



Institut für Föderalismus
Institut du Fédéralisme
Institute of Federalism

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1984
2024 **40** YEARS

table of contents

	MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT	3
1.	FOREWORD	4
1.1	Flagships of further education and exchange	4
1.2	Basic and applied research	5
1.3	Thanks	5
2.	LOOKING BACK AT 2024	6
2.1	National Centre	6
2.2	International Centre	6
3.	IN FOCUS	8
3.1	Legal opinion	8
3.2	The 2 nd Fribourg Federalism Days	10
3.3	Final conference of the SNIS project: «Power-sharing for Peace? Between Adoptability and Durability in Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq»	11
4.	ORGANISATION	13
4.1	Internal developments	13
4.2	Institute Council	14
4.3	Staff	15
4.4	Organisation Chart	17
5.	OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES IN 2024	18
5.1	Research and Publications	18
5.2	Expert Reports	20
5.3	Study Tours	21
5.4	Continuing education	21
5.5	Presentations and conferences	23

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

While today's challenges for the population and future generations demand a coordinated response and the international situation requires a cool head, Switzerland can rely on its federalist tradition. A federalism whose qualities have rarely been so important for maintaining a solid foundation and building sustainable projects.

In our everyday lives, it is sometimes easy to lose sight of what makes our system so rich. Federalism, as we practise it in Switzerland, makes it possible to hear the different voices that are expressed within society. It gives each region the opportunity to express itself and have its opinion heard. Taking into account the different minorities, the majority offers solutions that are flexible enough to unfold in different contexts and thus adapt to local specificities. This flexibility is based on the common guidelines established by the different territories that make up our country. These common denominators guarantee the unity in diversity and the coherence of our institutions. Swiss federalism promotes intercantonal solidarity and mutual understanding by enabling all levels to act together. It also means precisely identifying responsibilities and how they are exercised. This is a long-term task that needs to be reassessed at regular intervals in order to keep pace with changes in our society.

These processes, which may seem complex at first glance, are the background to our daily functioning. However, it is essential to constantly scrutinise them. Reflecting on and analysing federalism proves its relevance today perhaps more than ever. As threats to our democracies increase and ideas and positions become polarised, it is necessary to counter this hardening of our societies by fighting the rise of populism, integrating ideas and listening to the needs of all people. Seeking common, consensus-based solutions while leaving the regions their room for manoeuvre: This is what has made the organisation of our country successful so far.

For over 40 years now, the Institute of Federalism has been working on the analysis, reflection and evaluation of new perspectives that make federalism a constantly evolving and contemporary organisational instrument, and has in-depth legal knowledge, recognised expertise and high quality in its research work. I would like to take this opportunity to expressly recognise the quality of the work carried out by the entire Institute team.

As President of the ch Foundation and an ardent federalist, I am also delighted that many people and institutions are defending federalism in all its many facets. I would like to mention the Forum for Bilingualism in Biel, which received the Federalism Prize in 2024 for its commitment to interlingual exchange, as well as the ch Collection, which celebrated its 50th anniversary and is also committed to the dissemination of ideas across language barriers by offering over 300 translated titles of Swiss literature.



The many different aspects of federalism will also be highlighted at next year's National Federalism Conference. On 13 and 14 November, experts will discuss the pressure of centralisation and its impact on federalism in the canton of Zug. The conference will also address digitalisation and its compatibility with federalism. The programme shows the challenges our system is facing and the level of interest in it.

Florence Nater, State Councillor, Canton of Neuchâtel

1. FOREWORD

2024 was an anniversary year for the Institute of Federalism: 40 years ago, the ch Foundation for Federal Cooperation decided to locate its centre of excellence at the University of Fribourg. The university took over the existing library and documentation on cantonal law. The Institute of Federalism, initially under the direction of Prof. Thomas Fleiner (1985–2008) and later Prof. Peter Hänni (2008–2017), soon made a name for itself in the documentation of cantonal law and the observation of Swiss federalism, providing legal information, writing expert opinions and engaging in continuing education. In 1997, with the founding of the International Research and Consulting Centre (IRCC), international cooperation and consulting, which became increasingly important from the 1990s onwards, was institutionally anchored and the cooperation with the FDFA and the SDC was strengthened.

