

Daniel Oesch – Curriculum Vitae

Contact

Swiss Centre of Expertise in Life Course Research (LIVES)
University of Lausanne
1015 Lausanne, Switzerland
daniel.oesch@unil.ch
<http://people.unil.ch/danieloesch/>
Tel: +41 21 692 31 85

Current position

2023- Director of the Centre LIVES, Swiss Centre of Expertise in Life Course Research
2024- Professor, Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lausanne

Former positions

2015-17 Director of the Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lausanne
2010-24 Assistant and associate professor, Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lausanne
2005-10 Lecturer in political science, Department of Political Science, University of Geneva
2002-08 National secretary at the Swiss Federation of Trade Unions (SGB/USS)

Visiting scholar

2017-18 University Carlos III – Juan March Institute, Madrid
2008-09 DEMOSOC, Department of Political and Social Sciences, University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona

Education

2006 PhD in Political Science, University of Zurich
2002 MA in Labour Studies, University of Florence
1999 BA in Political Science, University of Geneva
1997-98 Erasmus, ISCTE University Institute of Lisbon

Institutional responsibilities

2023- Director of LIVES, Swiss Centre of Expertise in Life Course Research
2015-17 Director of the Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lausanne
2011-14 Head of the Life Course and Inequality Research Centre (LINES) University of Lausanne

Teaching

2018- The concepts and measures of social hierarchy (BA)
2011- The Politics of the Labour Market, University of Lausanne (MA)
2010- Social Stratification and the Life Course, University of Lausanne (BA)
2020, 21 Contemporary Social Inequality, ISCTE University Institute of Lisbon (MA)
2009, 13, 14 Social Stratification, University Pompeu Fabra (MA)
2009-12 Myths and Paradoxes of Class Voting, University of Geneva (MA)
2009 Labour Market Policy, University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona (BA)
2007, 08, 10 Comparative Politics, University of Geneva (BA), University of Lausanne (BA)
2005, 07 Social Stratification & Labour Market Policy, University of Zurich (BA)

PhD supervision and PhD committees

Supervision of own PhD students at the University of Lausanne (UNIL):

- Completed: Isabel Baumann (2010-2015), Emily Murphy (2011-2015), Anna von Ow (2012-2016), Mailys Korber (2014-2019), Patrick McDonald (2015-2020), Jad Moawad (2019-2023), Fiona Köster (2019-2023), Nathalie Vigna (2019-2024)
- Ongoing: Gina Westenberger (2022-), Guillaume Bornet (2023-)

Post-doctoral researchers: Benita Combet (2016-2018), Alessandro Di Nallo (2018-2021), Katy Morris (2022-2025), Matthias Enggist (2022-2025), Laura Silva (2025-)

Member of PhD committees / external expert of PhD thesis:

Aurélien Abbrassart (2013 UNIL), Matteo Antonini (2017 UNIL), Leo Azzollini (2020 Bocconi Milan), Maurizio Bigotta (2019 University of Geneva), Alena Damaronak (2022 University of Milan), Kimberly Goulart (2023 Pompeu Fabra), Julie Falcon (2013 UNIL), Kamran Fanizadeh (2013 University of Geneva), Irina Fernandez-Lozano (2018 UNED), Sinisa Hadziabdic (2019 University of Geneva), Matthias Haslberger (2022 University of Oxford), Ignacio Madero Cabib (2015 UNIL), Giampiero Passaretta (2017 University of Trento), Camille Peugny (habilitation 2016 University of Versailles), Maria Ramos (2016 University of Alcalá), Line Rennwald (2013 University of Geneva), Jan Rosset (2013 UNIL), Fabian Sander (2020 University of Bern), Lulu Shi (2020 University of Basel), Aranya Sritharan (2024 ETH Zurich), Simon Stüchelberger (2019 UNIL), Alissa Taylor (2025 UNIL), Nicolas Turttschi (2015 UNIL), Shagini Udayar (2025 UNIL), Marta Veljkovic (2022 Science Po, Paris), Rafaël Weissbrodt (2019 UNIL), Johan Westerman (2020 University of Stockholm), Anna Wilson (2020 UNIL)

