

LAURENCE BRANDENBERGER

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Education

- 2019 PhD in Political Science, University of Bern, Department of Social Sciences, *summa cum laude*
- 2015 Santa Fe Institute, Complex Systems Summer School, Santa Fe, NM
- 2014 MA in Sociology, University of Bern, *summa cum laude*
- 2013 BA in Sociology, University of Bern

Employment

- 2024 - Senior scientist at University of Zurich, Chair of Political Methodology
- 2022 - 2024 Senior scientist at ETH Zurich, Chair of Systems Design
- 2018 - 2022 Post-Doc at ETH Zurich, Chair of Systems Design
- 2014 - 2019 PhD student at Eawag, the Water Research Institute of ETH Domain, Department of Environmental Social Sciences (secondary affiliation: University of Bern, Institute of Political Science)
Supervisors: Philip Leifeld (University of Essex) and Karin Ingold (University of Bern)
- 2015 Visiting scholar at the Department of Politics and Public Administration, University of Konstanz, Germany
- 2011 - 2014 Student research assistant of Prof. Ben Jann, Institute of Sociology, University of Bern
- 2011 Student research assistant of Prof. Axel Franzen and Katrin Botzen, M.A., Institute of Sociology, University of Bern

Project Funding and Major Grants (approx. 1'427'503 Euro)

- 2025 ETH Board, Swiss Data Science Center; Research project *MappingDemocraSci*. **Principal Investigator**. Project duration 04/2025–04/2027. **242,100 CHF**.
- 2024 SNF project funding. “Measuring political Success” (SNF grant number 10.003.190). **Principal Investigator**. Project duration 10/2024–09/2027. **803,825 CHF**.
- 2021 ETH Board, Swiss Data Science Center; Research Project *EvolvingDemocraSci*. **Co-Principal Investigator**. **263,110 CHF**.

Awards and Minor Grants (approx. 27'881 Euro)

- 2025 Institute of Political Science IPZ Research Grant; Research funding for an online survey experiment in Switzerland and the UK. PI, 7,200 CHF.

2023	SNF, Scientific Exchange Grant; Interdisciplinary workshop with 23 participants on the topic of "Measuring, Modeling and Mitigating Opinion Polarization and Political Cleavage (MMM)". Co-PI, 12,400 CHF.
2016	Travel Grant to attend the 33rd Annual Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology (Polmeth Conference), Houston TX, July/August 2016, \$1,567
2015	Grant to attend the Complex Systems Summer School at the Santa Fe Institute, Berne University Research Foundation (IMG), grant #4/15, \$4,400

Software Development

embed2discover	A web-application for supervised content analysis. Under development in collaboration with the Swiss Data Science Center.
data2neo	A Python-package for the transformation of various data sources into neo4j knowledge graphs. <i>Consultant</i> . Curated by Julian Minder.
pdf2data	A software-package for the Extraction of Data form PDF Documents. Under development in collaboration with the Swiss Data Science Center.
rem	R-package for the estimation of Relational Event Models. R package version 1.3.1. Latest Version on CRAN ; Github repository . <i>Creator, owner</i> .
ghypernet	R-package for the estimation of multi-edge network regressions. R package version 1.1.0. <i>Contributor</i> .

Teaching and Supervision

University Courses

Fall 2026	Einführung in die Methoden und Statistik. Bachelor lecture ($N > 280$), University of Zurich (UZH).
Fall 2026	Masterarbeit - Kolloquium. Master Seminar, UZH.
Spring 2026	Wie Polarisiert ist die Schweiz? Bachelor Seminar, UZH.
Spring 2026	Masterarbeit - Kolloquium. Master Seminar, UZH.
Spring 2026	Tackling Big Questions Using Social Data Science [co-teaching with Marco Steenbergen and Sophia Schlosser]. Bachelor Seminar, UZH.
Fall 2025	The Politics of Influence: Interest Groups, Lobbying, and Political Advocacy. Master/PhD Seminar, UZH.
Spring 2025	Divided We Stand: Tracing the Roots and Impact of Political Polarization. Bachelor Seminar, UZH.
Spring 2025	The Politics of Legislative Debates, Master/PhD Seminar with exercises, UZH.
Fall 2024	The Swiss Parliament in Comparison. Master/PhD Seminar with exercises, UZH.
Fall 2023	Data Science for Social Challenges [co-teaching with Ramona Roller]. Master/PhD Seminar, ETH Zurich.
Fall 2022	Data Science for Social Challenges [co-teaching with Ramona Roller, #363-1167-00L]. Master/PhD Seminar, ETH Zurich.

