsel

Academic Programme:

Panel 1

Democratic election campaigns: challenges and opportunities

Laura Sudulich, University of Essex

Electoral campaigns seek to persuade and mobilize voters. Measuring how they achieve these goals is at the core of public opinion, political communication, and behavior studies. This workshop seeks to unpack campaign processes from a comparative perspective. We will discuss challenges and opportunities in measuring and estimating campaign effects. The widespread use of experiments in political and communication studies has provided new insights into how persuasion and mobilization mechanisms occur. However, the generalizability of experimental findings needs validation from observational studies. The workshop will cover both theoretical perspectives and empirical approaches to developing new avenues of research.

Panel 2

Social media, political science and the study of democracy: from texts to images

Luigi Curini, University of Milan

This workshop will discuss how political scientists can take advantage of the increasingly available information (in textual data, video, images, and audio) produced on social media to answer relevant political questions in research about contemporary democracies. Albeit not entering into technical details, we will briefly summarize the challenges in doing it and the available methods developed in the literature. We will then discuss works that have employed successfully such a type of approach.

Panel 3

Diversity in democracies: social groups, political behavior, and representation

Daniel Bochsler, Central European University

Social science and economic research are concerned with the orientation of individuals towards other members of society whom they consider as members of their cultural group. In experimental studies, from behavioral economics to social psychology, scholars find consistent ingroup favoritism and outgroup discrimination patterns. What lessons can we draw from the literature on social and economic behavior in heterogeneous societies for democracies? We discuss whether findings in social psychology and behavioral economics, interested in individual behavior, can be transferred to the political realm, where ethnic politics is primarily understood as a phenomenon of elite agency and large-scale mobilization. And we discuss whether and how political institutions may attenuate ingroup favoritism.

Panel 4

Gender and democratic politics: are really women who shy away from the political realm?

Marta Fraile, Instituto de Políticas y Bienes Públicos (CISC)

This session aims at providing (i) an introduction to the debate about the obstacles (both evident and subtle) that women face to getting involved, participating, and obtaining positions of power in the political realm. And (ii) an example of the design of an empirical study on the demand side of the problem where socialization and gender roles are considered (and tested) as possible explanations for the persistent gender gap in internal political efficacy using both observational and experimental evidence. Finally, (iii) the session will discuss some insights from the supply side by examining the literature on the study of women's candidates in elections.



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