

# Steffen Wamsler – Curriculum Vitae

Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories

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## Academic Positions

- 02/2023 – present:    Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories, Bamberg, Germany  
Postdoctoral researcher  
Project title: Political Attitudes and Political Participation after the Covid-19 Pandemic
- 04/2023 – present:    Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences, University of Bamberg, Germany  
Postdoctoral fellow
- 02/2023 – present:    Institute for Social Sciences, University of Oldenburg, Germany  
Associate Researcher, Working Group of Sociology of Social Inequality
- 03/2025 – 04/2025    Department of Political Science, University of Salzburg, Austria  
Visiting Researcher, Chair of Political Science Methods
- 09/2022 - 12/2022    Institute of Political Science, University of Bern, Switzerland  
Research fellow

## Research Interests

- Political trust, democratic support, social inequality, right-wing politics, national identity, nationalism, social integration, relative deprivation, social trust, conspiracy beliefs, regime preferences, emotions, populist attitudes, political support, European integration, pandemic threat, survey research, survey experiments, structural equation modeling, panel modeling, multilevel modeling

## Education

- 09/2018 – 08/2022    Institute of Political Science, University of Bern, Switzerland  
Doctoral candidate (Dr. rer. soc., *insigni cum laude*), Prof. Dr. Markus Freitag (University of Bern) & Prof. Dr. Carolin Rapp (University of Copenhagen)  
Thesis title: "The Social Integration Framework and National Identity: Relative Deprivation, Social Trust and Pandemic Threat"
- 10/2015 – 12/2017:    University of Konstanz, Germany & Gothenburg University, Sweden  
Master of Arts (Political Science and Public Administration); Master of Science (European Studies); double degree program  
Final grade: 1.3 (excellent)  
Master thesis: Changing Tides? The 2014 European Parliament Elections and the Second-Order Election Model
- 09/2013 – 01/2014:    University of Maastricht, The Netherlands  
Exchange semester in European Studies  
Final grade: 8.7/10 (very good)
- 10/2011 – 04/ 2015:    University of Konstanz  
Bachelor of Arts (Political Science and Public Administration)  
Final grade: 1.5 (very good)  
Bachelor thesis: Variation of Differentiated Integration in the European Union across Policy Areas

## Publications

- Zoch G and Wamsler S. (2024). From rally to reality: unveiling long-term dynamics in political trust over two years of COVID-19 in Germany. *Political Research Exchange*: online first. DOI: [10.1080/2474736X.2024.2403438](https://doi.org/10.1080/2474736X.2024.2403438)
- Wamsler S. (2024). Violated Entitlement and the Nation: How Feelings of Relative Deprivation Shape Nationalism and Constructive Patriotism. *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 65(2): 135–53. DOI: [10.1177/00207152221103123](https://doi.org/10.1177/00207152221103123)
- Wamsler S. (2023) Dimensions of social trust and national identity: Addressing a multifaceted relationship. *Nations and Nationalism* 29(2): 598-617. DOI: [10.1111/nana.12935](https://doi.org/10.1111/nana.12935)
- Wamsler S, Freitag M, Erhardt J, Filsinger M. (2022) The Pandemic and the Question of National Belonging: Exposure to Covid-19 Threat and Conceptions of Nationhood. *European Journal of Political Research* 62(2): 510-529. DOI: [10.1111/1475-6765.12515](https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-6765.12515)

- Erhardt J, Freitag M, Wamsler S, Filsinger M. (2022) What drives political support? Evidence from a survey experiment at the onset of the corona crisis. *Contemporary Politics* 28(4): 429-446. [DOI: 10.1080/13569775.2021.2010345](https://doi.org/10.1080/13569775.2021.2010345)
- Filsinger M, Freitag M, Erhardt J, Wamsler S. (2021) Rally around your fellows: Information and social trust in a real-world experiment during the corona crisis. *The Social Science Journal*: online first. [DOI: 10.1080/03623319.2021.1954463](https://doi.org/10.1080/03623319.2021.1954463)
- Filsinger M, Wamsler S, Erhardt J, Freitag M. (2021) National identity and populism: The relationship between conceptions of nationhood and populist attitudes. *Nations and Nationalism* 27(3): 656–672. [DOI: 10.1111/nana.12689](https://doi.org/10.1111/nana.12689)
- Erhardt J, Freitag M, Filsinger M, Wamsler S. (2021) The Emotional Foundations of Political Support: How Fear and Anger Affect Trust in the Government in Times of the Covid-19 Pandemic. *Swiss Political Science Review* 27(2): 339–352. [DOI: 10.1111/spsr.12462](https://doi.org/10.1111/spsr.12462)
- Erhardt J, Wamsler S and Freitag M (2021) National identity between democracy and autocracy: a comparative analysis of 24 countries. *European Political Science Review* 13(1): 59–76. [DOI: 10.1017/S1755773920000351](https://doi.org/10.1017/S1755773920000351)

## Grants and Scholarships

10/2024	Grant for research stay, Bamberg Graduate of Social Sciences. 1,000€
09/2024	Research grant, Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories. 2,500€
08/2024	Travel grant, Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories. 1,100 €
05/2023	Travel grant, Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences. 800 €
05/2019	Travel grant, University of Berne Research Foundation. 1,200 CHF
01/2012 – 09/2017	Study scholarship, Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation, Germany. 20,700 €

