

# Eri Bertso

Senior Researcher in Comparative Politics, University of Zurich  
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## Academic Employment

- 2016-  
present Senior Researcher (Oberassistent) in Comparative Politics & Director of the Research Area on Technocracy  
University of Zurich, Department of Political Science  
*Research Agenda:* Challenges to representative democracy; Citizen preferences for technocratic, populist and party-based representation; Political distrust; Attitudes towards expertise and technocratic governance.  
*Methodology:* Quantitative Methods; Attitude Measurement; Survey Design; Experiments; Mixed Methods.
- 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
- 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 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. "Bring in the Experts? Citizen Preferences for Expert Involvement in Political Decision-Making." *RnR in the European Journal of Political Research*.
- Bertsou, Eri. "The Electoral Implications of Technocratic Attitudes." *Paper Manuscript Under Review*.

### WORKING PAPERS

- "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*.
- Whatever it takes? Winning, procedural violations and perceptions of democratic legitimacy" (with Hannah Werner and Sofie Marien). *Working paper to be presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Meeting, Chicago, April 16-20, 2021*.
- "Anything But Politics: The Overlap Between Populist and Technocratic Citizen Preferences." *Working paper to be presented at the European University Institute in Spring 2021*.
- "Representation at Any Cost? Changing Modes of Party Support and Implications for Political Behaviour." *Paper prepared for submission*.
- "Technocratic Attitudes in Comparative Perspective" (with Daniele Caramani). *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.

## KNOWLEDGE SHARING, MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS & OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“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

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

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 SEMINARS

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

## Grants & Awards

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

- 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 “The Electoral Implications of Technocratic Attitudes.”  
*Early Career Researchers Seminar Series*, Virtual Seminar, July 29, 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

- 2019 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

- 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  
2014 MPSA, UACES

#### METHODS TRAINING

- 2017 European Field Experiments Summer School  
2015 Multilevel Regression Modelling, ECPR Winter School in Methods  
2015 Multivariate Analysis and Measurement, LSE Methodology Department  
2014 Causal Inference for Experimental and Observational Studies, LSE Methodology Department  
2014 Applied Regression Analysis, LSE Methodology Department

**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).