Funding

2022-26	Swiss National Science Foundation for the project “Unequal shifts in regions' job structure and the rise of cultural grievances” (563,000 CHF, PI)
2017-20	NORFACE project “Dynamics of Inequality Across the Life-course: structures and processes” (€ 1,493,000; PI of Swiss project 314,000 CHF) [with J. Härkönen, T. Leopold, C. Monden]
2010-22	NCCR LIVES, IP4 Employability, financed by the Swiss National Science Foundation (>600,000 CHF) [with Giuliano Bonoli, Rafael Lalive and Michele Pellizzari]
2013-14	Growth, employment and unemployment in the canton of Vaud, Cantonal government of Canton de Vaud (85,000 CHF, PI)
2011-13	Social networks and access to jobs for the unemployed, Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) (CHF 89,700) [with Giuliano Bonoli and Rafael Lalive]
2011	Statistical definition of jobseekers, the unemployed and claimants of social assistance benefits, Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) (CHF 19,000, PI)
2011-12	Work and welfare after plant closure, Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) (CHF 64,000)
2008-11	Well-paid jobs, low-paid jobs or no jobs? Swiss National Science Foundation (CHF 110,210, grant no 101512-122522, PI)
2005-08	The paradoxes of class voting, Swiss National Science Foundation (CHF 83,337, grant no. 100012-107944) [with Jan-Erik Lane and Pascal Sciarini]
2001-04	Economic tertiarization and working conditions of low-skilled workers, Swiss National Science Foundation (CHF 83,337, grant no. 1214-065237) [with Hanspeter Kriesi]

Prizes

2020	Runner-up for the best article 2019 of the <i>European Sociological Review</i> (Combet, B. & Oesch, D. 2019 “The gender gap opens long before motherhood”).
2011	Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE) 2011 prize for the best article in the <i>Socio-Economic Review</i> (Oesch, D. & Rodriguez Menes, J. 2011 “Upgrading or polarization?”)
2009	SOEP award 2007-2008 for the best junior publication based on the German Socio-Economic Panel (“The changing shape of class voting”, <i>European Societies</i>)
2006	Award by the Swiss Political Science Association for the Best Young Scholar (ex-PhD prize)

Boards & committees

- Member of the Advisory Board of TREE - Transition from Education to Employment (2024-)
- Chair of the Scientific Commission of the Swiss Household Panel (2023-)
- Board of *European Sociological Review* (2021-)
- Advisory Board on Research about Vocational Education, Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (2021-)
- Founding editor-in-chief of *Social Change in Switzerland* (2015-)
- Advisory Board on the Monitoring of Poverty, Swiss Federal Social Insurance Office (2021-2025)
- Foundation board of HETSL, University of Applied Sciences in Social Work, Lausanne (2021-2024)
- Scientific committee of *Economie et Statistique* (2018-2024)
- Working group on Future of education, Swiss Academies of Sciences (2015-2020)
- Board of the European Consortium for Sociological Research ECSR (2012-2017)

Selection of invited presentations since 2011

- 2025 EUI Florence, University of Milan (ESPANET keynote), Pompeu Fabra Barcelona
- 2024 JRC Sevilla, University of Zurich
- 2023 JRC Sevilla, University of Bern (Academy of Sociology keynote), University of Geneva, University of Prague (ECSR keynote), University of Stockholm
- 2022 University of Amsterdam, University of Bologna (SISEC Conference keynote), University of Warsaw, University of Zurich
- 2021 ISCTE Lisbon, Nuffield College Oxford, University of Bern, University of Geneva
- 2020 LISER University of Luxemburg, University Pompeu Fabra Barcelona
- 2019 University of Bern, LMU University Munich, University of Fribourg
- 2018 EUI Florence, JRC Sevilla, University Carlos III Madrid, UNED Madrid
- 2017 University of Bamberg, University of Bremen, University of Milan, University of Trento
- 2016 Centre of Quantitative Sociology CREST Paris, University Carlos III Madrid
- 2015 Eurofound Dublin, University of Trento
- 2014 Kalevi Sorsa Foundation Helsinki, University of Bern
- 2013 Nuffield College Oxford, University of Geneva
- 2012 University of Mannheim
- 2011 EUI Florence, Hamburg Institute of Social Sciences, University of Fribourg, University of Zurich

