

# ANDRÉ WALTER

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## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

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### Advanced skills in statistics and machine learning with R and Python

Use of time-series, panel, and spatial models, experimental designs, and machine learning algorithms.

### End-to-end data pipelines and workflow orchestration

Building reproducible data workflows with Docker, Airflow, and Python/Bash scripts; processing and merging datasets.

### Data management and engineering

Designing and querying relational databases with PostgreSQL, efficient data preparation in R/Python, version control with Git/GitHub, and automated replication workflows.

### Geodata and spatial analytics

Creating and georeferencing large-scale GIS data in QGIS and applying spatial regression models.

### LLM-enabled data applications

Developing and evaluating use cases using current closed and open-weights LLMs for data generation, classification, and ranking tasks.

## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

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### University of St. Gallen

*Lecturer*

Oct 2021 -  
*St. Gallen*

- Teaching courses in statistics and statistical software (R, Python)

### University of Zurich

*Research Group Leader*

Oct 2021 - Sep 2025  
*Zurich, Switzerland*

- Lead a three-person team collecting, processing, and merging large-scale data (European election results, Swiss popular-vote surveys 1981–2025; up to one million observations).
- Conduct statistical analyses (regression-discontinuity designs, instrumental variables, panel and spatial models).
- Developing models to predict individual vote choices in referendums, benchmarking multiple supervised machine-learning algorithms (e.g., CatBoost, Random Forest, XGBoost, LightGBM) against large language models (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini, Llama, Mistral).
- Explore LLMs use cases for data generation, classification, and ranking.
- Present and publish findings.
- Conducting courses in Swiss Politics

### University of St. Gallen

*Postdoctoral Researcher/Research Group Leader*

Mar 2018 - Sep 2021  
*St. Gallen, Switzerland*

- Led a five-person team to collect municipal-level Swiss popular-vote data 1866–2020.
- Implemented regression-discontinuity designs, non-linear panel regressions, and spatial models; created GIS data; georeferenced historical datasets.
- Taught statistics, political economy, and Swiss politics; disseminated research nationally and internationally.

### University Lausanne

*Postdoctoral Researcher*

Dec 2019 - Jun 2021  
*Lausanne, Switzerland*

- Statistical analysis of Brazil and Kenya survey data using linear and non-linear estimators; prepared descriptive reports for local NGO partners.

### University St. Gallen

*Research Assistant*

Nov 2012 - Feb 2018  
*St. Gallen, Switzerland*

- Dissertation on Swiss cantonal social policy.

- Compiled long-term demographic, economic, and political time series and using survival analysis and autoregressive panel methods for data analysis.
- Teaching assistant in research design and statistics.

## RESEARCH VISITS

<b>Dept. of Politics and Public Administration, University of Konstanz</b> <i>Visiting Scholar</i>	Sep 2019 - Feb 2020 <i>Konstanz, Germany</i>
<b>Research Center on Inequality and Social Policy, University Bremen</b> <i>Visiting Scholar</i>	Oct 2018 - Mar 2019 <i>Bremen, Germany</i>

## ACADEMIC DEGREES

<b>University of St. Gallen</b> PhD in Political Science Focus Democratization, Political Economy, Quantitative Methods, Machine Learning Grade 5.7/6 (very good, Swiss scale).	<i>Feb 2018</i>
<b>University of Zurich</b> M.A. Sociology Minors Social/Cultural Anthropology, Gender Studies Grade 5.9/6 (very good, Swiss scale).	<i>Sep 2012</i>
<b>University of Jena</b> B.A. in Sociology Minor Political Science Grade 2.0/6 (good, German scale)	<i>Aug 2010</i>