The management and staff of the Institute took the anniversary as an opportunity for a celebratory stopover. We visited our esteemed sister institute in Innsbruck and took the opportunity to discuss issues and topics that concern our two federal states at a joint colloquium. At the same time, we had the opportunity to visit the Tyrolean Parliament and take part in an expert guided tour of Innsbruck's picturesque historic centre.

For some years now, the Institute has been endeavouring to secure stable basic funding that will allow it to secure the necessary (personnel) structures for the provision of scientifically sound services in an international and national context in the long term. Almost five years ago, the Federal Assembly adopted a motion (19.3008) instructing the Federal Council to contribute to the basic funding of the Cantonal Competence Centre for Federalism to an appropriate extent. This year, the Federal Council submitted the preliminary draft for a federal law on financial aid for the Institute for Federalism for consultation. In the opinion of the Institute Council and the Institute's management, the existing legal basis would already allow the Confederation to contribute to the basic funding. In particular, services in the international field could easily be based on the Federal Act on International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid. Instead, it is pointed out on various occasions – including by the authorities – that university institutes already receive financial support under the Federal Act on the Promotion of Universities and Cooperation in the Higher Education Sector. However, this argument is misguided because the issue of basic funding for the Competence Centre for Federalism, unlike the Universities Act, is not about funding research and teaching, but about services that are not man-

dated by the universities, but rather serve development cooperation or the maintenance of federalism in Switzerland. If a legal basis is nevertheless to be created, it would probably be more appropriately accommodated in the Federal Act on Measures for Civil Peacebuilding and the Strengthening of Human Rights. Although this law is primarily aimed at measures abroad, the new standards for the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) have also found their place in this law. Nevertheless, the issue is likely to have a difficult time for other reasons. For some months now, austerity measures and budgetary restrictions have also become an integral part of the political discourse in the public sector, which has not spared universities and their institutes. For the Institute of Federalism, which is institutionally embedded in the Faculty of Law at the University of Fribourg, but whose profile is strongly orientated towards services for the benefit of the Confederation and the cantons, the growing cost pressure is particularly incisive. The first cost-cutting measures already had to be taken this year. In view of the numerous conflicts in many parts of the world and the increasing polarisation even in established democracies, it seems very regrettable that the Institute can only make Switzerland's and other countries' experience in dealing peacefully with diversity and other issues of federalism available to a limited extent.

Despite the difficult environment, we were able to continue various proven programmes and initiate some new projects. Although the costly individual financing of the various services increases the administrative burden considerably – also on the part of our partners – our motivation to provide domestic and foreign stakeholders with scientifically sound advice and customised training remains unbroken. This annual report is intended to give you an insight into the various activities of our institute.

1.1 Flagships of further education and exchange

The Summer University on federalism, decentralisation and conflict resolution was held for the 30th time this year. Over 40 participants and lecturers from different parts of the world once again spent three weeks intensively examining the question of how states can function at different levels, how minorities can be protected and how democracy and human rights can be sustainably strengthened. To celebrate the anniversary, a two-day international conference was also held as part of the Summer University, which focussed on the question of whether and how federalism offers answers to current conflicts.

For the second time this year, we were able to offer a platform for interdisciplinary dialogue between experts, scientists and decision-makers at the *Fribourg Federalism Days*. Over two days, the conference focussed on the division of competences and tasks in the Swiss federal state. This topic is highly relevant, not least due to the resumed efforts of the Confederation and cantons in June 2024 to review the existing division of tasks between the federal levels and to develop proposals for a further unbundling of jointly realised and financed tasks. In this context, the presentation by Federal Councillor Karin Keller-Sutter was met with a particularly high level of interest. The conference took the joint project of the Confederation and the cantons as an opportunity to debate the principles of the division of responsibilities and competences on the one hand and to examine their application in the healthcare and social services sector in more detail on the other (see chapter 3.2).

