



School of  
Management and Law

# Summer School 2019 for PhD Students in Local Governance

## Is Local Always Better?

### In Search of Adequate Territorial Structures for Governance, Decision-Making, and Service Delivery

6–12 July 2019, Zurich-Winterthur, Switzerland



**Building Competence. Crossing Borders.**

In Cooperation with

**ecpr** European Consortium  
for Political Research



# ECPR/EURA Summer School 2019

**Organized Jointly by the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), the European Urban Research Association (EURA), and the ZHAW School of Management and Law (SML)**

All over the world, local authorities are significant players in the provision of public services. In recent decades, decentralization has become an important reform strategy in many countries, usually with the support of international organizations.

## TOPIC AND OBJECTIVES

Traditional sources suggest that efficiency and quality gains in the provision of public services are achieved through decentralization, along with greater expectations for accountability and responsiveness. Some scholars have warned, however, that decentralization is not without its dangers. For example, local administrations may be understaffed, financially challenged, or feel pressure from local political elites, which can affect the quality of public service provision. There is also a risk of inequality between poorer and richer municipalities.

The aim of this year's Summer School for PhD students interested in local government issues is to discuss the extent to which local government might be the most suitable tier of government for the delivery of public services. Potential topics may include:

- What functions should be performed at the local tier of government?
- Do managerial and territorial reforms improve service delivery at the local level?
- What needs to change about the organization of local governments in order to make them more effective and efficient in delivering public services?
- Can a per-equation system help to decrease inequality between local governments due to capacity?
- What are the key elements of effective inter-governmental relations between national, state/provincial, and local governments?
- Does decentralization lead to more input legitimacy?
- How can we measure local autonomy?

In various lectures, leading scholars will present the status quo and discuss theories to help their audience understand these topics and how they relate to one another, using comparative studies, for example, to show local service delivery across different policy areas, tiers of government, organizational contexts, and countries. In addition, PhD students are invited to present a paper.

As an integral part of this year's Summer School, the hosts are organizing a program of excursions and social activities in Winterthur and Zurich, as well as a sightseeing trip to Aescher-Wildkirchli in the Swiss Alps, one of National Geographic's "Destinations of a Lifetime".



# Organization

## Basic Information

### VENUE

ZHAW School of Management and Law  
Zurich-Winterthur, Switzerland

### LECTURERS

**Prof. Denita Cepiku**, University Tor Vergata, Rome, Italy

**Prof. Bert George**, Erasmus University, Netherlands

**Prof. Andreas Ladner**, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

**Prof. Iris Saliterer**, University of Freiburg, Germany

**Dr. Lisa Schmidhuber**, Johannes Kepler University  
Linz, Austria

**Prof. Filipe Teles**, University of Aveiro, Portugal

**Prof. Reto Steiner**, ZHAW, Switzerland

### LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

#### Prof. Reto Steiner

Dean, ZHAW School of Management and Law  
(Academic Lead)

[reto.steiner@zhaw.ch](mailto:reto.steiner@zhaw.ch)

#### Dr. Christoph Ebnöther

Senior Lecturer, ZHAW School of Management and Law  
(Operational Lead)

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## Quick Facts

**Date:** 6–12 July 2019

**Anticipated number of attendees:** 30

**Number of ECTS credits awarded:**

6 (papers by PhD students will also be graded)

**Registration fee:** EUR 300 (includes all course materials, meals, most program activities, and accommodation at IBIS Hotel, Winterthur). Participants will have to cover their airfare and personal expenses.

### REGISTRATION

To apply for the ECPR/EURA Summer School 2019, visit:

>>> [www.zhaw.ch/sml/summerschool](http://www.zhaw.ch/sml/summerschool)

Your application must include:

- Name of participant, university affiliation, and address
- Detailed curriculum vitae, including a list of publications
- Statement of motivation (How will the Summer School be relevant for your research?)
- A reference (e.g., a supervisor or faculty member) who can be contacted
- For PhD students wishing to be graded: abstract of the paper they will present. The abstract must be a maximum of two pages and should include the research questions, hypotheses, methodology, and structure of the paper.

A sponsorship program set up by the ZHAW School of Management and Law will cover the registration fee for six participants. To apply for sponsorship, please submit the special request form on our website and provide a motivation statement explaining why your registration fee should be waived.

The application deadline is 20 April 2019. You will receive a notification as to whether your application has been successful by 25 April 2019.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any questions, please contact Christoph Ebnöther, [christoph.ebnoether@zhaw.ch](mailto:christoph.ebnoether@zhaw.ch).

# Program

## FRIDAY, 5 JULY

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All day                    **Individual arrival of participants in Winterthur**

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## SATURDAY, 6 JULY

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Morning                    **ECPR/EURA Summer School opening event: Is Local Always Better?**  
Lecture by Prof. Reto Steiner, ZHAW, Switzerland

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Afternoon                    **SESSION 1: Co-Production of Public Services at the Local Tier of Government**  
Lecture by Prof. Denita Cepiku, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy

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Evening                    **Opportunity to experience “Zürifaescht” – Switzerland’s largest street festival, including a spectacular musical fireworks display over the Lake of Zurich**

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## SUNDAY, 7 JULY

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All day                    **Excursion to Aescher**

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## MONDAY, 8 JULY

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Morning                    **SESSION 2: How Can We Measure Local Autonomy?**  
Lecture by Prof. Andreas Ladner, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

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Afternoon                    **Paper presentations by PhD students and discussion**

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Evening                    **Formal dinner in Winterthur**

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## TUESDAY, 9 JULY

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Morning                    **SESSION 3: How Can Inter-Governmental Relations Improve Service Delivery at the Local Level?**  
Lecture by Prof. Filipe Teles, University of Aveiro, Portugal

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Afternoon                    **Paper presentations by PhD students and discussion**

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Evening                    **Evening reception in Zurich with Government Councillor Jacqueline Fehr, Head of the Canton of Zurich Department of Justice and Home Affairs**

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## WEDNESDAY, 10 JULY

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Morning **SESSION 4: Financial Resilience of Local Government**  
Lecture by Prof. Iris Saliterer, University of Freiburg, Germany

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Afternoon **SESSION 5: Does Decentralization Lead to Better Input Legitimacy?**  
Lecture by Prof. Andreas Ladner, University of Lausanne, Switzerland,  
and Prof. Reto Steiner, ZHAW, Switzerland

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## THURSDAY, 11 JULY

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Morning **Session 6: Citizen Participation and Digital Transformation in Local Governments**  
Lecture by Dr. Lisa Schmidhuber, Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria

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Afternoon **Half-day excursion to meet Anna Schindler, Director of Urban Development, City of Zurich, and visit a small local government in the canton of Zurich**

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## FRIDAY, 12 JULY

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Morning **Session 7: Governance and Decision-Making in Local Governments**  
Lecture by Prof. Bert George, Erasmus University, Netherlands

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Afternoon **Paper presentations by PhD students and discussion**

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Evening **Farewell dinner in Winterthur**

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## SATURDAY, 13 JULY (optional)

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All day **“Openair Frauenfeld” – the largest European Hip Hop festival**

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Zurich University  
of Applied Sciences

## School of Management and Law

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[www.zhaw.ch/sml](http://www.zhaw.ch/sml)



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