

# Michele FENZL

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CITIZENSHIP: Italian

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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Sep 2023 — Present     Assistant Professor (tenure: 01.01.2025), **Maastricht University**  
Jan 2023 — Present     Book Review Editor, Italian Political Science Review  
Sep 2019 — Aug 2023     Post-doc, Institute of Political Science, **University of Zurich**  
Fall 2022                 External Lecturer, Institute of Political Science, **University of Luzern**

## EDUCATION

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2015–2019     **PhD** in Government, **University of Essex**  
2018             Visiting researcher, **Cornell University** (Spring Term)  
2014–2015     **MSc** in Political Economy, **University of Essex**  
2012–2014     **MA** in International Relations & Diplomatic Affairs, **University of Bologna**  
2008–2011     **BA** in International Relations & Diplomatic Affairs, **University of Bologna**

## REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

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- **Michele Fenzl**. 2025. “A Shadow on Democracy? The Shadow Economy and Government Responsiveness”. *European Journal of Political Research*.
- Kelemen, R. Daniel, Jonathan Slapin, **Michele Fenzl**, and Pit Rieger. 2025. “Out of Sight Out of Mind? Voter Attitudes about Cooperation with Radical Parties in Europe.” *Journal of European Public Policy*.
- Ezrow, Lawrence, **Michele Fenzl**, and Timothy Hellwig. 2024. “Bicameralism and Policy Responsiveness to Public Opinion.” *American Journal of Political Science*: 68(3): 1089–1105.
- **Fenzl, Michele**, Jonathan B. Slapin, and Sam Wilhelm. 2022. “From Polarization of the Public to Polarization of the Electorate: European Parliament Elections as the Preferred Race for Ideologues” *European Union Politics*: 23(4): 590–611.
- Ezrow, Lawrence, Timothy Hellwig, and **Michele Fenzl**. 2020. “Responsiveness, If You Can Afford It: Policy Responsiveness to the Public in Good and Bad Economic Times”. *Journal of Politics*: 82(3).
- **Michele Fenzl**. 2018. “Income Inequality and Party (De)Polarisation.” *West European Politics* 40(6): 1262–1281.

## ADVANCED WORKING PAPERS

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- **Michele Fenzl** and Luana Russo. “Citizens Responses to Democratic Backsliding: A Survey Experiment in Italy”.
- **Michele Fenzl**, Toon van Overbeke, and Helen Ye Zhang. “Citizens’ Attitudes towards the Use of AI in Political Decision-Making: A Cross-National Survey Experiment”.
- Toon van Overbeke, **Michele Fenzl**, Pelin Ozgul, Luana Russo, and Darian Meacham. “AI and the Job Prospects of the Youth: A Survey Experiment”.
- **Michele Fenzl** and Jonathan Slapin. “Ideological Polarization and Participation in the 2024 EP Election”.
- **Michele Fenzl**, Ronja Szczepanski, and Pit Rieger. “Inequality and the Meaning of Left and Right”.
- **Michele Fenzl**. “Time-Discounting, Democratic Norms, and Voters’ Preferences for Public Spending Reforms”.
- **Fenzl, Michele** and Christine Stedtnitz. “Income Inequality and Media Self-Exposure”.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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- 2019     Book Review: “Transformations of Trade Unionism”  
*LSE Review of Books*, March 02. Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/y2kshocu>
2017.     Book Review: “Singapore and Switzerland: Secrets to small states success”  
*LSE Review of Books*, March 02. Available at: <https://goo.gl/VbjWsL>
2016.     Book Review : “Social Advantage and Disadvantage”.  
*LSE Review of Books*, August 10. Available at: <http://goo.gl/Drvwbf>
2016.     Book Review: “Uninformed: Why people knows so little about politics and what we can do about it” *LSE Review of Books*, May 16. Available at: <http://goo.gl/hxvrjH>

## COMPETITIVE RESEARCH FUNDING & AWARDS

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- 2025, Starter Grant (UM): EUR 300'000.00.
- 2025, SWOL funding: EUR 7'500.00 (co-authored project).
- 2025, winner of the EPOP-YouGOV Competition.
- 2024, Studio Europa Research Funding (co-authored project).
- 2022, URPP for the Study of Inequality and Equality of Opportunity (UZH) Research Funding: CHF 6'800.00 (single-authored project).
- 2022, UZH-ETH CIS Research Funding: CHF 5'661.00 (project co-authored with Ronja Szczepanski and Pit Rieger).
- 2021, URPP for the Study of Inequality and Equality of Opportunity (UZH) Research Funding: CHF 11'976.63 (project co-authored with Christine Stedtnitz).
- 2015—2019, Economic and Social Research Council PhD Funding
- 2015—2019, ESRC Enhancement for the use of Advanced Quantitative Methods
- 2016, Prestige-Cook Travel Award, Southern Political Science Association

## INVITED TALKS

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- 2022 Department of Politics and International Relations, **University of Padua**.  
2021 **WZB Berlin Social Science Center** (Co-authored paper, joint talk with Jonathan Slapin, Dan Kelemen, and Pit Rieger).  
2019 Department of Political Science and International Relations, **University of Geneva**

## SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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|---|------------------------|---|
|   | 2019, 2021*            | American Political Science Association. |
|   | 2016, 2017, 2018, 2021 | Midwest Political Science Association.  |
| 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021*, 2023, 2025 |                        | European Political Science Association. |
|   | 2017, 2018, 2021       | Southern Political Science Association. |
|   | 2016, 2017, 2018       | Italian Political Science Association.  |
|   | 2024, 2025             | Politicologenetmaal (Low Countries).    |

\* Paper presented by co-author.