Referee & reviewer

Journals: *Acta Sociologica*, *Advances in Life Course Research*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *American Sociological Review*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *British Journal of Industrial Relations*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Economic and Labour Relations Review*, *Educational Research*, *Electoral Studies*, *European Journal of Education*, *European Journal of Industrial Relations*, *European Journal of Political Research*, *European Political Science Review*, *European Politics and Society*, *European Societies*, *European Sociological Review*, *European Urban and Regional Studies*, *Human Relations*, *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*, *International Journal for Educational and Vocational Guidance*, *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, *International Sociology*, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, *Italian Political Science Review*, *Journal for Labour Market Research*, *Journal of European Social Policy*, *Labour Economics*, *Longitudinal and Life Course Studies*, *Party Politics*, *Political Behavior*, *Population and Development Review*, *Regulation & Governance*, *Research & Politics*, *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*, *Review of International Political Economy*, *Schweizerische Zeitschrift für Soziale Arbeit*, *Social Forces*, *Social Inclusion*, *Social Indicators Research*, *Social Networks*, *Social Science Research*, *Socio-Economic Review*, *Sociology of Education*, *Survey Methods in the Field*, *Swiss Journal of Economics and Statistics*, *Swiss Journal of Sociology*, *Swiss Political Science Review*, *Travail et Emploi*, *Urban Studies*, *West European Politics*, *Work & Occupations*, *World Politics*, *Zeitschrift für Pädagogik*, *Zeitschrift für Sozialreform*.

Science foundations: Flemish, Icelandic, Polish, Swiss.

Book editors: Oxford University Press, Palgrave, Seismo.

Publications

Monographs

Oesch, D. (2013) *Occupational Change in Europe. How Technology and Education transform the Job Structure*, Oxford: Oxford University Press

Oesch, D. (2006) *Redrawing the Class Map. Stratification and Institutions in Britain, Germany, Sweden and Switzerland*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan

Selection of articles in peer-reviewed international journals

Oesch, D., Morris, K., Westenberger, G.-J. (2025) Polarised upgrading: the changing occupational structure of large cities in Germany and the UK, 1991–2021. *Journal for Labour Market Research* 1-21.

Oesch, D., Lipps, O., Shahbazian, R., Bihagen, E. & Morris, K. (2025) Occupational earning potential: a new measure of social hierarchy in Europe and the US. *European Sociological Review* 1-21.

Morris, K. & Oesch, D. (2025) Uneven shifts: the geography of occupational change in France, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom, 1992-2018. *European Societies* 27(1): 4-30

Moawad, J. & Oesch, D. (2025) The myth of the middle class squeeze: employment and income by class in six western countries, 1980–2020, *Comparative Political Studies* 58(8): 1636-1669.

Goulart, K. & Oesch, D. (2024) Job tenure in Western Europe, 1993-2021: decline or stability?, *European Journal of Industrial Relations* 30(3): 329-346.

Oesch, D. & Vigna, N. (2023) Subjective social class has a bad name, but predicts life chances well. *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility* 83: 1-17.

Di Nallo, A. & Oesch, D. (2023) The intergenerational transmission of family dissolution: how it varies by social class origin and birth cohort. *European Journal of Population* 39(3): 1-33.

Oesch, D., Köster, F., Studer, M. & Baumann, I. (2023) Employment and well-being after plant closure: Survey evidence from Switzerland on the mid and long run. *Economic and Industrial Democracy* 45(4): 964-986.

Oesch, D. & Vigna, N. (2022) A decline in the social status of the working class? Conflicting evidence for 8 Western countries, 1987-2017. *Comparative Political Studies* 55(7): 1130-1157.

Di Nallo, A., Lipps, O., Oesch, D. & Voorpostel, M. (2022) The effect of unemployment on couples separating in Germany and the UK. *Journal of Marriage and Family* 84(1): 310-329.

Di Nallo, A. & Oesch, D. (2021) No Stratified Effect of Unemployment on Incomes: How the Market, State, and Household Compensate for Income Loss in the United Kingdom and Switzerland, *European Sociological Review* 37(5): 783–798.

