

CONTACT INFORMATION	Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies European University Institute Via Boccaccio 121 50133 Florence, Italy	 delia.zollinger@eui.eu  delia.zollinger@ipz.uzh.ch  deliazollinger.ch  0000-0001-8174-0438
CURRENT POSITION	EUI Transnational Fellow , Robert Schuman Centre For Advanced Studies, European University Institute	9/2025 – 6/2026
	Postdoctoral researcher , Department of Political Science, University of Zurich (<i>on leave 9/2025 – 6/2026</i>)	2/2023 – present
EDUCATION	PhD in Political Science , University of Zurich (<i>summa cum laude</i>) Committee: Silja Häusermann (UZH, advisor), Thomas Kurer (UZH), Catherine De Vries (Bocconi), Sara Hobolt (LSE)	2/2019 – 1/2023
	MSc in Comparative Politics (<i>with Distinction</i>), Specialism: Comparative Political Economy London School of Economics and Political Science	9/2017 – 11/2018
	BA in Social Sciences (<i>summa cum laude</i>), Major: Political Science, minors: Law and Arabic, University of Zurich	8/2013 – 1/2017
PREVIOUS ACADEMIC POSITIONS	SNSF Doc.CH grant holder , Department of Political Science, University of Zurich	9/2019 – 6/2023
	Research and teaching assistant , Department of Political Science, University of Zurich	7/2018 – 8/2019, 7/2017 – 8/2017
	Research assistant , III, London School of Economics and Political Science	3/2018 – 6/2018
	Research assistant , Immigration Policy Lab, University of Zurich	1/2016 – 1/2017
VISITING POSITIONS	Visiting fellow , University of Barcelona	4/2024 – 5/2024
	Visiting fellow , Nuffield College, Oxford University	1/2024 – 2/2024
	Visiting fellow , Harvard University	1/2022 – 6/2022
	Visiting researcher (online), European University Institute	3/2021 – 6/2021
PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES	Google Scholar Profile Marco Steenbergen, Delia Zollinger, Silja Häusermann, Simon Bornschieer, and Lukas Hafert. 2025. “The Universalist Divide: Cleavages, Identities, and Party Preferences in the	

EU". *Journal of European Public Policy* 33(2): 495–527

Breyer, Magdalena, Tabea Palmtag, and Delia Zollinger. 2025. "Narratives of Backlash? Perceptions of Changing Status Hierarchies in Open-Ended Survey Responses". *Comparative Political Studies*, OnlineFirst.

Attewell, David and Delia Zollinger. 2025. "Educational Networks, Social Closure, and Political Divides". *British Journal of Political Science* 55(e143): 1-28.

Zollinger, Delia and David Attewell. 2025. "Updating Cleavage Theory for the 21st Century". *West European Politics*, 49(3): 591–616.

Häusermann, Silja, Tabea Palmtag, Delia Zollinger, Tarik Abou-Chadi, Stefanie Walter, and Sarah Berkinshaw. 2025. "Politicizing Inequality in Times of Sociocultural Conflict: How New Left and Far Right Voters Think About Inequality". *Politics & Society* 53(4): 630-655.

Häusermann, Silja, Simon Bornschie, Delia Zollinger, and Marco Steenbergen. 2025. "Realignment within the Right Field: Competition between the Mainstream Right and the Far Right." *West European Politics* 49(3): 812–840.

Van Staaldunin, Briitta and Delia Zollinger. 2024. "Perceptions of Social Mobility, Gender, and Progressive Politics." *Comparative Political Studies* 58(12): 2718-2749.

Westheuser, Linus and Delia Zollinger. 2024. "Cleavage Theory meets Bourdieu. An Agenda for Studying New Cleavage Identities". *European Political Science Review* 17: 110-127.

Zollinger, Delia. 2024. "Place-based Identities and Cleavage Formation in the Knowledge Society". *Electoral Studies* 88, 1-14.

