

# Dr. Oliver Dlabac

## Particulars

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Centre for Democracy Studies (ZDA)  
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Date of birth: January 28, 1980 (Zurich)  
Marital status: married  
Citizenships: Swiss, Czech



## Short Profile

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- Strong engagement with normative and empirical political theory
- Enhanced capabilities for innovative and systematic conceptual work
- Skilled in wide range of methods: expert interviews, process tracing, legal analysis, evaluation of electoral and survey data, index building, factor and cluster analysis, pooled cross-section analysis, multi-level analysis.
- Expertise in the assessment of democratic qualities, power structures, political culture and political performance at the subnational level
- Excellent networking and communication capacities, developed management skills

## Education

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**University of British Columbia: Visiting Postdoctoral Fellow** 08/2012 – 07/2013  
Postdoc Fellowship granted by the Swiss National Science Foundation. Project “Democratic Urban Governance: Towards a Comparative Framework”, supervised by Prof. Dr. Mark Warren.

**Universities of Zurich and Bern, Institute of Political Science: PhD** 03/2008 – 07/2012  
Scientific assistant at the SNF-project “Quality of Democracy in the Swiss Cantons”; PhD thesis on the performance and political support in the cantonal democracies, refereed by Prof. Dr. Adrian Vatter (University of Bern) and Prof. Dr. Susanne Pickel (University of Duisburg-Essen).

**University of Zurich: Master’s studies** 10/2001 – 04/2008

- Political Science – Major subject
- Economics – First minor subject
- Social Psychology – Second minor subject

**University of Zurich: Project management course** 04/2007 – 07/2007  
Acquisition of project management capacities through role plays and writing documents

**Charles University in Prague: Student exchange** 09/2005 – 02/2006  
Studies of Political Science and Political Economy in Czech language

## *Current Professional Position*

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**Centre for Democracy Studies, Aarau (ZDA) / University of Zurich** Since 10/2013

- Senior Research Fellow, leader of the research group on Local Democracy
- Co-leader of the project "Laymen organisation of municipal councils in the canton of Argovia" (with Daniel Kübler). Collection and evaluation of electoral results from 1970-2014: <http://www.research-projects.uzh.ch/p18814.htm>.
- Involved in the project "Role models, spillovers, and the supply side of women's political representation" (Fabrizio Gilardi): <http://www.research-projects.uzh.ch/p20197.htm>.
- Responsible for the second round of the European Mayor survey in Switzerland: <http://www.europeanmayor2.net>

## *Experience in Teaching and Public Relations*

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- Yearly seminars on "Decentralization, Local Democracy, and Social Justice" at University of Zurich (since 2014)
- Twenty-four hour Instructional Skills Workshop at the University of British Columbia (May, 2013)
- Sporadic teaching within the seminars of Prof. Dr. Adrian Vatter, University of Bern (2008-2012)
- Supervision of several seminar and master's theses under Prof. Dr. Adrian Vatter (2009-2012)
- Main organizer of the international symposium "Strong Democracies, Smart Cities? Swiss & Canadian Experiences" (April 30, 2013), in cooperation with the Institute for European Studies and the Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions at the University of British Columbia: <http://www.democracy.arts.ubc.ca/2013/04/11/smartcities/>
- Two innovative contributions within the EU-sponsored public "Research Nights" in Zurich (2009) and Bern (2011): playful assessment of political preferences of children and parents; interactive assessment of democratic perceptions of youths and adults.

## *Private Engagement*

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**Main founder of the non-profit association Bildungsmotor.** Integration and promotion of children and their parents in Zurich-Altstetten: [www.bildungs-cafe.ch](http://www.bildungs-cafe.ch) since 02/2005  
Project management and development, networking, fundraising, and finances.

## *Languages*

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Due to the origins of my parents I have been raised with three languages.