## Teaching

- MA seminar “social identity and intergroup conflict” (University of Bamberg)  
Winter term 2023/24
- BA thesis supervision (University of Bern) (4 theses total), 2020-2021
- BA lecture “the pandemic and the question of belonging” (University of Bern), individual session of the social science lecture series  
Spring Term 2022
- BA seminar “national identity in a European perspective” (University of Bern)  
Spring term 2019, spring term 2020, fall term 2020, spring term 2022
- Teaching assistant, Chair for International Relations and Conflict Management, Professor Katharina Holzinger (University of Konstanz)  
Winter term 2014
- Teaching assistant, Chair for Comparative Public Policy and Public Administration, Stephan Grohs (University of Konstanz)  
Winter term 2014

- Teaching assistant, Chair of Political Science, especially Policy Analysis and Political Theory, Professor Marius Busemeyer (University of Konstanz)  
Summer term 2013
- Teaching assistant, Chair of German Politics and Public Administration, Professor Wolfgang Seibel (University of Konstanz)  
Winter term 2012

### Conference Presentations

2024	International NEPS Conference (Bamberg, Germany)
2024	Current Directions in Research on Political Support Workshop (Duisburg, Germany)
2024	German Political Science Association, Annual Congress (Göttingen, Germany)
2024	European Consortium for Political Research, General Conference (Dublin, Ireland)
2024	European Political Science Association, Annual Meeting (Cologne, Germany)
2024	German Political Science Association, Annual Conference of the Working Group Elections and Political Attitudes (Siegen, Germany)
2024	German Sociological Association, Section for Social Inequality and Social Structure Analysis, Spring Meeting (Bremen, Germany)
2024	Swiss Political Science Association, Annual Conference (St. Gallen, Switzerland)
2023	German Sociological Association, Section for Social Inequality and Social Structure Analysis, Annual Meeting (Jena, Germany)
2023	Austrian, German, and Swiss Political Science Associations, Joint Annual Meeting (Linz, Austria)
2023	European Political Science Association, Annual Meeting (Glasgow, United Kingdom)
2023	Swiss Political Science Association, Annual Conference (Basel, Switzerland)
2022	New Challenges to Democracy Workshop (Montréal, Canada)
2022	European Consortium for Political Research, Annual Conference (Innsbruck, Austria)
2022	Swiss Political Science Association, Annual Conference (online)
2021	Swiss Political Science Association, Annual Conference (online)
2021	German Political Psychology Network, Annual Meeting (online)

2020	German Political Science Association, Annual Conference Section “Elections” (online)
2020	European Consortium for Political Research, General Conference (online)
2020	TrustGov Conference (online)
2020	Swiss Political Science Association, Annual Conference (Lucerne, Switzerland)
2019	European Consortium for Political Research, General Conference (Wrocław, Poland)
2019	European Consortium for Political Research, Joint Sessions of Workshops (Mons, Belgium)
2019	Swiss Political Science Association, Annual Conference (Zurich, Switzerland)

### Methods Training

2023	COORDINATE Summer School “Application of Life History Data for Longitudinal Analyses” (by Jacqueline Kroh, Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories, Germany)
2022	Swiss Summer School in Social Science Methods “Machine learning for social scientists” (by Marco Steenbergen, University of Lugano, Switzerland)
2022	Komex Methods School “Causal Inference and Observational Research – Designing Robust Counterfactuals” (by Christina Zuber, University of Konstanz, Germany)
2020	Gesis Workshop “Introduction to Methods for Modern Causal Analysis” (by Michael Gebel, online)
2020	Swiss Summer School in Social Science Methods “Structural Equation Modeling” (by Eldad Davidov and Peter Schmidt, online)
2019	ECPR Summer School “Advanced Topics in Applied Regression” (by Martin Molder, Central European University, Hungary)
2019	ECPR Winter School “Survey Design” (by Kathrin Thomas, University of Bamberg, Germany)

### Teaching Training

2020	Basics of university didactics, University of Bern
2018 – 2020	Teaching mentoring program, Institute for Political Science, University of Bern
2020	Digital tools for seminars and lectures, Department of Social Sciences, University of Bern

2019	Designing exam questions, Department of Social Sciences, University of Bern
2018	Learning outcomes and heterogenous groups, Department of Social Sciences, University of Bern

### Public Outreach

2025	"Political Trust in Times of Crisis", transfer report, Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories, Bamberg
2025	"Divisive Virus? How Corona shaped our society", Bayerisches Fernsehen (German public broadcaster)
2024	"Between Patriotism and Nationalism: when does it go too far?", ARD alpha (German public broadcaster)

### Academic Administrative Positions

07/2023 – present	Executive Council, Bamberg Graduate School of the Social Sciences, University of Bamberg, deputy representative of the postdoctoral board
09/2021 – 12/2022	Quality Assurance Committee, Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences, University of Bern, doctoral member
09/2021 – 12/2022	Bachelor Program Evaluation Board, Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences, University of Bern, doctoral member
09/2016 – 05/2017	Teaching Development Committee, Center for European Studies, University of Gothenburg, student member
10/2012 – 07/2013	Faculty Board, Faculty of Politics, Law and Economics, University of Konstanz, student member

### Review Activities (selected)

- European Journal of Political Research, Comparative Political Studies, Political Behavior, Social Indicators Research, International Journal of Comparative Sociology, Journal of Social Psychology, International Journal of Public Opinion Research, Social Justice Research

### Memberships

- European Political Science Association (EPSA)
- German Political Science Association (GPSA)
- Swiss Political Science Association (SPSA)

## Languages

- German (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate), Swedish (basic), Dutch (basic)

## Software

- Stata, SPSS Amos, R, MLwiN