Häusermann, Silja, Thomas Kurer, and Delia Zollinger. 2023. "Aspiration versus Apprehension: Economic Opportunities and Electoral Preferences". *British Journal of Political Science* 53: 1230–1251.

Zollinger, Delia. 2022. "Cleavage Identities in Voters' Own Words: Harnessing Open-Ended Survey Responses". *American Journal of Political Science* 68(1): 139-159.

Bornschie, Simon, Silja Häusermann, Delia Zollinger, and Céline Colombo. 2021. "How 'Us' and 'Them' Relates to Voting Behavior – Social Structure, Social Identities, and Electoral Choice". *Comparative Political Studies* 54(12): 2087-2122.

BOOKS &
BOOK CHAPTERS

Bornschie, Simon, Lukas Haffert, Silja Häusermann, Marco Steenbergen, and Delia Zollinger. 2024. *Cleavage Formation in the 21st Century. How Social Identities Shape Voting Behavior in Contexts of Electoral Realignment*. Cambridge, New York: Cambridge University Press.

Zollinger, Delia, and Denise Traber. 2023. "The Ideological Space in Swiss Politics: Voters, Parties, and Realignment". In *The Oxford Handbook of Swiss Politics*, eds. Patrick Emmenegger et al. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Häusermann, Silja, Tarik Abou-Chadi, Reto Bürgisser, Matthias Enggist, Reto Mitteregger, Nadja Mosimann, Delia Zollinger. 2022. *Wählerschaft und Perspektiven der Schweizer Sozialdemokratie*. Zürich: NZZ Verlag.

BOOK REVIEWS

Zollinger, Delia. 2024. "Verkratert statt gespalten" – Von der Politisierung neuer Konfliktstrukturen in der Gegenwartsgesellschaft. Über: Mau/Lux/Westheuser (2023), "Triggerpunkte". *Gesellschaft. Wirtschaft. Politik*. 73(1): 106-110.

UNDER REVIEW

"Recognition Deprivation and Far Right Voters' Sources of Subjective Status" (with Silja Häusermann). *Revise & Resubmit*.

“Undeserving Winners’ or ‘Undeserved Losers’? Two Types of Societal Discontent and their Relation to Vote Choice” (with Tabea Palmtag and Magda Breyer). *Revise & Resubmit*.

“Between Optimism and Grievances: The Politics of Upwardly Mobile Women in Knowledge Societies” (with Briitta Van Staaldouin)

“Social Cleavages”, chapter in *An Introduction to Voting Behaviour* (handbook under contract with *Oxford University Press*, edited by Pavlos Vasilopoulos, Anna Sanders, and Ruth Dassonneville)

WORK
IN PROGRESS

“Social Cleavages and Voting in European Democracies” (with Nils-Christian Bormann, Sara Hobolt, Olga Jerjomina, and Carl-Müller-Crepon)

“Income and Educational Mobility and the Gender Gap in Politics” (with Thomas Kurer, Tabea Palmtag, and Colin Stalder)

“Perceptions of Inequality and Vote Choice” (with Silja Häusermann and Tabea Palmtag)

“Voters’ Mental Maps of Group Representation as an Indicator of Cleavage Formation” (with Simon Borschier and Silja Häusermann)

OUTREACH

Contributor to the Progressive Politics Research Network ([PPRNeT](#)), meetings in 2023 (Zurich) and 2025 (Berlin)

Several presentations following the publication of a [comparative book on Social Democracy in Switzerland](#) (with Häusermann, Abou-Chadi, Bürgisser, et al.), at a book launch, an input for the Social Democratic members of the national parliament (“SP-Fraktion”), for the Social Democrats of the Canton of Zurich, or other local party sections (2022-2024).

Further training for secondary school teachers (“Maturitätsschulen”), one-day course leading up to Swiss federal elections, “From Consensus Democracy to Polarization”, 2023.

Cited in: Buff, Vanessa and Andres Eberhard. 2023. Von Pol zu Pol. *Bref*, [November 2023](#).

Zollinger, Delia. 2023. “Wo liegt das Potenzial der SP?” *DeFacto*, [October 2023](#).