- Fall 2017 Social Networks [Soziale Netzwerke, #424297]. Proseminar, University of Bern.
- Fall 2016 Political Networks [Politische Netzwerke, #424297]. Proseminar, University of Bern.

Winter/Summer Schools and Workshops

- 2026 Introduction to Social Network Analysis. With Florence Metz. Workshop taught as part of the Programme Doctoral en Science Politique (PDSPO) hosted by the Conférence Universitaire de Suisse Occidentale, University of Lausanne, Lausanne (CH), March 25-27, 2026.
- 2025 From Entities to Edges: A Practical Introduction to Knowledge Graphs. Workshop taught at the University of Manchester, Manchester (UK), October 17, 2025.
- 2019 Introduction to Network Regression Models for multi-edge/weighted networks using the ghypernet-package in R. With Giona Casiraghi. Workshop taught at the European Conference on Social Networks 2019, EUSN, ETH Zurich, Zurich (CH), September 9-12, 2019.
- 2016 - 2018 Inferential Network Analysis (WD208). Teaching Assistant of Philip Leifeld at the ECPR Winter School in Methods & Techniques, University of Bamberg, Bamberg (DE). Annual one-week course (2016, 2017, 2018).

Thesis Supervision (* ongoing)

- 2027* Master Thesis of Sai Gaayaththiri Rasamanickam on stance detection in hierarchical topical spaces.
- 2027* Master Thesis of Silvana Grunder on detecting scepticism in legislative speeches.
- 2026* Master Thesis of Gresa Hajredini on how parliamentary newcomers spur polarization in debates.
- 2026* Master Thesis of Yanik Trachsler on the subsidiarity principle in Swiss health politics.
- 2026* Master Thesis of Viktor Burgi on representation of the working class.
- 2026 Master Thesis of Lea Eugster on measuring reputation-based success among members of parliament.
- 2026 Master Thesis of Danielle Sievi on assessing whether direct democratic institutions (and use) help curb financial dept in Swiss cantons.
- 2026 Master Thesis of Loukina Tille on drivers of effective fossil fuel project suspensions in international comparisons.
- 2026 Master Thesis of Sebastian Idzenga on cosponsorship-based ideology.
- 2025 Master Thesis of Lena Kesseli on eliciting party ideology from parliamentary speeches using (encoder-based) LLMs.
- 2025 Master Thesis of Marina Haller on decoding migration debates.
- 2020-2024 PhD Thesis of Sophia Schlosser. Second advisor. Defense: May 2024.

- 2023 Co-examiner of PhD Thesis of Giuseppe Arena, Tilburg University.
- 2022 Master Thesis of Vincent Jung on ideological embeddings of Swiss MPs.
- 2018 Bachelor Thesis of Marco Wyss on the potential bias students with migration background face when applying for apprenticeships.
- 2018 Bachelor Thesis of Oscar Thees on the use of hyperlink networks in social sciences. Co-supervision with Mario Angst.

Research Project Involvement

- 2025 - 2027 “MappingDemocraSci: From Text to Transparency: Mapping Political Advocacy and Stances” A Swiss Data Science Center (SDSC) project (PI: **Dr. Laurence Brandenberger**, Co-PI: Dr. Sophia Schlosser), funded by the ETH Board. 242,100 CHF.
- 2025 - 2028 “Measuring political Success” (SNF grant number 10.003.190). **PI: Dr. Laurence Brandenberger**, CO-PI: Dr. Luis Salamanca. Funded by the SNF, 803,825CHF.
- 2022 - 2024 “EvolvingDemocraSci: Advancing parliamentary data analysis: Linking issues and collaborations of individual politicians” A Swiss Data Science Center (SDSC) project (PI: Prof. Dr. Dr. Frank Schweitzer, Co-PI: **Dr. Laurence Brandenberger**), funded by the ETH Board. 263,110 CHF.
- 2019 - 2022 “Analyzing Co-Sponsorship Networks from 127 Years of the Swiss Federal Assembly” (Nr. 184963, PI: Prof. Dr. Dr. Frank Schweitzer, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF). Post-Doctoral researcher.
- 2018 - 2020 “A research platform for data-driven democracy studies in Switzerland - DemocraSci” A data science collaboration with the Swiss Data Science Center SDSC (PI: Prof. Dr. Dr. Frank Schweitzer), funded by the ETH Board. Research consultant.
- 2014 - 2017 “Overlapping Subsystems: Identification and Integration of Fragmented Games in Swiss Water Politics” (Nr. 149410, PI: Prof. Dr. Karin Ingold), funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF). Research assistant.