## THIRD-PARTY FUNDING

<b>Ambizione Grant</b> Swiss National Science Foundation Project "Endogenous Electoral Markets, Party Entry, and Democratization" 700'000 CHF (850'000 \$)	<i>2021</i>
<b>Project Grant</b> Swiss National Science Foundation Project "Democratic Consolidation in Switzerland, 1848-1918. Suffrage Restrictions, Redistricting, and Direct Democracy" [with Patrick Emmenegger und Lucas Leemann] 380'000 CHF (460'000 \$)	<i>2019</i>
<b>International Postdoctoral Fellowship</b> University of St. Gallen Project "The Roots of Electoral Systems Choice. The Rise of Social Democracy, Multipartism, and the Shift to Proportional Representation" 310'000 CHF (380'000 \$)	<i>2017</i>
<b>Summer School Grant</b> Swiss National Science Foundation GIS & Spatial Econometrics Summer School 21'600 CHF (26'000 \$)	<i>2016</i>

## AWARDS

- 2023 **Socio-Economic Best Article Award (Shortlisted)** for the paper "The Social Origins of Christian Democracy. Rural-Urban Migration, Interest Group Preemption, and the Rise of the Catholic Workers Movement, *Socio-Economic Review*, 20(2), 687-710"
- 2022 **Fritz-Thyssen Foundation Prize (runner-up)** for the paper "International Trade, the Great War, and the Origins of Taxation: Sister Republics Parting Ways, *Swiss Political Science Review*, 28(4), 585-603 (with Patrick Emmenegger)"

2017 **Early Career Workshop Award** for the paper "How the Hinterland Caught up. Internal Migration, Cost Shifting and Welfare State Expansion in Federal States", Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE) Annual Conference, Lyon, France

2013 **Dirk Berg-Schlosser Best Poster Award (runner-up)** for the paper "Opposition Towards Immigration. A large-N Qualitative Comparative Analysis" (with Dominik Schraff), ECPR Summer School in Methods and Techniques, Ljubljana, Slovenia

## ACADEMIC TEACHING

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### **Political Science, University of Zurich**

#### **Swiss Democracy since 1848**

Bachelor, seminar, German

2024

### **International Affairs, University of St. Gallen**

#### **Statistics Refresher**

Master, multiple workshops, English

2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

#### **Doing Quantitative Research in Political Science**

Bachelor, seminar, English

2021

#### **Political Analysis using R**

Master, multiple workshops, English

2020, 2021

#### **Swiss Democracy, 1848-1971**

Bachelor, seminar, English

2020, 2021

#### **Quantitative Methods**

Bachelor, lecture, English/German

2019, 2020

#### **International Politics and Market Economy**

Master, seminar, English

2020

#### **The Politics of Electoral Systems: Political Conflict and Representation**

Master, seminar, English

2018

## INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

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### **Consulting**

Agora Strategy, Munich, Germany (2024)

2019-

Varieties of Democracy, University of Gothenburg, Sweden (2019-)

### **Reviewer for multiple journals**

Web of Science profile [[Link](#)]

2017-

### **Co-Chair**

Working Group on Political Economy and Social Policy, Swiss Political Science Association (2020-2025)

2020-2025

Virtual ESPAnet Workshop (2020-2023)

### **Early-Career Representative**

Program Committee, PhD Program "International Affairs and Political Economy"

2018-2021

University of St. Gallen

### **Organizer**

GIS and Spatial Econometrics Summer School

2016

University of St. Gallen

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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<b>Statistics, Machine Learning &amp; Scripting</b>	R (10+ years), Python (5 years), Bash (3 years)
<b>GIS</b>	QGIS (6 years)
<b>Containers &amp; Workflows</b>	Docker (2 years), Apache Airflow (2 years)
<b>Data Management</b>	PostgreSQL (2 years), Excel (10+ years)
<b>Version Control</b>	Git (3 years), GitHub (3 years)
<b>Cloud</b>	Terraform (1 year), Azure (1 year)
<b>Web-programming</b>	HTML (3 years), CSS (3 years)
<b>IDEs</b>	RStudio (10+ years), VSCode (5+ years)
<b>Documents &amp; Presentation</b>	L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X (10+ years), MS Office (10+ years), Markdown/Quarto (2 years)
<b>OS</b>	Windows (10+ years), Linux Mint (3 years)

