

# Eri Bertso

Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of St. Gallen  
Müller-Friedbergstrasse 8, 9000 St. Gallen, Switzerland  
[eri.bertsou@unisg.ch](mailto:eri.bertsou@unisg.ch) | <http://www.eribertsou.com>

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## Academic Employment

- 2022-  
present Assistant Professor of Political Science and SNF Eccellenza Grant Holder  
University of St. Gallen, Department of Political Science  
*SNF Eccellenzat Grant (Starting Grant):* Varieties of Expertise (VAR-EXP)  
Understanding public demand for independent experts in democratic politics  
(2022-2027). Supervising: 2 PhD Researchers, 2 Research Assistants.
- 2020-  
present Associate Researcher  
Department of Political Science, University of Zurich
- 2020-  
present Affiliated Researcher  
Electoral Psychology Observatory, London School of Economics
- 2020-  
present Affiliated Researcher  
European Governance and Politics Program Schuman Center, European  
University Institute
- 02-10/2021 Parental leave, Medical leave
- 2016- 2022 Senior Researcher (Oberassistent) in Comparative Politics & Director of the  
Research Area on Technocracy  
University of Zurich, Department of Political Science
- 05-08/2020 Visiting Fellow (*Postponed due to Covid19 pandemic*)  
European University Institute (invited by Prof. Elias Dinas)
- 06-12/2018 Parental leave
- 2015 - 2016 Pre-doctoral Researcher in Comparative Politics  
University of Zurich, Department of Political Science
- 2013 - 2015 Pre-doctoral Researcher in Political Behaviour  
London School of Economics, Department of Government

## Education

- 2011 - 2016 *PhD in Government*, London School of Economics  
Awarded on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
*Thesis Title:* Citizen attitudes of political distrust: Examining distrust through  
technical, ethical and interest-based evaluations.  
*Supervisor:* Prof. Michael Bruter

*Examiners:* Prof. Simon Hix (London School of Economics), Prof. Eva Anduiza (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

- 2013 - 2015 *PGCertHE Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education*  
London School of Economics, Fellow at the Higher Education Academy (HEA)
- 2007 - 2008 *MSc in Politics and Communication*  
London School of Economics
- 2004 - 2007 *BA (Hons) in Philosophy and Literature*  
University of Warwick

## **Publications**

### PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Bertsou, Eri (2021). "Bring in the Experts? Citizen Preferences for Expert Involvement in Political Decision-Making." *European Journal of Political Research*, published online. doi: doi.org/10.1111/1475-6765.12448

Bertsou, Eri and Daniele Caramani (2020). "People Haven't Had Enough of Experts: Technocratic Attitudes among European Citizens." *American Journal of Political Science*, published online. doi: doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12554

Bertsou, Eri (2019). "Rethinking Political Distrust." *European Political Science Review*, 11(2): 213-230. doi:10.1017/S1755773919000080.

Bertsou, Eri (2019). "Political Distrust and its Discontents: Exploring the Meaning, Expression and Significance of Political Distrust." *Societies*, 9(4): 72.

Bertsou, Eri and Giulia Pastorella (2017). "Technocratic Attitudes: A Citizens' Perspective of Expert Decision-Making." *West European Politics*, 40(2): 430-58. doi:10.1080/01402382.2016.1242046.

### JOURNAL ARTICLES UNDER REVIEW

Bertsou, Eri. "The Electoral Implications of Technocratic Attitudes." *Paper Manuscript Under Review*.

### WORKING PAPERS

"The Ideological Profile of the Technocratic Citizen" (with Daniele Caramani and Jelle Koedam). *Working paper presented at EPSA annual meeting, June 2022*.

"Technocratic attitudes during the COVID19 crisis: Persistence and increase of preferences for expertise in politics" (with Daniele Caramani). *Working paper presented at EPSA annual meeting, June 2022*.

"Winners' Restraint: When do "winners" reject political processes due to procedural violations." (with Hannah Werner and Sofie Marien). *Working paper to be presented at the ISPP Annual Meeting in Athens, July 2022*.

“Anything But Politics: The Overlap Between Populist and Technocratic Citizen Preferences.” *Working paper to be presented at the European University Institute in Spring 2021.*

“Distrusting Citizens: Revisiting the Concept and Measurement of Political Distrust and its Consequences.” (with Michael Bruter and Sarah Harrison). *Working paper presented at the TrustGov Workshop Series, July 27, 2020.*

“Representation at Any Cost? Changing Modes of Party Support and Implications for Political Behaviour.” *Paper prepared for submission.*

“Between Direct Democracy and Representation: the Case of Brexit” (with Daniele Caramani). Jean Monnet Fellowship Conference, EUI, Florence, June 22-23 2017. *Paper prepared for submission.*

## PEER-REVIEWED BOOKS

Eri Bertsou and Daniele Caramani (Eds.) (2020). *The Technocratic Challenge to Democracy*. London: Routledge.