Third Mission: Knowledge Transfer and Outreach

Digitalization Efforts

- 2025- **Fachgruppe eCH** (e-government standards): Politische Geschäfte <https://www.ech.ch/de/der-verein/fachgruppen/politische-geschaefte>. Head of the sub-group on parliamentary affairs. We are developing a digital standard for encoding political data, with a particular focus on parliamentary data.
- 2026- **Sie Arbeiten Für Uns**: A website for understanding the performance of Swiss Members of Parliament.

Project Manager. The development of this website is part of the Swiss National Science Foundation project “Measuring Political Performance” (2025–2028). It will feature performance indicators for Swiss members of parliament, including policy-based, reputation-based, and career-based measures, as well as election-promise trackers.

2018- **DemocraSci Project: A Knowledge Graph of the Swiss Parliament.**
Head of the DemocraSci research group. We are compiling a large-scale, interlinked dataset in the form of a knowledge graph on the Swiss parliament. The data span the period from 1891 to the present and encompass all members of parliament, parliamentary bodies, and parliamentary activities. The project website is currently under development and will provide both researchers and the broader public with access to the data. To this end, we have built a platform that enables intuitive “walks” across the graph and invites users to explore the data freely.

Recruiting Outreach

2025 **IPZ meets Kanti**
As part of our department’s outreach program, we offer lectures and discussions with high school classes in order to familiarize students with political topics.
Most recent participation: Kanti Winterthur, September 23, 2025.

2025 **Trial lecture at the University Information Days** (September 3 and 4, 2026)
During the university information days, Dr. Sophia Schlosser and I delivered trial lectures for prospective students to encourage them to pursue a degree in political science. We focused on the topic of polarization around the world.

Social Groups Inside Academia

2026- **IPZ Diversity Group member**
The department’s diversity group meets four times a year to discuss pressing issues and organizes meet-ups and panel discussions for and with students.

2026 **Taskforce member “Journal Transition Swiss Political Science Review”**
Within the scope of this taskforce, we are planning the transition of the Swiss Political Science Review from Wiley to an open-source publisher.

2025- **Taskforce member “AI in Teaching”**
Within the scope of this taskforce, we discuss how best to help students navigate the use of generative AI in their learning. We also support fellow instructors and prepare factsheets and guidelines.

2024- **Social Learning Group co-founder**
Within the department, I co-founded a social learning group in which senior instructors address pressing student concerns and organize short crash courses. Topics include how to use LaTeX, how to interpret coefficient tables more easily, and how to cite AI-generated code.

Research Presentations Outside Academia

- 2021 Formal meeting with the **Swiss Parliamentary Services** to present the DemocraSci and SNF project (184963). Parliamentary Services (PS) in Bern, Switzerland, November 24, 2021. Participants: Philippe Schwab, Pierre-Hervé Freléchoz, Jacqueline Kucera, Simon Maag, Stefan Nellen (BAR), Prof. Dr. Simon Hug.
- 2019 Formal meeting with the **Head of Internal Affairs** to present the DemocraSci and SNF projects related to the creation of the Swiss Parliamentary Knowledge Graph. Bundeshaus, Bern, Switzerland, May 16, 2019. Participants: Jörg DeBernardi, Michael Gautschi, Jean-Lous Morard, Michael Kammerbauer, Beat Kuoni, Lukas Zollinger, Lukas Bruhin, Katharina Füglistner, Philippe Künzler, Stefan Nellen, Ruth Meier.
- 2019 Formal meeting with the **Federal Archives (BAR)** to present the DemocraSci and SNF projects related to the creation of the Swiss Parliamentary Knowledge Graph. Federal Archives, Bern, Switzerland, May 19, 2019. Participants: Philippe Künzler, Stefan Nellen.

Reviewing Activities

Journals: American Political Science Review, American Sociological Review, Advances in Complex Systems, European Journal of Political Research, European Union Politics, Legislative Studies Quarterly, Politics and Governance, Public Administration, Social Networks, Sociological Methods and Research, Swiss Political Science Review

Funding agencies: Schweizerischer Nationalfonds, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

Languages

German: mother tongue **English:** proficient **French:** advanced **Arabic:** beginner