Traber, Denise and Delia Zollinger. 2023. “Neue Gräben durchziehen das Land”. *Schweizer Monat*, [October 2023](#).

Häusermann, Silja, Tarik Abou-Chadi, Reto Bürgisser, Matthias Enggist, Reto Mitteregger, Nadja Mosimann, Delia Zollinger. 2022. “Policy Brief: Wählerwanderungen Rund um die Schweizer Sozialdemokratie” *Anny Klawa-Morf Stiftung*, [November 2022](#) → media articles (*DeFacto*) in [German](#) and [French](#)

Häusermann, Silja, Tarik Abou-Chadi, Reto Bürgisser, Matthias Enggist, Reto Mitteregger, Nadja Mosimann, Delia Zollinger. 2022. “Policy Brief: Das Wählerpotenzial der Schweizer Sozialdemokratie” *Anny Klawa-Morf Stiftung*, [November 2022](#) → media articles (*DeFacto*) in [German](#) and [French](#)

Zollinger, Delia. 2021. “Voters’ Notions of ‘Us’ and ‘Them’ May Consolidate a New Cleavage in Western European Politics”. *LSE Blog – European Politics and Policy of the London School of Economics*, [November 2021](#).

Zollinger, Delia. 2021. “Nosotros contra ellos, nueva y relevante división política en Europa occidental”. *Agenda Pública*, [September 2021](#).

Cornago Bonal, Luis, and Delia Zollinger. 2018. “Immigration, Welfare Chauvinism and the Support for Radical Right Parties in Europe.” *LSE Blog – Euro Crisis in the Press*, [March 2018](#).

GRANTS	SNSF Ambizione Grant , “Varieties of Aspirational Politics in Advanced Knowledge Societies” Swiss National Science Foundation (Grant No. 233191, CHF 793'401)	2026 – 2030 start: 07/2026
	UZH Global Strategy and Partnerships Funding Scheme , “Upward Mobility, Gender, and Electoral Politics” (with Briitta Van Staalduinen), University of Zurich (CHF 16'000)	2023
	GRC Short Grant , “Upward Mobility, Gender, and Electoral Politics”, University of Zurich (CHF 5'000)	2023
	SNSF Doc.CH Grant for PhD project, “Social Identities in the Politics of the Knowledge Economy”, Swiss National Science Foundation (Grant No. 188365, CHF 232'452)	2019 – 2023
	IPZ Inequality Research Fund project grant, “Education Systems and Political Divides” (with David Attewell), University of Zurich (CHF 12'000)	2022
	IPZ Inequality Research Fund project grant, “Understanding Shifting Social Status Perceptions” (with Magdalena Breyer), University of Zurich (CHF 12'000)	2021
	Doc.CH Mobility Grant , Swiss National Science Foundation (Grant No. 188365/2, CHF 14'450)	2020
AWARDS	Young Scholar Award (PhD prize), Swiss Political Science Association	2025
	SIAF Award for PhD thesis, Swiss Institute of International Studies	2024
	Jean Blondel PhD Prize for the best doctoral thesis in politics, European Consortium for Political Research	2023
	MSc Comparative Politics Prize for best overall performance, Department of Government, LSE	2018
	Merit scholarship for LSE MSc studies, Swiss Study Foundation	2017 – 2018
	Prize for the best BA thesis, Department of Political Science, UZH	2016
CONFERENCE TALKS	APSA (American Political Science Association)	2019, 2020*
	CES (International Conference of Europeanists)	2019, 2020*, 2021*, 2023, 2024
	COMPTEXT (on quantitative text analysis)	2020*
	DVPW (German Political Science Association)	2021*
	ECPR (European Consortium for Political Research)	2020*
	ECPR Joint Sessions	2021*, 2023, 2024
	EPSA (European Political Science Association)	2023, 2025
	Graduate Network Conference	2021*
	MPSA (Midwest Political Science Association)	2022
	SVPW (Swiss Political Science Association)	2019, 2020, 2023, 2025, 2026
INVITED TALKS	2026: Luiss University (Rome), European University Institute (Florence), University of	

*Virtual/modified event due to Covid-19.