Own contributions

Bertsou, Eri. “Technocracy and Democracy: Friends or Foes”.

Bertsou, Eri and Daniele Caramani. “Measuring Technocracy”.

## BOOK MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Eri Bertsou. *It's Distrust Stupid! Why Citizens Distrust Politics and What It Means For Western Democracies*. Monograph prepared for submission in 2021.

## DATASETS

Daniele Caramani, Eri Bertsou and Jelle Koedam (2020). “Citizens’ Technocratic Attitudes: A Survey of 15 Democracies.” European University Institute.

Bertsou, Eri and Daniele Caramani (2017). “Citizens’ Technocratic Attitudes: A Survey of Nine European Countries.” University of Zurich.

## Grants & Awards

2021      Eccellenza Professorial Fellowship Grant, Swiss National Science Foundation.  
Project title: Varieties of Expertise: Meeting Societal Demand for Independent Expertise in Democratic Politics. (CHF 1,500,000).

2020      Swiss National Foundation Scientific Exchanges Grant. Project title: Anything But Politics. (CHF 4,000).

University of Zurich Travel Grant for Visiting Fellowship at the European University Institute, Florence, Italy. (CHF 1,200).

2019

- Small grant for Research in Democratic Norm Erosion, Department of Political Science, University of Zurich (€2,000).
- 2017 Grant for Research in Technocratic Attitudes, Department of Political Science, University of Zurich (€40,000)
- 2012 - 2015 Research Scholarship for Doctoral Studies, Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation (£28,000)
- 2014 Baroness Birk Scholarship, LSE 2014 Departmental Award for Doctoral Candidates (£1,000)
- 2011 Research Scholarship towards MPhil/PhD in Government, Leventis Foundation Scholarship (£5,000)

## **Presentations, Invited Talks & Workshops**

### INVITED TALKS

- 2022 “The Ideological Profile of the Technocratic Citizen.” Invitation to the workshop “Rethink Europe: The Rising Challenges of Populism and Technocracy” organized by the European Studies Center, University of Pittsburgh, USA, April 3-5 2022.  
 “Winners’ Restraint: When do “winners” reject political processes due to procedural violations.” Invitation to the workshop “The Promises of Democracy: Self-Rule, Equality and Rationality” organized at the Villa Vigoni, Lake Como, Italy, May 27-28 2022.
- 2021 “Technocratic attitudes among citizens during COVID19s.” Invited Talk at the CEVIPOL SciencePo *University of Brussels ULB*, November 25, 2021.  
 “Citizen Technocratic Attitudes in Comparative Perspective: Evidence from non-European Democracies.” Invited Talk at the Comparative Politics and Political Economy Speaker Series. *University of Konstanz*, July 6, 2021.
- 2020 “Anything But Politics: The Overlap Between Populist and Technocratic Citizen Preferences.” Launch of the Electoral Psychology Observatory. *London School of Economics*, February 6, 2020.
- 2019 “Citizen Preference for Experts in Policy-Making.” Invited Talk at the Political Science Research Seminar. *University of St. Gallen*, December 3, 2019.
- 2018 “Technocratic Attitudes in Europe.” Workshop presentation ‘Between Issue Evolution and Populism: Causes and Consequences of Challenger Party Success in European Democracies.’ *University of Zurich*, March 15, 2018.
- 2017 “People Haven’t Had Enough of Experts.” Invited Talk at the Dondena Seminar Series. *Bocconi University*, November 14, 2017.  
 “Measuring Technocratic Attitudes Among Citizens in Nine European Democracies.” Invited Talk at the Centre for Political Science Research.

*KU Leuven*, May 23, 2017.

“The Psychology of Political Distrust.” Invited Talk at the Workshop for Trust in Media and Politics, Zurich.

*Ulrich Saxer-Stiftung Foundation*, October 2, 2017.

2015 “What Aspects of Political Distrust Matter?” Workshop presentation in ‘Electoral Psychology.’

*London School of Economics*, November 24, 2015.

“Political Distrust from the Citizens’ Perspective”. Invited Talk at the Centre for Political Science Research.

*KU Leuven*, November 3, 2015.

## WORKSHOP DIRECTOR AND PANEL ORGANIZER

2023 Track Chair Public Opinion and Behaviour for the European Political Science Association Annual Conference, Glasgow, June 2023.

Panel organizer ‘Political Outsiders and the Challenge to Party Politics’, ECPR Annual Conference, Wrocław, Poland, 4-7 September 2019.