1.2 Basic and applied research

As part of the National Research Programme «Covid-19 in Society (NRP 80)», the research project «*Improving Swiss Pandemic Governance – How to Strengthen Democracy, Federalism and Human Rights Implementation in Times of Crisis*» has already produced initial interim results, which have been incorporated into three publications: A first contribution («Strengthening Parliament in Times of Crisis») analysed the amendment to the Parliament Act passed in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. A second article («Judicial control of emergency law») analysed existing deficits in legal protection and formulated proposals for improvements to judicial legal protection in order to strengthen the rule of law in extraordinary situations. A further contribution («Cantonal emergency law systems») analysed the similarities and differences between cantonal emergency law and emergency clauses. In addition, the research team was involved in the consultation process for the partial revision of the Epidemics Act by bringing together representatives from politics, administration and (legal) science in a workshop and participating in the consultation process. The research team has also been involved in ongoing discussions on reforms to the cantonal emergency law. It is already apparent today that the project – as desired – facilitates the link between science and practice. The exchange with practitioners enriches the scientific analyses, the results of which in turn feed back into ongoing reforms.

We were also able to present initial results as of our «*Legitimult*» project, which is funded by the EU and the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation. As part of this project, which involves ten European partners, comprehensive data sets are being compiled to show the influence that multi-level state systems have had on the measures taken during the Covid-19 pandemic. Based on these datasets, we will examine comparatively how federalism, decentralisation and Europeanisation affect the various aspects of crisis governance, such as the rule of law, democratic participation, human rights, trust and economic and fiscal policy. At an interim conference held in Ljubljana in April, the partners shared their interim results; the first results, which analyse the impact of Covid-19 measures on democratic governance and multi-level systems, are now available. The final months of the project will be characterised by the development of models for legitimate crisis management and the drafting of recommendations. These will be publicised to a wider audience next year at a final conference to be held in Brussels.

Finally, in the area of applied research, mention should be made of the numerous *expert opinions and legal clarifications* that the Institute provides on behalf of public authorities in various areas of constitutional and administrative law. The focus here is on constitutional issues relating to the organisation of the state and authorities, as well as areas of cantonal administrative law (see chapter 3.1 for details). The expert opinions enrich the scientific penetration of federal state organisation and are also indispensable for the financing of the Institute's basic structures.

1.3 Thanks

The Directorate would like to thank the members of the Institute Council under the leadership of State Councillor Florence Nater for their trust and appreciation. We look forward to working with our partners on the further development of federalism. Special thanks are due to our employees, whose dedication and commitment make a significant contribution to the Institute's reputation.

Eva Maria Belser
Bernhard Waldmann
Andreas Stöckli

2. LOOKING BACK AT 2024

2.1 National centre

On the basis of an agreement with the ch Foundation from 2014/2018, the Institute provides certain "basic services" for the cantons. These include, in particular, the monitoring of research, case law and legislation relevant to federalism. The important results of this analysis are publicised via regular newsletters. In addition to information on current developments in legislation, case law and research, the four issues of 2024 include reviews of a political science dissertation on lobbying by the cantons and a legal dissertation on the position of cities in the federal state, analyses of individual federal court judgments and essays on the digital transformation in the federal state or on executive federalism. The Institute also published newsletters on cantonal referendums and voting results again this year.

As part of the research project on governance issues in times of crisis (NRP 80) funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation, the first academic contributions have been published: In a first article, the constitutional emergency law and emergency clauses of the cantons are compared and assessed on the basis of certain criteria (systematics, application requirements, scope, constitutional-democratic corrective measures). A second article uses case studies to show that (judicial) legal protection was incomplete during the Covid-19 pandemic and makes suggestions for adjustments. Another article deals with the revision of the Parliament Act to strengthen the Federal Assembly in future crisis situations. Furthermore, the Institute organised a workshop in January on the planned partial revision of the Epidemics Act: following a presentation of the consultation draft, this was assessed from a legal, political and legislative perspective. Finally, the research team was invited to Glarus in April to discuss the proposal to "strengthen the crisis security of the political system" in the canton of Glarus

In the area of applied research, the Institute again prepared several expert reports this year. These are listed in chapter 3.1.