## LANGUAGES

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<b>German</b>	Native speaker
<b>English</b>	Fluent
<b>French</b>	Basic

## REFERENCES

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### **Prof. Patrick Emmenegger**

Professor of Political Science  
University of St. Gallen  
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## DATA SETS (COMPANION PUBLICATIONS IN PARENTHESIS)

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### Collected but published

- Ideological ranking of public policies using LLMs for direct democratic proposals in Switzerland, 1875 - 1914 (Direct Democracy, Legislative Gridlock, and Minority Representation)
- Ideological scaling of heads of governments globally using LLMs (Fine-Tuning Ideology. Leveraging Large Language Models to Measure the Ideology of Heads of Government Around the World, 1870 - 2020)
- Data on district electoral outcomes and GIS data on electoral boundaries in multiple European countries, 1850s - 1914 (The Party Politics of Electoral System Choice. Stacking the Deck in First-Wave Democracies)

### Published (available on Github)

- Data on the economic, political, and social organization of pre-colonial ethnic and religious groups (The Extended Ethnographic Atlas)
- Data on municipality-level outcomes of popular votes in Switzerland, 1866 - 2023 (Municipality-Level Outcomes of Direct-Democratic Votes in Switzerland, 1866-2023)
- Data on the partisan affiliation of Swiss cantonal governments, 1848 - 2024 (The Partisan Composition of Cantonal Governments in Switzerland, 1848-2017. A new Dataset)
- Data on the impact of colonialism in Africa and Asia (Measuring the Impacts of Colonialism: A New Data Set for the Countries of Africa and Asia)

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Monographs (peer-reviewed)

- 2026 The Party Politics of Electoral System Choice. Stacking the Deck in First-Wave Democracies, Oxford University Press, in press (with Patrick Emmenegger).
- 2018 Federalism, Direct Democracy, and the Expansion of the Welfare State. Social Policy Development in the Swiss Cantons 1930-2000. PhD thesis, School of Economic and Political Science, University of St. Gallen, St. Gallen [\[Link\]](#).

### Journal Articles (peer-reviewed)

- 2025 Municipality-Level Outcomes of Direct-Democratic Votes in Switzerland, 1866-2023, *Swiss Political Science Review* [\[Link\]](#), online first (with Patrick Emmenegger, Lucas Leemann und Andreina Thoma).
- 2025 Who Counts? Non-Citizen Residents, Spatial Sorting, and Malapportionment, *The British Journal of Political Science* [\[Link\]](#), online first (Lead author, with Patrick Emmenegger).
- 2025 Vox Populi. Popular Support for the Popular Initiative, *American Political Science Review* [\[Link\]](#), online first (with Patrick Emmenegger and Lucas Leemann).
- 2024 Landholding Inequality, Social Control, and Mass Opposition to Suffrage Extension, *The British Journal of Political Science* [\[Link\]](#), 16(2), 187-206 (with Patrick Emmenegger and Andreina Thoma).
- 2024 Partisan Districting and the Adoption of Proportional Representation: Gerrymandering and its Discontents, *European Political Science Review* [\[Link\]](#), 16(2), 187-206 (with Patrick Emmenegger).
- 2023 Designing Electoral Districts for Proportional Representation Systems. How Electoral Geography and Partisan Politics Constrain Proportionality and Create Bias, *The Journal of Politics* [\[Link\]](#), 85(3), 1123-1138 (Lead author, with Patrick Emmenegger).
- 2023 Ethnic Minorities, Interstate War, and Popular Support for Fiscal Capacity Development, *Comparative Political Studies* [\[Link\]](#), 56(9), 1365-1397 (Lead author, with Patrick Emmenegger).
- 2022 Does War Exposure Increase Support for State Penetration? Evidence from a Natural Experiment, *Journal of European Public Policy* [\[Link\]](#), 29(5), 652-669 (Lead author, with Patrick Emmenegger).
- 2022 International Trade, the Great War, and the Origins of Taxation: Sister Republics Parting Ways, *Swiss Political Science Review* [\[Link\]](#), 28(4), 585-603 (with Patrick Emmenegger), *Winner of the Fritz-Thyssen Foundation Prize (runner-up)* [\[Link\]](#).
- 2022 The Social Origins of Christian Democracy. Rural-Urban Migration, Interest Group Preemption, and the Rise of the Catholic Workers' Movement, *Socio-Economic Review* [\[Link\]](#), 20(2), 687-710, *Shortlisted for the 2023 SER Best Article Award* [\[Link\]](#).
- 2022 Coalition Size, Direct Democracy, and Public Spending, *Journal of Public Policy* [\[Link\]](#), 42(2), 224-246 (with Patrick Emmenegger and Lucas Leemann).
- 2022 Labour Standards in Global Production Networks: Assessing Transnational Private Regulation and Workers' Capacity to Act, *Development and Change* [\[Link\]](#), 53(4), 912-937 (with Jimena Sobrino Piazza and Jean-Christophe Graz).
- 2021 Socialist Threat? Radical Party Entry, Electoral Alliances, and the Introduction of Proportional Representation, *American Political Science Review* [\[Link\]](#), 115(2), 701-708.