Combet, B. & Oesch, D. (2021) The social-origin gap in university graduation by gender and immigrant status: a cohort analysis for Switzerland, *Longitudinal and Life Course Studies* 12(2): 119-146.

Oesch, D. (2020) Discrimination in the hiring of older jobseekers: Combining a survey experiment with a natural experiment in Switzerland, *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility* 65: 1-12.

Oesch, D. & Piccitto, G. (2019) The polarization myth: Occupational Upgrading in Germany, Spain, Sweden and the UK, 1992-2015, *Work and Occupations* 46(4): 1-29.

Combet, B. & Oesch, D. (2019) The gender wage gap opens long before motherhood. Panel evidence on early careers in Switzerland, *European Sociological Review* 35(3): 332-345.

- Korber, M. & Oesch, D. (2019) Vocational versus general education: Employment and earnings over the life course in Switzerland, *Advances in Life Course Research* 40: 1-13
- Oesch, D. & Rennwald, L. (2018) Electoral competition in Europe's new tripolar political space: Class voting for the left, centre-right and radical right, *European Journal of Political Research* 57: 783–807
- Murphy, E. & Oesch, D. (2018) Is employment polarisation inevitable? Occupational change in Ireland and Switzerland, 1970-2010, *Work, Employment and Society* 32(6): 1099–1117
- Lipps, O. & Oesch, D. (2018) The working class left behind? The class gap in life satisfaction in Germany and Switzerland over the last decades, *European Societies* 20(4): 549-571
- Oesch, D. Lipps, O. & McDonald, P. (2017) The wage penalty for motherhood: Evidence on discrimination from panel data and a survey experiment for Switzerland, *Demographic Research* 37: 1793-1824.
- Oesch, D. & von Ow, A. (2017) Social Networks and Job Access for the Unemployed: Work Ties for the Upper-Middle Class, Communal Ties for the Working Class, *European Sociological Review* 33: 275-91.
- Murphy, E. & Oesch, D. (2016) The Feminization of Occupations and Change in Wages: A Panel Analysis of Britain, Germany, and Switzerland, *Social Forces* 94 (3): 1221–1255.
- Oesch, D. & Baumann, I. (2015) Smooth transition or permanent exit? Evidence on job prospects of displaced industrial workers, *Socio-Economic Review* 13 (1): 101-123.
- Oesch, D. (2015) Welfare regimes and change in the employment structure: Britain, Denmark and Germany since 1990, *Journal of European Social Policy* 25 (1): 94-110.
- Oesch, D. & Lipps, O. (2013) Does unemployment hurt less if there is more of it around? A panel data analysis for Germany and Switzerland, *European Sociological Review* 29 (5): 955–967.
- Oesch, D. (2012) Recruitment, retention and exit from union membership. An analysis of member flows in Swiss union locals, *British Journal of Industrial Relations* 50 (2): 287–307.
- Oesch, D. & Rodríguez Menés, J. (2011) Upgrading or polarization? Occupational change in Britain, Germany, Spain and Switzerland, 1990-2008, *Socio-Economic Review* 9 (3): 503-531.
- Oesch, D. (2010) What explains high unemployment among low-skilled workers? Evidence from 21 OECD countries, *European Journal of Industrial Relations* 16 (1): 39-55.
- Oesch, D. & Rennwald, L. (2010) The class basis of Switzerland's cleavage between the New Left and the Populist Right, *Swiss Political Science Review* 16 (3): 343-372
- Oesch, D. (2008) Explaining workers' support for right-wing populist parties in Western Europe: Evidence from Austria, Belgium, France, Norway and Switzerland, *International Political Science Review* 29 (3): 349-373.
- Oesch, D. (2008) The changing shape of class voting: an individual-level analysis of party support in Britain, Germany and Switzerland, *European Societies* 10 (3): 329-355.
- Oesch, D. (2006) Coming to grips with a changing class structure. An analysis of employment stratification in Britain, Germany, Sweden and Switzerland, *International Sociology* 21 (2): 263-288.
- Oesch, D. (2003) Labour market trends and the Goldthorpe class schema: a conceptual reassessment, *Swiss Journal of Sociology* 29 (2): 241-262.