Finally, the Institute was again very active in the area of continuing education. Particular mention should be made of the second edition of the Fribourg Federalism Days, which were dedicated to the division of competences and tasks in the Swiss federal state (see section 3.2.). As part of the Murtner Legislation Seminars, one seminar on legislative methodology and one on legislative drafting were held in 2024. As always, the seminars were fully booked. In addition, there were numerous lectures at further education events, conferences and colloquia (see the detailed list below, chapter 5)

2.2 International Centre

Federalism, democracy, the rule of law, human rights and power-sharing: the range of issues on which the International Research and Consulting Centre (IRCC) worked in 2024 was broad, we continued to be active in regions around the world, particularly in the Global South. The main highlight of 2024 was the organisation of the 30th edition of the Summer University on Federalism, Decentralisation and Conflict Resolution, which attracted more than 40 participants from around the world. To mark the anniversary, the IRCC also organised a conference on the topic «Is Federalism a Viable Tool in Times of Crisis». The conference themes reflected the state of democratic decline observed around the world, and featured distinguished national and international scholars who explored, among other things, the complex relationship between federalism, democracy and conflict resolution, showing how federal structures can either stabilise or exacerbate conflict, and providing valuable insights into their role in contemporary political dynamics. The conference proceedings were published as open access IFF Working Papers <https://www.unifr.ch/federalism/en/research/iffworkingpaperonl.html>.

Two research projects that the IRCC was involved in ended in 2024: «LOGOV – Local Government and the Changing Urban-Rural Interplay» and «Power-sharing for Peace? Balancing Adaptability and Durability in Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq» supported by the Swiss Network for International Studies (SNIS). Both projects concluded with a final conference, the latter was organised by the IRCC in Fribourg (see chapter 3.3.). The research projects, Legitimult <https://legitimult.eu/> and Swiss Pandemic Governance <https://www.nfp80.ch/en/BzzNJF6Mn1fA4PuO/project/crisis-management-strengthening-democracy-human-rights-and-federalism> continued through 2024, and included several conferences and workshops.

A new interdisciplinary project «How does Switzerland speak? Consensus democracy, plurilingualism and political participation» kicked off in 2024. As a sub-project of the research on the 'Future of Switzerland' at the University of Fribourg, the project is being carried out in collaboration with the Institute of Multilingualism and is financed by the Mobiliar (insurance company). It addresses the question of the link between plurilingualism, multilingualism, political institutions and legal realities in Switzerland.

The IRCC was represented at several academic conferences, for

example, at the IACFS Conference in Antwerp (Prof. Eva Maria Belser, Mr. Daan Smeekens), the Annual Conference of the Swiss Association for Political Science, St. Gallen and ECPR General Conference in Dublin (Dr. Edina Szöcsik), Canadian Political Science Association, Montreal and Konrad Adenauer Foundation Conference on Myanmar, Como (Dr. Soeren Keil), as well as at the Scuola Democratica, Università de Cagliari (Dr. Verena Richardier).

The IRCC continued to receive visiting researchers from several countries, including Ethiopia, South Africa, Nigeria, Turkey, Poland, Italy and Ukraine. As part of the LOGOV project, Dr. Rekha Oleschak carried out a research stay at the National University of Singapore and Ms. Tamara Wanner at the Universidad Nacional de San Martín, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The consultancy works carried out by the IRCC included the project on Fiscal Federalism in Somalia, in cooperation with the World Bank and the SDC. As part of this consultancy, the IRCC supported the development of a policy paper on fiscal federalism, which is expected to be adopted by the Ministry of Finance and should form the basis of mid-term reforms of the system of fiscal federalism. The IRCC also worked on a comparative study on land governance in federal countries focussing on discussions between land governance and federalism in Myanmar.

The outreach activities included a new co-operation with the Politforum in Bern, that comprised two events in the form of the «Democracy Bar», the first one on the Indian elections (Dr. Rekha Oleschak) and the second one on the role of parliaments in times of crisis (Mr. Luis Maiorini). Further outreach activities included the programme «Turn on Federalism» in co-operation with the Hanns Seidel Foundation and a seminar organised together with the Convivenza Foundation featuring a lecture on «Human and Minority Rights in Crisis» by Prof. Joseph Marko (former international judge of the Constitutional Court of Bosnia-Herzegovina).