<b>German</b>	First language
<b>Spanish</b>	Mother tongue
<b>Czech</b>	Mother tongue
<b>English</b>	Advanced (written and verbal), semester abroad at the San Antonio College, Texas / USA, year abroad at the University of British Columbia, Canada
<b>French</b>	Advanced (written and verbal)
<b>Italian</b>	Basic skills

## *Computer Skills*

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**Scientific Software** STATA, SPSS, MLwiN, Ucinet, Atlas.ti

# Publications

## Monographs and Editorships

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- 2015 *Demokratie in der Gemeinde* (with Daniel Kübler, eds.). Schriften zur Demokratieforschung No. 11. Zürich/Basel/Genf: Schulthess. [In press.]
- 2013 *Demokratische Optionen, demokratische Herausforderungen. Vergleichende Analyse der Schweizer Kantone* [Democratic Options, Democratic Challenges. Comparative Analysis of the Swiss Cantons]. PhD thesis at the Institute of Political Science, University of Bern. Baden-Baden: Nomos.

## Articles in Peer Reviewed Journals

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- 2014 **“Liberal and Radical Democracies: The Swiss Cantons Compared”** (with Marc Bühlmann, Adrian Vatter, and Hans-Peter Schaub). *World Political Science Review* 10(2): 385–423.
- 2013 **„Libérale Romandie, radikale Deutschschweiz? Kantonale Demokratien zwischen Repräsentation und Partizipation”** (with BÜHLMANN, Marc, VATTER, Adrian and Hans-Peter SCHAUB) [Liberal French-Speaking Switzerland, Radical German-Speaking Switzerland? Cantonal Democracies between Representation and Participation]. *Swiss Political Science Review* 19(2): 157–188.
- 2012 **„Ein duales Messkonzept für liberale und radikale Demokratiequalität“** (with Hans-Peter SCHAUB) [A Dual Measurement Concept for the Liberal and Radical Quality of Democracy]. *Zeitschrift für Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft* 6(1): 161–184.
- 2009 **„Demokratiequalität im subnationalen Labor – Anmerkungen zum Beitrag von Sabine Kropp u.a. in Heft 4/2008 der ZParl“** (with BÜHLMANN, Marc, VATTER, Adrian und Hans-Peter SCHAUB) [Quality of Democracy in the Subnational Laboratory – Comments on the Contribution of Sabine Kropp et al. in Issue 4/2008 of ZParl]. *Zeitschrift für Parlamentsfragen* 40(2): 454–467.

## Chapters in Edited Volumes

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- 2015 **„Probleme der Milizorganisation der Gemeindeexekutiven im Kanton Aargau“** (with Andreas Rohner, Thomas Zenger, and Daniel Kübler) [Problems of the laymen organisation of municipal executives in the canton of Argovia]. In: Daniel Kübler and Oliver Dlabac (eds.): *Demokratie in der Gemeinde*. Schriften zur Demokratieforschung No. 11. Zürich/Basel/Genf: Schulthess. [In press.]
- 2006 **„Ein ‚urban regime‘ in Zürich? Einzelfallstudie zum Entwicklungsprojekt ‚Zürich West‘“**, (with Jessica CRIVELLI) [An „Urban Regime“ in Zurich? Single Case Study on the Development Project „Zurich West“]. In: Daniel Kübler and Urs Scheuss (eds.): *Lokalpolitische Strukturen und Prozesse. Ergebnisse eines Forschungsseminars*. Studien zur Politikwissenschaft Nr. 324. Zürich: Institut für Politikwissenschaft. 15–36.

## *Articles in Non-Peer-Reviewed Journals, Popular Scientific Contributions*

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- 2015     **„Wie man das Milizsystem verändern muss, damit es überlebt“** [How to adapt the laymen system so it can survive]. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, January 25.
- 2011     **„Politik – ein Kinderspiel?“** (with Oliver Krömmer and Anita Manatschal). [Politics – a Child’s Play?], *POLIS*, 4(2): 12–14.

## *Research Reports*

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- 2014     ***Die Milizorganisation der Gemeindeexekutiven im Kanton Aargau. Rekrutierungsprobleme und Reformvorschläge*** (with Andreas Rohner, Thomas Zenger, and Daniel Kübler) [Laymen organisation of municipal executives in the canton of Argovia]. Study report No. 4. Aarau: Centre for Democracy Studies Aarau. Online: [http://www.zdaarau.ch/dokumente/de/Forschungsberichte/No4\\_Milizorganisation\\_Gemeinden-AG\\_2014.pdf](http://www.zdaarau.ch/dokumente/de/Forschungsberichte/No4_Milizorganisation_Gemeinden-AG_2014.pdf) [accessed: 12.1.2015].

