

Oliver Dlabac

Particulars

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



Short Profile

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

Education

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

University of 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

Centre for Democracy Studies Aarau (ZDA) / University of Zurich

Since 10/2013

- Senior Research Fellow, leader of the research group on Local Democracy (1 PhD student, 3 assistants)
- Project on “School governance and social mixing”; CHF 85’000 (2018-2019), co-funded by the Foundation Mercator Switzerland and the Zurich Integration Office. Exchange partners: Venla Bernelius (Helsinki) and Willem Boterman (Amsterdam) [Follow-up project for 2020 planned]
- Grant holder of the international SNSF-project “The democratic foundations of the Just City”, investigating Birmingham, Lyon and Zurich; EUR 275’000 (2017-2020)
- Participant of EURA research network on “Local State-Society Relations in Europe” (2017-2020)
- Co-investigator in the SNSF-project “Role models, spillovers, and the supply side of women's political representation” by Fabrizio Gilardi; CHF 254’000 (2015-2017)
- Responsible for the second round of the European Mayor survey in Switzerland (2014-2017): <https://europeanmayors.wordpress.com>; leader of the international working group on vertical power relations and rescaling of the state
- Convenor of SPSA working group “Federalism & Territorial Politics”

Experience in Teaching and Public Relations

- Advanced BA lecture on “Policy Analysis” at University of Zurich (2018)
- Yearly seminar on “Decentralization, Local Democracy, and Social Justice” at University of Zurich (for BA students in 2014, for MA students since 2015)
- Workshops on Decentralisation and Local Democracy for Ethiopian and Mongolian official delegations (since 2014)
- Twenty-four hour Instructional Skills Workshop at the University of British Columbia (2013)
- Supervision of several seminar and master’s theses under Prof. Dr. Daniel Kübler (since 2015) and Adrian Vatter (2009-2012)
- Reviewer for the International Journal of Urban & Regional Research; Urban Studies; Swiss Political Science Review; Spanish Journal of Political Science; IBH-Labs program/Interreg V
- Main organizer of the international symposium “Strong Democracies, Smart Cities? Swiss & Canadian Experiences” (2013): <http://www.democracy.arts.ubc.ca/2013/04/11/smartcities/>

Languages

German	First language
Spanish	Mother tongue (I grew up with three languages.)
Czech	Mother tongue
French	Advanced (written and verbal)
English	Proficiency (written and verbal), semester abroad at the San Antonio College, Texas / USA, year abroad at the University of British Columbia, Canada
Italian	Basic skills

Computer Skills

Scientific Software R, STATA, SPSS, MLwiN, QGIS, Atlas.ti, Ucinet, LimeSurvey

Publications

Monographs and Editorships

- 2015 **Demokratie in der Gemeinde** (with Daniel Kübler, eds.) [Democracy in the municipality]. Schriften zur Demokratieforschung No. 11. Zürich/Basel/Genf: Schulthess.
- 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

- 2018 **“Mayoral Scalar Strategies and the Role of the Central State after the Financial Crisis”**. *Local Government Studies* 44(2): 204–228.
- “Metropolitan Challenges and Reform Pressures across Europe – the Perspectives of City Mayors”** (with Lluís Medir, Mariona Tomàs and Marta Lackowska). *Local Government Studies* 44(2): 229–254.
- 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 **„Liberale Romandie, radikale Deutschschweiz? Kantonale Demokratien zwischen Repräsentation und Partizipation”** (with Marc Bühlmann, Adrian Vatter, 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 Marc Bühlmann, Adrian Vatter, and 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

- 2019 **“Local state-society relations in Switzerland”**. In: Filipe Teles, Adam Gendzwill, Cristina Stanus, Hubert Heinelt (eds.): *Close Ties in European Local Governance: Linking Local State and Society (Vol. 1)*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan. [Accepted for publication.]

- 2019 **“Schweizer Gemeindedemokratie zwischen Gemeinschaft und Wettbewerb”** (with Philippe Rochat) [Swiss local democracy between community and competition]. In: Daniel Kübler, Andreas Glaser and Monika Waldis (eds.): *Brennpunkt Demokratie. 10 Jahre Zentrum für Demokratie Aarau*. Baden: Hier und Jetzt Verlag, 206–222.
- 2018 **“Vertical Relations after the Financial Crisis”** (with Marta Lackowska and Daniel Kübler). In: Hubert Heinelt, Annick Magnier, Marcello Cabria and Herwig Reynaert (eds.): *Political Leaders and Changing Local Democracy – The European Mayor*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan. 297–326.
- 2016 **„Lokale Autonomie und Milizprinzip unter veränderten Vorzeichen – Neue Modelle der Gemeinde- und Schulorganisation“** [Local autonomy and laymen principle under changed circumstances – new models of municipal and school organisation]. In: Markus Heinzer and Judith Hangartner (eds.): *Gemeinden in der Schul-Governance der Schweiz – Steuerungskultur im Umbruch*, Educational Governance. Wiesbaden: Springer VS. 125–145.
- 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. 35–57.