The IRCC also delivered two courses for the Spring University in Myanmar and organised training programmes for its other partners. Prof. Eva Maria Belser lectured at the EURAC Winter School on Comparative Federalism and at Addis Ababa University and contributed to training programs in Cyprus and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

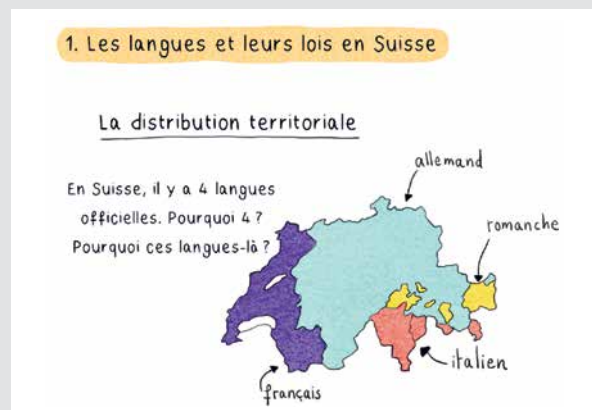
In 2024, fundraising remained a strong challenge for the IRCC: while we were able to raise some funds, for the Summer University and its Conference (SNF, Aargauer Stiftung, FDFA, SDC, Toni Hagen Foundation), for the outreach project on Webtoons (Centenary Research Fund of the University of Fribourg) and as part of the current research projects, the long-term conduct of activities will remain challenging without institutional financial support.



Impressions Summer University 2024



The IRCC continued with its history of excellent publications in 2024 with team members contributing to edited books, journal articles and blog pieces. Dr. Edina Szöcsik and co-authors were awarded the Best Article Prize of the Journal Regional and Federal Studies for the article «The Framing Territorial Demands (FraTerr) dataset: A novel approach to conceptualizing and measuring regionalist actors' territorial strategies». See: <https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/frfs20/collections/best-paper-prize-regional-federal-studies> (see also chapter 5).



Science Webtoon (Illustration on multilingualism, Véréna Richardier)

3. IN FOCUS

3.1 Legal opinion

For many years, one of the core activities of the Institute of Federalism has been the preparation of legal analyses and expert opinions on questions of constitutional and administrative law. The focus here is on constitutional issues relating to the organisation of the state and authorities as well as areas of cantonal administrative law. In 2024, the Institute again wrote several expert opinions, which are listed below in the necessary brevity.

On behalf of the Department of Justice of the Canton of Uri, the Institute analysed the legal validity of the popular initiative «*Isleten for all*». This initiative called for the enactment of a legal utilisation regulation for the Isleten area on the western shore of Lake Lucerne. The expert opinion examined the validity of the popular initiative in the light of cantonal law and the minimum requirements of federal law (Art. 34 para. 2 BV). The focus was on the question of whether the initiative relates to a permissible subject matter or requires the drafting of an impermissible individual law. The expert opinion came to the conclusion that, according to the cantonal constitution of Uri, a legislative initiative can also refer to enactments with general, specific provisions and that the constitution does not exclude «utilisation plans in legislative form» or initiatives on such plans. The expert opinion also came to the conclusion that the initiative respects the principles of unity of form and unity of subject matter and does not contradict overriding law – in particular spatial planning law and municipal



Visit members of the general secretariat of decentralization DR of Congo, October 2024

autonomy. The initiative was ultimately rejected at the ballot box on 24 November 2024.

The Institute also dealt with the qualification of so-called hydroxide sludges under waste legislation. Hydroxide sludge is produced during the processing of residues from the flue gas cleaning of waste incineration plants and contains a high proportion of metals that can be utilised as a secondary resource or pollute the environment. The expert opinion was commissioned by SwissZinc AG. Its purpose is to plan, build and operate a plant for the recovery of metals, in particular zinc, from waste incineration residues in waste incineration plants. In a preliminary investigation, the Secretariat of the Competition Commission (COMCO) came to the conclusion that there were indications of unlawful restrictions of competition if the project was realised in its planned form. COMCO assumed that the hydroxide sludge from which the zinc is to be extracted constitutes special waste that is to be categorised as "other waste" within the meaning of Art. 31c USG. SwissZinc AG commissioned the Institute of Federalism to provide an expert opinion on the question of whether residues from waste incineration plants constitute «other waste» within the meaning of Art. 31c USG or are to be qualified as municipal waste within the meaning of Art. 31b USG, which is subject to the state disposal monopoly. The interpretation of Art. 31b USG showed that hydroxide sludge is subject to the cantonal disposal monopoly insofar as it results from the incineration of municipal waste. Plants for the recovery of metals from hydroxide sludge are therefore covered by the monopoly if they primarily process residues from the treatment of municipal waste.