## *Conference Papers*

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- 2014     **“The Democratic Foundations of the Just City: Towards a Comparative Framework”**, paper presented at the City Futures III in Paris, Joint Conference by EURA and UAA. Online: [www.univ-paris-est.fr/fichiers/candidatures/154-1401267311-Dlabac\\_The\\_democratic\\_foundations\\_of\\_the\\_Just\\_City.pdf](http://www.univ-paris-est.fr/fichiers/candidatures/154-1401267311-Dlabac_The_democratic_foundations_of_the_Just_City.pdf) [accessed: 9.9.2013].
- 2013     **„Assessing Democratic Urban Governance: Towards a Comparative Framework“**, paper presented at four conferences: WPSA meeting in Hollywood CA, UAA conference in San Francisco CA, MPSA in Chicago IL, and CPSA in Victoria BC. Online: [http://wpsa.research.pdx.edu/papers/docs/Democratic\\_Urban\\_Governance\\_Dlabac.pdf](http://wpsa.research.pdx.edu/papers/docs/Democratic_Urban_Governance_Dlabac.pdf) [accessed: 8.4.2013].
- 2012     **„Assessing Liberal and Radical Democracy and its Political Support“** (with Hans-Peter Schaub), paper presented at the EPSA General Conference in Berlin.
- 2011     **„Measuring Liberal and Radical Dimensions of Democracy in Subnational Political Systems“** (with Hans-Peter Schaub), paper presented at the EPSA General Conference in Dublin.
- 2011     **„Die politische Effektivität liberaler und partizipatorischer Demokratien und die Rolle demokratischer Inklusion. Eine vergleichende Analyse der Schweizer Kantone“** [The Political Effectiveness of Liberal and Participatory Democracies and the Role of Democratic Inclusion. A Comparative Analysis of the Swiss Cantons]. Paper presented at the Dreiländertagung in Basel.
- 2010     **„Securing Legitimacy. Liberal or Radical Democracy? A Comparative Analysis of the Swiss Cantons“**, paper for the APSA Annual Meeting in Washington. Online: [http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=1657499](http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1657499) [accessed: 25.6.2011]
- 2009     **„Messung liberaler und radikaler Demokratiequalität in subnationalen Systemen“** (with Hans-Peter Schaub) [Measuring Liberal and Radical Quality of Democracy in Subnational Systems]. Paper presented at the Conference „Institutionen und Prozesse“ [Institutions and Processes], University of Technology Darmstadt.

- 2009 **„Measuring the Liberal and the Radical Quality of Democracy in Subnational Political Systems“** (with Hans-Peter Schaub). Paper presented at the ECPR General Conference, University of Potsdam.
- 2008 **„Messung liberaler und radikaler Demokratiequalität in subnationalen politischen Systemen“** (with Hans-Peter Schaub) [Measuring Liberal and Radical Quality of Democracy in Subnational Systems]. Paper presented at the Conference "Die Verfassung der Demokratien" at the University of Osnabrück.

### *Unpublished Manuscripts*

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- 2012 *Datensatz Demokratiequalität in den Schweizer Kantonen* (with Hans-Peter Schaub) [Dataset Quality of Democracy in the Swiss Cantons]. Bern: University of Bern.
- 2007 *Exploring the Scope for Regional Innovation Policies in the Czech Republic. Comparative Case Study of the South Moravian Region and the Moravian-Silesian Region.* Master's thesis at the Institute of Political Science, University of Zurich. Supervision by Prof. Dr. Daniel Kübler and assistant Nico van der Heiden, MA. Zurich: Institute of Political Science.
- 2006 *Městský režim v ČR a dotace ze Strukturálního fondu Evropské unie. Případová studie města Hradec Králové* [Urban Regime in the Czech Republic and Donations from the EU Structural Funds. Single Case Study for Hradec Králové]. Term paper at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Charles University in Prague.
- 2005 **„Transformation postkommunistischer Gesellschaften in Mitteleuropa: Überlegungen zu Mead und Habermas“** [Transformation of Post-Communist Societies in Central Europe: Thoughts on Mead and Habermas]. Term paper within the seminar of Prof. Dr. Georg Kohler and Prof. Dr. Francis Cheneval at the University of Zurich.