## ADMINISTRATIVE & MANAGEMENT DUTIES

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- 2025–PRESENT Member of EPC 'Europe in the Global World', Maastricht University  
2025–PRESENT Member of MSc Theses Reform committee, Maastricht University  
2024–PRESENT Library Committee for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Maastricht University  
2022 Founder and organizer of the BiL Seminar for Experimental Research, University of Zurich.  
2020 Member of the hiring committee for PhD position, University of Zurich.  
2020 Member of the hiring committee for Postdoc position, University of Zurich.

## SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

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REVIEWER: *American Political Science Review, Journal of Politics, Comparative Political Studies, British Journal of Political Science, Political Geography, West European Politics, European Journal of Political Research, European Political Science Review, International Journal of Public Opinion Research.*

## STUDENT SUPERVISION

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- 2024/2025 2 MSc Thesis (1 co-supervisor), 3 MA Theses, 6 BA Theses, Maastricht University.  
2023/2024 5 MA Theses, 6 BA Theses, Maastricht University.  
2022/2023 Yves Bruchez, MA Thesis, University of Zurich.  
2022/2023 Fabian Aiolfi, MA Thesis, University of Lucerne.  
2021/2022 Livio Rohner, MA Thesis, University of Zurich.  
2020/2021 Junmo Cheon, MA Thesis, University of Zurich.

## TEACHING QUALIFICATIONS

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- 2025 — UTQ, Maastricht University  
2016 — ASSOCIATE FELLOW, (British) Higher Education Academy

## TEACHING: FURTHER TRAINING

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- University of Zurich
- Fostering interaction in lectures for large classes (2021).
  - Supervising Bachelor and Master theses (2021).
  - Designing peer assessment exercises (2021).

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- 2024/2025 **Department of Politics, Maastricht University**
- Introduction to Quantitative Methods (MSc; Course coordinator and lecturer)
  - Introduction to Quantitative Methods (BA; Course coordinator, lecturer, and tutorial (2 groups))
  - Challenges in Contemporary Democracies (BA, lecturer and tutorial (3 groups))
  - Advanced Quantitative Methods (MSc, lecturer)
- 2023/2024 **Department of Politics, Maastricht University**
- Introduction to Quantitative Methods (MSc; Course coordinator and lecturer)
  - Introduction to Quantitative Methods (BA; Course coordinator, lecturer, and tutorial (2 groups))
  - Challenges in Contemporary Democracies (BA, lecturer and tutorial (3 groups))
  - Advanced Quantitative Methods (MSc, lecturer)
  - Quantitative Data Analysis (BA, tutorial (2 groups))
  - Mastering Academic Research Skills and Methods (MA, tutorial (2 groups))
- 2022/2023 **Institute of Political Science, University of Luzern**
- Introduction to Statistics for the Social Sciences (BA)
- Institute of Political Science, University of Zurich**
- The Politics of income Inequality (MA)
  - Citizen Attitudes, Behaviours, and the Study of Politics (BA)
  - Political Corruption in Comparative Perspective (MA)
  - MA Thesis Colloquium
  - Research in Practice: Investigating Mechanisms in International Studies
- 2021/2022 **Institute of Political Science, University of Zurich**
- The Politics of income Inequality (MA)
  - Citizen Attitudes, Behaviours, and the Study of Politics (BA)
  - Health Politics and Policy in Comparative Perspective (MA)
  - Political Corruption in Comparative Perspective (MA)
  - MA Thesis Colloquium
- 2020/2021 **Institute of Political Science, University of Zurich**
- The Politics of income Inequality (BA)
  - Citizen Attitudes, Behaviours, and the Study of Politics (BA)
  - Health Politics and Policy in Comparative Perspective (MA)
  - Political Corruption in Comparative Perspective (BA)
  - MA Thesis Colloquium
- 2019/2020 **Institute of Political Science, University of Zurich**
- The Politics of income Inequality (MA)
  - Government Responsiveness: Public Opinion and Public Policies (MA)
  - Political Corruption in Comparative Perspective (BA)
- SUMMER 2019 Teaching Assistant, **Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis**
- Applying Regression
  - Intro to Machine Learning
- 2016/2017 Graduate Teaching Assistant, **Department of Government, University of Essex**
- Corruption (undergraduate)
  - Elections and Political Parties (undergraduate)
  - Authoritarianism (undergraduate)
- SUMMER 2016 Teaching Assistant, **Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis**
- Applying Regression

## COMPUTER & LANGUAGE SKILLS

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### **Computer Skills**

- WORD PROCESSING: L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Microsoft Word, Apple Pages.
- STATISTICAL SOFTWARE: R, Stata, SPSS.

### **Other Skills**

- LANGUAGES: Italian (Native); English (C2); Dutch (A1); German (A2).