On behalf of the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH), the Institute analysed the question of the need for a legal basis for triage decisions regarding access to intensive care treatment in the event of acute resource shortages. It also focussed on the question of whether there is a constitutional basis of competence for a regulation at federal level. The expert opinion came to the conclusion that the state is obliged to act with regard to the regulation of triage in intensive care medicine. On the one hand, the need for a statutory triage regulation arises from the principle of legality. Secondly, there is a considerable risk that the fundamental rights of the persons concerned will be violated in a triage situation. In particular, there is a risk that older, previously ill and disabled people will be systematically disadvantaged and thus discriminated against when it comes to accessing potentially life-saving

intensive care resources. The criteria for the allocation of intensive care treatment in the event of an acute shortage of resources must therefore be regulated in the law in a way that complies with fundamental rights. Various bases of competence are conceivable for regulation at federal level, depending on the specific form. The primary options are Art. 117a BV (basic medical care), Art. 118 para. 2 lit. b BV (combating communicable diseases) and Art. 102 BV (national health care).

The Institute also prepared expert reports on behalf of the Parliamentary Administrative Control (PVK) and the Canton of Nidwalden. In the first case, the Institute prepared a working paper on the parliamentary oversight of price monitoring at the end of the year. The working paper is embedded in a larger mandate, the subject of which is the expert clarification of the degree of independence of price monitoring and thus the scope of the supervision of the responsible department and the parliamentary oversight of price monitoring. The mandate from the Canton of Nidwalden related to the clarification of legal issues in connection with the revision of the cantonal legislation on corporations. This revision is necessary because the Federal Supreme Court ruled in 2018, in confirmation of a judgement by the cantonal administrative court, that the current regulation on corporate citizenship is unconstitutional. In the course of the ongoing revision of the Cantonal Corporations Act, the question of the procedure for legislation arose in particular, as the cantonal constitution dedicates a special provision to legislation in corporate matters.

3.2 The 2nd Fribourg Federalism Days

The 2nd Fribourg Federalism Days took place on 2 and 3 September 2024. The event was organised by the Institute of Federalism (IFF) in collaboration with the Conference of Cantonal Governments (KdK), the ch Foundation for Federal Cooperation and the Federal Finance Administration (FFA). The second edition of the Federalism Days was dedicated to the topic of «Division of competences and tasks in the federal state - principles and their application in the health and social sector».

The Swiss federalism reform of 2008 not only placed the federal fiscal equalisation system on a new footing, but also unbundled tasks between the Confederation and the cantons and enshrined key principles such as subsidiarity and fiscal equivalence in the Federal Constitution. More than 15 years later, there are renewed efforts to review and unbundle the tasks realised jointly by the Confederation and the cantons (the «Unbundling 27» project). Political, scientific and media debates are currently also focussing on the application of the principles of the division of competences and responsibilities in the area of health and social services. The second Fribourg Federalism Days therefore focussed on highly relevant topics in an interdisciplinary manner.

The Federalism Days opened with a first panel on the principles of the division of competences and responsibilities in the federal state. The presentations provided insights into the system of the division of competences and responsibilities and its underlying principles from the perspective of various disciplines. In subsequent presentations, the scope of action of the cantons and municipalities in the area of environmental and social policy as well as legal protection in the event of disputes over competences were dealt with in greater depth.

The keynote speech, given by Federal Councillor Karin Keller-Sutter, was a particular highlight of the Federalism Days. In her own words, Federal Councillor Karin Keller-Sutter began her speech with a provocation: «The biggest enemy of federalism is the federalists». She thus criticised those who praise federalism in speeches but «on weekdays» transfer more and more tasks to the federal government. Her criticism was also directed at cantons that complain about dwindling autonomy, but at the same time willingly hand over competences if the federal government covers the costs. In her expressive and informative speech, she addressed the challenges of federalism and emphasised the importance of a clear distribution

of tasks for citizen-oriented and efficient solutions. She concluded with an appeal to use the principles of federalism as guiding principles in everyday political life. After her speech, Federal Councillor Karin Keller-Sutter took questions from the audience.

The topics raised by Federal Councillor Karin Keller-Sutter were discussed in greater depth in a panel discussion at the end of the first day. Martin Bühler (Member of the Cantonal Government of Graubünden), Jacques Dubey (Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Fribourg), Michael Hermann (Managing Director of Sotomo), Florence Nater (State Councillor of the Canton of Neuchâtel and President of the ch Foundation) and Marie-France Roth Pasquier (National Councillor of the Canton of Fribourg), moderated by Prof. Eva Maria Belser (IFF), engaged in a lively discussion on federalism and its current challenges.