Selection of book chapters

- Oesch, D. (2023) Contemporary Class Analysis. In: Gangl, M., Platt, L., Polavieja, J., van de Werfhorst, H. (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Social Stratification*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Oesch, D. (2023) The structural shifts in Switzerland's economy and society, 2000-2020. In: Emmenegger, P., Fossati, F., Häusermann, S. et al. (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Swiss Politics*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Oesch, D. (2022) Wirtschafts- und Sozialstruktur der Schweiz. In: Papadopoulos, Y., Sciarini, P., Vatter, A., Häusermann, S., Emmenegger, P., & Fossati, F. (eds.) (2022). *Handbuch der Schweizer Politik*, Zürich: NZZ Verlag.
- Oesch, D. (2015) Occupational structure and labor market change in Western Europe since 1990, in: Beramendi, P., Häusermann, S., Kitschelt, H., Kriesi, H. (eds.) *The Politics of Advanced Capitalism*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Oesch, D. (2012) The Class Basis of the Cleavage between the New Left and the Radical Right: an analysis for Austria, Denmark, Norway and Switzerland, in: Rydgren, J. (ed.) *Class Politics and the Radical Right*, London: Routledge.
- Oesch, D. (2011) Swiss trade unions and industrial relations after 1990: a history of decline and renewal, in: Trampusch, C. and Mach, A. (eds.) *Switzerland in Europe. Continuity and Change in the Swiss Political Economy*, London: Routledge.

Selected newspaper articles

- Oesch, D. (2025) Le mythe suisse de la classe moyenne. *Le Temps* 29. 11.
- Oesch, D. (2025) Ein Abschluss auf Tertiärstufe ist zur neuen Norm geworden, *Tages-Anzeiger*, 10. 5.
- Oesch, D. (2023) Falsches Feindbild Teilzeitarbeit. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* 8. 5.
- Oesch, D. (2021) Bildungspolitik: der Weg zu mehr Chancengleichheit, *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* 2. 3.
- Oesch, D. & Combet, B. (2019) Lohnungleichheit startet lange vor der Mutterschaft, *Tages-Anzeiger* 7. 6.
- Oesch, D. & Combet, B. (2019) L'inégalité salariale entre les sexes commence bien avant la maternité, *Le Temps* 7. 6.
- Oesch, D. (2017) La classe moyenne en Suisse: un âge d'or plutôt que le déclin, *Le Temps* 7. 12.
- Oesch, D. (2017) Der Niedergang der Schweizer Mittelklasse ist ein Gerücht, *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* 6. 12.
- Oesch, D. & Korber, M. (2016) Matura schlägt Lehre beim Lohn, *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* 2. 7.
- Korber, M. & Oesch, D. (2016) La maturité n'est nullement un handicap, *Le Temps* 30. 6.
- Oesch, D. (2014) Der Mythos von der guten alten Sozialpartnerschaft, *Wochenzeitung* 27. 3.
- Oesch, D. (2014) Le salaire minimum ne menace pas le partenariat social, *Le Temps* 25. 3.
- Oesch, D. & Baumann, I. (2013) Quelques idées reçues sur le retour à l'emploi, *Le Temps* 17. 12.
- Oesch, D. (2012) Trop de maturités en Suisse? *Le Temps* 16. 11.
- Oesch, D. (2012) Die Zahl der Maturanden zu senken ist ein Unsinn *Neue Zürcher Zeitung am Sonntag* 18. 10.
- Oesch, D. & Rennwald, L. (2011) Les conséquences d'un grand échange d'électeurs, *Le Temps* 18. 10.
- Oesch, D. (2011) Zwischen Klassenkonflikt und Kulturkampf, *Wochenzeitung* 29. 9.
- Oesch, D. (2009) Agir tôt pour éviter la hausse du chômage, *Le Temps* 22. 4.
- Oesch, D. & Rennwald, L. (2008) Le nouveau destin électoral des classes populaires, *Le Temps* 3. 10.
- Oesch, D. (2005) Flat tax: la grande majorité des contribuables y perdrait, *Le Temps* 11. 11.
- Gaillard, S. & Oesch, D. (2001) Ursachenforschung zur Steuerdisparität, *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* 8. 6.

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