2018 Workshop director at ECPR Joint Sessions ‘The Technocratic Challenge to Democracy II’, Nicosia, Cyprus, 10-14 April 2018.

2017 Workshop host and co-organizer, ‘The Technocratic Challenge to Democracy’, University of Zurich, 5-6 October 2017.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2022 EPSA, ISPP

2020 PSE, MPSA, EPSA, ECPR

2019 MPSA, ECPR, CES

2018 ECPR Joint Sessions

2017 MPSA, EPSA, ISPP, CES

2016 APSA, EPSA

2015 MPSA, APSA, EPSA, ECPR

## KNOWLEDGE SHARING, MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS & OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“Political decision-making in democratic communities: Challenges and Evolution” HSG Focus Magazine, Issue 3, 2022.

“Political Trust and the Future of Democracy” Webinar with the UN Foundation and UN Secretary General Executive Office, TrustGov, January 2021

“Public Demand for technocratic expertise rises in times of crisis. What does this mean for democracy?”, *LSE European Politics and Policy Blog*, May 2020

“Attitudes in established democracies show there is still a place for independent experts in politics”, *LSE European Politics and Policy Blog*, December 2016.

“Le attitudini dei cittadini mostrano che esperti indipendenti hanno ancora un ruolo da giocare nelle democrazie europee”, *DeFacto*, Zurich University’s Academic Blog, December 2016.

“Italian Referendum on Constitutional Reform: What Does the ‘No’ Vote Mean for Italy and Europe”, *The Global Observatory*, December 2016.

“Experts React: The Greek Referendum”, *LSE European Politics and Policy Blog*, July 2015.

Interview on the 2015 Greek Elections, *HotSeat* Government Department, London School of Economics, January 2015.

“Greek parliamentary elections 2015: A final look at the parties and the polling”, *LSE European Politics and Policy Blog*, January 2015.

“With Greek MPs set to vote on the country’s new president, the stakes couldn’t be higher for Greece and the Eurozone”, *LSE European Politics and Policy Blog*, December 2014.

“Fragmentation Is Here to Stay” First Thoughts on the 18 & 25 May 2014 Elections in Greece, *GPSG*, May 2014.

Bertsou, Eri (2014). “The 2014 EP Elections: A Victory for European Democracy?” *LEQS Paper No. 78*

## **Teaching Experience**

### UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

Citizen support for Liberal Democracy: Research Project  
*Course convener, Department of Political Science, University of St. Gallen*

Specialization in Comparative Politics: Populism and Electoral Protest  
*Course convener, Department of Political Science, University of Zurich*

Political Culture  
*Course convener, Department of Political Science, University of Zurich*

Bachelor Dissertation in Comparative Politics  
*Course convener, Department of Political Science, University of Zurich*

Comparative Political Behaviour  
*Course convener, Department of Political Science, University of Basel*

Politics and Institutions in Europe  
*GTA, Department of Government, London School of Economics*

## POSTGRADUATE COURSES

Experts and Democratic Politics

*Course convener, Department of Political Science, University of St. Gallen*

Political Representation in Comparative Perspective

*Course co-convener, Department of Political Science, University of Zurich*

Political Representation Research Paper

*Course co-convener, Department of Political Science, University of Zurich*

Master Dissertation Seminar

*Course convener, Department of Political Science, University of Zurich*

Masters Dissertation Supervisor

*Chair of Comparative Politics, University of Zurich*

Introduction to Quantitative Analysis

*GTA, Department of Methodology, London School of Economics*

## PHD SUPERVISION & TEACHING

PhD Supervision: Pradeep Krishnan, Amber Zenklussen

*DIA Programme, SEPS, University of St. Gallen*

CIS PhD Seminar

*Center for Comparative and International Studies, ETH & University of Zurich*

## TEACHING AWARDS

Awarded Class Teacher Award 2015, Department of Government, LSE

Nominated for Class Teacher Award 2014, Department of Government, LSE

## **Service to the Profession, Membership & Skills**

**DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE:** Two PhD Hires in Comparative Politics, University of Zurich; Member of the Admissions Committee for MACIS Master Programme in Political Science, ETH Zurich.

**EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE:** European Politics and Policy EUROPP Blog, LSE Public Policy Group (2013-2014).

**REVIEWER:** British Journal of Political Science, Journal of Politics, American Journal of Political Science, European Journal of Political Research, Political Studies, Journal of Public Policy, Swiss Political Science Review.

**MEMBERSHIP:** APSA, APSA Sections 'EPOVB' and 'Political Psychology', MPSA, EPSA, ECPR, ISPP, CES, ISA.

**LANGUAGES:** English (Fluent), Greek (Fluent), Italian (Advanced), French (Advanced), German (Beginner).