The second day focussed on the federal division of tasks in the healthcare and social services sector. In three different panels, experts discussed hospital planning (moderated by Prof. Bernhard Waldmann [IFF]), the digitalisation of the healthcare system (moderated by Prof. Andreas Stöckli [IFF]) and social security (moderated by Prof. Basile Cardinaux [University of Fribourg]). Renowned experts from academia and practice were invited to take part in the panels. At the end of the event, the planned task reform «Unbundling 27» was discussed. After an introductory presentation by Thomas Minger (Deputy Secretary General of the KdK), guests from all federalist levels discussed the planned task reform and the challenges of task sharing in the federal state under the moderation of Luis A. Maiorini (IFF). Erich Fehr (Mayor of Biel), Johanna Gapany (State Councillor of the Canton of Fribourg) and Jean-Pierre Siggen (State Councillor of the Canton of Fribourg) took part in the discussion.

The outcome of the second Fribourg Federalism Days was extremely positive. As was the case after the first edition, we can look back on a wealth of contributions, stimulating discussions and new insights. The Federalism Days also provided an excellent networking platform for federalism academics and practitioners as well as those interested in federalism. In 2025, the publication of a conference volume (in the publication series of the Institute for Federalism PIFF) is also planned. In future, the Federalism Days will be held every two years. The next event will take place in autumn 2026, further information will follow.

3.3 Final conference of the SNIS project «Power-sharing for Peace? Between Adoptability and Durability in Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq»



2nd Fribourg Federalism Days

Between 2022 and 2024, the International Research and Consultancy Centre of the Institute of Federalism (IRCC) participated in the project «Power-sharing for Peace», which was funded by the Swiss Network for International Studies (SNIS).

The project, which was led by our colleagues from Swisspeace and brought together partners from Canada, Lebanon and Iraq, focussed on the issue of power-sharing, with a particular focus on Lebanon, Iraq and Syria.

Power-sharing has become one of the most important instruments used by international actors to pacify violent conflicts and ensure democracy in deeply divided societies. In the project, power sharing is understood on the one hand as cooperation between the elites within the government and on the other hand as territorial decentralisation. As a rule, intensive negotiations and compromises are required before agreements can be reached between the conflict parties and the relevant interest groups. Unsurprisingly, the adoption of such agreements is a challenge, as the recent peace process in Syria has shown. Furthermore, power-sharing, even once accepted, is not always permanent and often fraught with difficulties. For example, although some countries, such as Lebanon, have been pacified, it has not been possible to reorganise the political framework in such a way that cooperation between the elites would have worked. Iraq is an example of the danger of only very incomplete implementation of the agreed power-sharing.

Comparing three countries in the Middle East - Syria, Iraq and Lebanon - the project analysed the acceptance and durability of power-sharing agreements between different actors, focusing on two main research questions:

Under what conditions do power-sharing agreements come about?

What problems in the implementation of agreements can hinder functioning governance and thus lasting peace?

As part of the Summer University 2024, the final conference of the project took place at the University of Fribourg on 23 August 2024. In a first panel, the international research team presented the most important findings after two years of research. It was shown that power-sharing can only be achieved if local elites, international actors and various representatives of international actors agree to such an agreement. While such an agreement between the various

actors existed for both Lebanon and Iraq, the researchers proved that such an agreement had not yet been possible in Syria, as both local elites and international actors were pursuing opposing priorities. In a second step, the project participants analysed why the implementation of power-sharing is so challenging and why it repeatedly leads to stagnation and government crises in the three countries studied. From this, they developed an initial classification of power-sharing agreements, particularly with regard to those aspects that were agreed but were later not implemented, not fully implemented or not implemented in the spirit of the agreement. In the third and final step, the research team was able to show how divided civil society actors are when it comes to power-sharing and how little knowledge there generally is in the countries concerned about the agreed power-sharing and its implementation. In all three countries, power-sharing is equated with stagnation, secession and elite interests and is therefore viewed negatively. Syrian civil society representatives, for example, agreed that they did not want Lebanese or Iraqi conditions.