Vienna, *University of Milan (scheduled)*

2025: University of Mainz, University of Göttingen, University of Gothenburg, Goethe University (Frankfurt), Collegio Carlo Alberto (Turin), European University Institute (Florence), University College Dublin (online)

2024: Nuffield College (University of Oxford), Trinity College Dublin, University of Manchester, University of Konstanz, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, University of Barcelona, European University Institute (Florence), University of Lausanne, University of Vienna

2023: University of Konstanz, University of Mannheim, Goethe University (Frankfurt), European Commission Joint Research Center (Sevilla)

2022: London School of Economics (online), WZB Berlin Social Science Center (online), Text-As-Data Reading Group (online), University of Konstanz, University of Barcelona

2021: Harvard University (online)

2019: Scuola Normale Superiore (Florence)

TEACHING AND SUPERVISION

Technological Change, Social Transformations, and Political Behavior (instructor and BA thesis supervisor), undergraduate seminar, *AY 2023/2024, AY 2024/2025*

The Political Economy of Gender Inequality: From Industrial to Knowledge Societies (instructor), Master's seminar, *spring term 2024, spring term 2025*

Political Systems and Theories (instructor), 5 sessions in introductory undergraduate lecture, *fall term 2024*

Social Democracy in the 21st Century in Switzerland and Europe (instructor), undergraduate seminar, *spring term 2023*

Inequality and Identity in Globalized Knowledge Societies (instructor), undergraduate seminar, *fall term 2019, fall term 2020, fall term 2021*

Swiss Politics from a Comparative Perspective (teaching assistant), undergraduate lecture, *spring term 2019*

States and Markets – Introduction to Comparative Political Economy (instructor), undergraduate lecture, *fall term 2018*

Supervision: >15 BA theses & 5 MA theses

SERVICE

Peer reviewer for journals, book presses, and funding bodies: *Acta Politica, American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, British Journal of Political Science, Cambridge University Press, Comparative Political Studies, Electoral Studies, European Journal of Political Research, European Political Science Review, European Politics and Society, Government and Opposition, German Research Foundation (DFG), International Journal of Public Opinion Research, Journal of European Public Policy, Journal of Politics, Legislative Studies Quarterly, Party Politics, Perspectives on Politics, Political Behavior, Political Geography, Political Studies, Research and Politics, Socio-Economic Review, Swiss Political Science Review, West European Politics, World Politics*

Departmental service: Co-organizer of the PhD/postdoc peergroup seminar series at the Department of Political Science, University of Zurich (IPZ) (2021 – 2024); representative of the IPZ to the Graduate Network Conference (2021 – 2023); co-organizer and co-applicant for funding of the IPZ PhD/postdoc peergroup (2018 – 2021)

Workshop organization: Co-director of a workshop on “Cleavage Politics in Western Democracies” (with Gary Marks), ECPR Joint Sessions 2024; co-organizer of a workshop

on “Cleavage Formation in the 21st Century” (with Silja Häusermann, University of Zurich, 2022); co-organizer of a workshop series “Status Hierarchies in the Knowledge Economy” (with Jane Gingrich, Thomas Kurer, Frieder Mitsch, and David Soskice, online, 2021-2022)

Special issue guest editor (with David Attewell): “[Cleavage Politics in Western Democracies](#)”, *West European Politics* (Vol 49, No 3, 2025)

SKILLS

Languages: German (native), English (native), Spanish (C1/advanced), French (B2/upper intermediate), Italian (B1/intermediate), Arabic (A2/elementary)

Advanced methods training: Causal Inference (2015), Applied Regression Analysis (2018), Zurich Summer School for Women in Political Methodology (2019), Survey Research (2019), Quantitative Text Analysis (2019), Foundations of Programming with Python (2019), Fundamentals of Focus Groups (2021)

Didactics: Participation in Teaching Skills Program, University of Zurich