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

- 2019 **Book review** (Freitag Markus, Pirmin Bundi, Martina Flick Witzig: *Milizarbeit in der Schweiz*), *Swiss Political Science Review*. [Accepted for publication.]
- „Quartier bildet“** [Neighbourhood makes for education]. Special issue including commented analyses and abstracts on ongoing research projects. *Hochparterre*. April 2019. https://issuu.com/hochparterre/docs/hochparterre_quartierentwicklung_20 [accessed: 3.7.2019].
- 2018 **„Politik nebenbei. Bald vorbei?“** [Laymen politics, over soon?]. Lengthy radio interview. *Kontext (SRF)*. July 4. <https://www.srf.ch/play/radio/kontext/audio/politik-nebenbei--bald-vorbei?id=ce0cab77-abc4-48f7-b7da-ccb1583f3dba> [accessed: 4.7.2018].
- 2017 **„Bedrängte lokale Schulbehörden“** (with Judith Hangartner) [Local school boards under pressure]. *Aargauer Zeitung*, February 11.
- 2016 **„Zur Koordination der Quartiere“** [On the coordination of neighbourhoods]. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, September 21.
- „Ehre allein reicht nicht als Lohn“** [Honour alone doesn't make for a pay]. *Tages-Anzeiger*, July 9.
- 2015 **„Mit Straffung und Entlastung die Milizstrukturen in kleinen Gemeinden erhalten“** [In favour of a streamlining and relief of laymen structures in small municipalities]. *Centralblatt des Schweizerischen Zofingervereins*, 156(1). Online-version available on DeFacto platform: <http://www.defacto.expert/2015/11/02/straffung-und-entlastung-der-milizstrukturen/> [accessed: 21.12.2015].
- 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.

Research Reports

- 2019 ***Durchmischung in städtischen Schulen – eine politische Aufgabe? Pilotstudie: Stadt Zürich*** (with Adina Amrhein) [Social mixing in urban public schools – a political task? Pilot study: City of Zurich]. Study report No. 17. Aarau: Centre for Democracy Studies Aarau. Online: <https://zdaarau.ch/dokumente/SB-17-Durchmischung-Schulen-ZDA.pdf> [accessed: 18.11.2019].
- 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: https://www.zdaarau.ch/dokumente/SB-04_Milizorganisation-ZDA.pdf [accessed: 5.9.2017].

Data Sets

- 2017 ***Data set on municipal elections in 10 Swiss cantons, 1959-2015*** (with Fabrizio Gilardi). Unpublished. Zurich: University of Zurich.
- 2012 ***Datensatz zur Demokratiequalität in den Schweizer Kantonen, 1979-2009*** (with Hans-Peter Schaub) [Data set on the quality of democracy in the Swiss cantons, 1979-2009]. Bern: University of Bern, Institute of Political Science.

Conference Papers

- 2019 **“Spatializing ‘just city planning’: An evaluation of citywide planning policies in relation to ghettoization and gentrification”** (with Roman Zwicky, Charlotte Hoole, Eric Chu and Peter Lee), paper presented at the City Futures conference (EURA/UAA) in Dublin.
- “The democratic decline in rural towns and agglomerations. The case of electoral competition and turnout in Switzerland”**, presentation held at the SPSA-Congress in Zurich.
- 2018 **“‘Urban interventionism’ in welfare and planning: National typologies and local ‘cultures’”** (with Juliet Carpenter, Patrícia Pereira and Roman Zwicky), paper presented at a special issue workshop in Florence.
- “Switzerland: Are School Boards Using Their Leeway for School Mixing?”** (with Adina Amrhein), presentation held at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers in New Orleans.
- “Towards the Just City? Attitudes of European City Mayors Heading Towards the Just City”** (with Roman Zwicky, Juliet Carpenter and Patrícia Pereira), paper presented at the Annual Congress of the Swiss Political Science Association in Geneva.
- 2017 **“Spillover effects in women’s political representation”** (with Fabrizio Gilardi), paper presented at the EPSA Annual General Conference in Milan.

- 2017 **“Women’s representation in Swiss municipalities, 1959–2014”** (with Fabrizio Gilardi), paper presented at the Annual Congress of the Swiss Political Science Association in St. Gallen.
- “Citizen-Elite Congruence? Attitudes towards Local Governance Reforms in Switzerland and Germany”** (with Michael A. Strebel), paper presented at the Annual Congress of the Swiss Political Science Association in St. Gallen.
- “What determines the structural power of business? City mayors and their concern for economic growth”** (with Raphael Reinke), paper presented at the Annual Congress of the Swiss Political Science Association in St. Gallen.
- 2016 **“Leading the Inclusive City in Switzerland – Cooperation, Strategy, or Both?”** (with Lineo Devecchi and Jasmin Gisiger), paper presented at the Annual Congress of the Swiss Political Science Association in Basel.
- 2015 **“The Democratic Foundations of the Just City: Comparing Urban Planning Politics in Lyon and Zurich”** (with Juliet Carpenter and Roman Zwicky), paper presented at the AESOP conference in Prague.
- 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: 9.9.2014].
- 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 [accessed: 8.4.2013].