- 2021 Disproportional Threat. Redistricting as an Alternative to Proportional Representation, *The Journal of Politics* [Link], 83(3), 917–933 (with Patrick Emmenegger).
- 2021 No Direct Taxation Without New Elite Representation. Industrialization and the Domestic Politics of Taxation, *European Journal of Political Research* [Link], 60(3), 648-669 (with Patrick Emmenegger and Lucas Leemann).
- 2019 When Dominant Parties Adopt Proportional Representation. The Mysterious Case of Belgium, *European Political Science Review* [Link], 11(4), 433-450 (with Patrick Emmenegger).
- 2019 A Race to the Middle. The Politics of Interstate Cost Distribution and Welfare State Expansion, *The Journal of Politics* [Link], 81(3), 952-967.
- 2019 Majority Protection: The Origins of Distorted Proportional Representation, *Electoral Studies* [Link], 59, 64-77 (Lead author, with Patrick Emmenegger)
- 2019 The Partisan Composition of Cantonal Governments in Switzerland, 1848-2017. A new Dataset, *Swiss Political Science Review* [Link], 25(1), 1-18 (Lead author, with Patrick Emmenegger)
- 2019 Taking the Initiative! Direct Democracy, Coalition Governments, and Welfare State Expansion, *Journal of European Social Policy* [Link], 29(3), 446-459.
- 2017 Measuring the Impacts of Colonialism: A New Data Set for the Countries of Africa and Asia, *Journal of World-Systems Research* [Link], 23(1), 156-190 (with Patrick Ziltener and Daniel Kuenzler).

### Contributions to Edited Volumes

- 2021 The Father of All Things or Rather an Obsession? The Effect of War on the Politics of Taxation, In: Seelkopf, Laura and Lukas Hakelberg: *Handbook on the Politics of Taxation* [Link], Edward Elgar Publishing, 32-46 (with Patrick Emmenegger).

### Other Publications (peer-reviewed)

- 2014 QCA, the Truth Table Analysis and Large-N Survey Data: The Benefits of Calibration and the Importance of Robustness Tests, *COMPASS WP Series* [Link], 2014-79. (with Patrick Emmenegger and Dominik Schraff).

### Public Outreach

- 2025 Wer zählt? Wie Wahlsysteme und Immigration politische Repräsentation prägen *DeFacto* [Link].
- 2025 Vox populi: Unterstützung des Volkes für die Volksinitiative, *DeFacto* [Link].
- 2021 Steuerpolitik: Die Rolle kriegsrischer Auseinandersetzungen, *DVPW-Blog* [Link].
- 2019 Electoral Reform: The Fine Print Matters, *Democratic Audit* [Link].
- 2019 Das Proporzwahlrecht: Schutz der Mehrheit, nicht der Minderheit?, *DeFacto* [Link].
- 2019 Dominante Parteien nutzen den Proporz zu ihren Gunsten, *Higgs* [Link].