

# Oliver Dlabac

## *Particulars*

---

Centre for Democracy Studies (ZDA)  
University of Zurich  
Küttigerstrasse 21  
5000 Aarau, Switzerland

+41 62 836 94 41  
[oliver.dlabac@zda.uzh.ch](mailto:oliver.dlabac@zda.uzh.ch)  
[www.dlabac.org](http://www.dlabac.org)

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*

---

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

---

- 2020 **“Towards the ‘just city’? Exploring the attitudes of European city mayors“** (with Roman Zwicky, Juliet Carpenter and Patricia Pereira). *Urban Research & Practice* (online first).
- “Urban interventionism' in welfare and planning: National typologies and 'local cultures' in Europe”** (with Juliet Carpenter, Patricia Pereira and Roman Zwicky). *Journal of Urban Affairs* (accepted for publication).
- 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 **„Libérale 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

---

- 2020 **“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 – Steuereungskultur 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* 25(2): 322–324.
- „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](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](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 Patricia 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.
- “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](http://wpsa.research.pdx.edu/papers/docs/Democratic_Urban_Governance_Dlabac.pdf) [accessed: 8.4.2013].