

Eri Bertso

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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 Eccellenza (Starting Grant): “Varieties of Expertise” Understanding public demand for independent experts in democratic politics (2022-2027). Supervising: 2 PhD Researchers, 2 Research Assistants.
- 2022-
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 & Visiting Fellow (2023)
European Governance and Politics Program Schuman Center, European University Institute
- 2023-2024 Parental/Medical leave
- 02-10/2021 Parental leave
- 2016- 2022 Senior Researcher (Postdoc) in Comparative Politics & Director of the Research Area on Technocracy
University of Zurich, Department of Political Science
- 06-12/2018 Parental leave
- 2013 - 2016 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 30th, 2016
Thesis Title: Citizen attitudes of political distrust. *Supervisor:* Prof. Michael Bruter. *Examiners:* Prof. Simon Hix (European University Institute), 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

Hannah Werner, Eri Bertsou and Sofie Marien (forthcoming). "From Losers' Consent to Winners' Restraint: Citizens Reactions to Accumulating Democratic Violations." *Political Behaviour*.

Viktoria Cologna et al. (forthcoming) "Trust In Scientists And Their Role In Society Across 67 Countries. A ManyLabs Study." *Nature Human Behaviour*.

Mede, Niels et al. (forthcoming). "Perceptions of Science, Science Communication, and Climate Change Attitudes in 67 Countries. The TISP Dataset." *Scientific Data*.

Bertsou, Eri, Daniele Caramani and Jelle Koedam (2024). "The ideological profile of the technocratic citizen." *European Journal of Political Research*, published online.

Claassen, Christopher, Kathrin Ackermann, Eri Bertsou et al. (2024). "Conceptualizing and Measuring Support for Democracy: A New Approach." *Comparative Political Studies*, published online.

Bertsou, Eri and Daniele Caramani (2022). "People Haven't Had Enough of Experts: Technocratic Attitudes among European Citizens." *American Journal of Political Science*, 66(1): 5-23.

Bertsou, Eri (2021). "Bring in the Experts? Citizen Preferences for Expert Involvement in Political Decision-Making." *European Journal of Political Research*, 61: 255-267.

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

Bertsou, Eri (2019). "Political Distrust and its Discontents: Exploring the Meaning, Expression and Significance of Political Distrust." *Societies*, 9(4): 72-95.

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

Journal Articles in Review and R&R

"How scientists' climate advocacy affects public trust in scientists" (with Viktoria Cologna, Jamie Gloor, Reto Knutti, Niels Mede, Lauren Howe, Jana Freundt, Mike Shaefer, Naomi Oreskes). *RnR in Environmental Research Letters*, Autumn 2024.

“Technocratic attitudes during the COVID19 crisis: Persistence and increase of preferences for expertise in politics” *RnR in West European Politics*, Autumn 2024.

“Climate policy referendum decreases pluralistic ignorance on climate change concern” (with Viktoria Cologna, Jamie Gloor, Reto Knutti, Niels Mede, Lauren Howe, Jana Freundt, Mike Shaefer, Naomi Oreskes). *Under Review in Global Environmental Psychology*, Autumn 2024.

Working Papers

“Varieties of Expertise: What citizens consider as politically legitimate uses of expertise” (with Amber Zenklusen and Pradeep Krishnan). *Working paper presented at the Institute for Future Studies in Stockholm, October 2023.*

“Democratic oversight of AI and Algorithmic Decision-Making” (with Amber Zenklusen and Pradeep Krishnan). *Working paper presented at the Digital Democracy Workshop in Zurich, October 2024.*

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. *Citizens and Experts in Democratic Politics* Monograph prepared for submission in 2026.

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 (Selection)

Invited Talks

- 2023 “Varieties of Expertise. What do citizens consider as politically legitimate uses of expertise?” *Institute for Future Studies*, Stockholm, October 4, 2023.
- 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.

Workshop Director and Panel Organizer (Selection)

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

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.

Conference Presentations (Selection)

2023 EPSA, SPSA

2022 EPSA, ISPP

2020 PSE, MPSA, EPSA, ECPR

2019 MPSA, ECPR, CES

Knowledge Sharing, Media Contributions & Other Publications (Selection)

“ChatGPT and the future of education.” *HSG Focus Magazine*, Issue 3, 2023.

“What role should science experts play in politics?” *HSG Focus Magazine*, Issue 2, 2022.

“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.

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

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

Democracy and the Climate Crisis *Course convener, Department of Political Science, University of St. Gallen*

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

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

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: Member of the Admissions Committee for MACIS Master Programme in Political Science, ETH Zurich (2017-2021).

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 (Fluent), French (Advanced), German (Basic).

Letter Writers

Tina Freyburg

Chair of Comparative Politics, School of Economics and Political Science, University of St. Gallen

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Daniele Caramani

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Michael Bruter

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