In a second panel, various representatives from the region discussed the findings of the project with mediation experts. The main question was how to achieve more peace agreements and what role power-sharing could play in this. The question of how the systems in Iraq and Lebanon could be reformed and adapted in order to contribute to good governance, democratisation and an improvement in people's living conditions was also discussed. The panel agreed that power-sharing can contribute to peace, but that more efforts are needed to avoid the risk of elite cartels.

Initial findings from the project can be found in the following Swisspeace report:

Allison McCulloch, et.al: Power-Sharing for Peace? Between Adoptability and Durability in Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq, Swisspeace Working Paper 3/2024, see: <https://www.swisspeace.ch/assets/publications/Working-Papers/2024/Allison-McCulloch-Working-Paper-3-2024.pdf>



SNIS Conference

4. ORGANISATION

4.1 Internal developments

At the beginning of the year, Mr Roland Mayer, representative of the ch Foundation in the Institute Council, was extended for a further four years by the Foundation management and Mr Peter Mischler, co-opted member, was re-elected for the same term at the Institute Council meeting in March.

On 8 May, an extraordinary meeting of the Institute Council took place via video conference. The reason for this was the motion 19.3008 «Competence Centre for Federalism. Participation in basic funding», for which a law is to be submitted to the cantons for consultation by mid-July. The strategic body of the Institute and the ch Foundation have supported the cantons in this process by providing sample letters for a response to the Federal Council.

The two ordinary meetings of the Institute Council took place as usual in March on the Institute's premises and in November via video conference.

Due to a change in the job specification, which restricts the service in the international area to the time of the Summer University, only two civilian service volunteers worked at the Institute for a total of four months in 2024. The civilian service employee assigned to the Cantonal Documentation Centre was able to complete the inventory. This will allow the old documents in the collection, some of which date back to 1715, to be valorised.

The 40th anniversary of the Institute was celebrated with a visit to the Institute for Federalism at the University of Innsbruck from 28-30 June. The staff of the three chairs met with the staff of the partner institute for an academic exchange and an interesting visit to the Landhaus, the seat of the Tyrolean state government. An exciting tour of the city of Innsbruck in bright sunshine rounded off the programme.

Due to the end of funding from the FDFA and the fact that the above-mentioned motion has not yet been finalised, the additional space in the building was made available to the university. A slight reduction in workload was also implemented in the Central Services.

The 3rd year commercial apprentice passed his Federal Certificate of Competence (EFZ) with flying colours before the summer. At the beginning of autumn, we welcomed a new apprentice, also from

the 3rd year of training, to the Institute. The apprentice provides the Institute with welcome support for various tasks, particularly in the area of accounting.



Visit to Innsbruck, Austria celebrating the 40th anniversary of the institute

4.2 Institute Council

At the end of 2024, the members of the Institute Council were as follows:

Chair

Florence NATER, State Councillor and Head of the Department of Labour and Social Affairs of the Canton of Neuchâtel, Representative of the ch Foundation (member since 07.2022)

Vice-Chair

Sylvie BONVIN-SANSONNENS, State Councillor and Head of the Directorate for Education and Cultural Affairs, Canton of Fribourg (member since 11.2022)

Representative of the ch Foundation for Federal Cooperation

Roland MAYER, Managing Director of the ch Foundation for Federal Cooperation (member since 01.2019)

Markus DIETH, Government Councillor, President of the Conference of Cantonal Governments CdC, Head of the Department of Finance and Resources of the Canton of Aargau (member since 01.2023)

Representatives of the University of Fribourg

Martin BEYELER, Professor of Public Law (member since 10.2020)

Clémence GRISEL RAPIN, Professor for Administrative Law (member since 6.2020)

Hubert STÖCKLI, Professor of Private Law (member since 04.2024)

Flaminia DAHINDEN, Graduate assistant, Institute for European Law, Representative of the academic mid-level of the University of Freiburg (member since 3.2023)

Simon WERTHMÜLLER, Student representative, Faculty of Law (member since 10.2024)

Other members

Christoph AUER, State Secretary of the Canton of Bern, (member since 12.2017)

Horst SCHÄDLER, Government Secretary, Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein (member since 11.2022)

Peter MISCHLER, Secretary General of the Conference of Cantonal Finance Directors (member since 12.2015)

Christian RATHGEB, Lawyer, Rathgeb Advokatur (member since 01.2021)

4.3 Staff

Board of Directors



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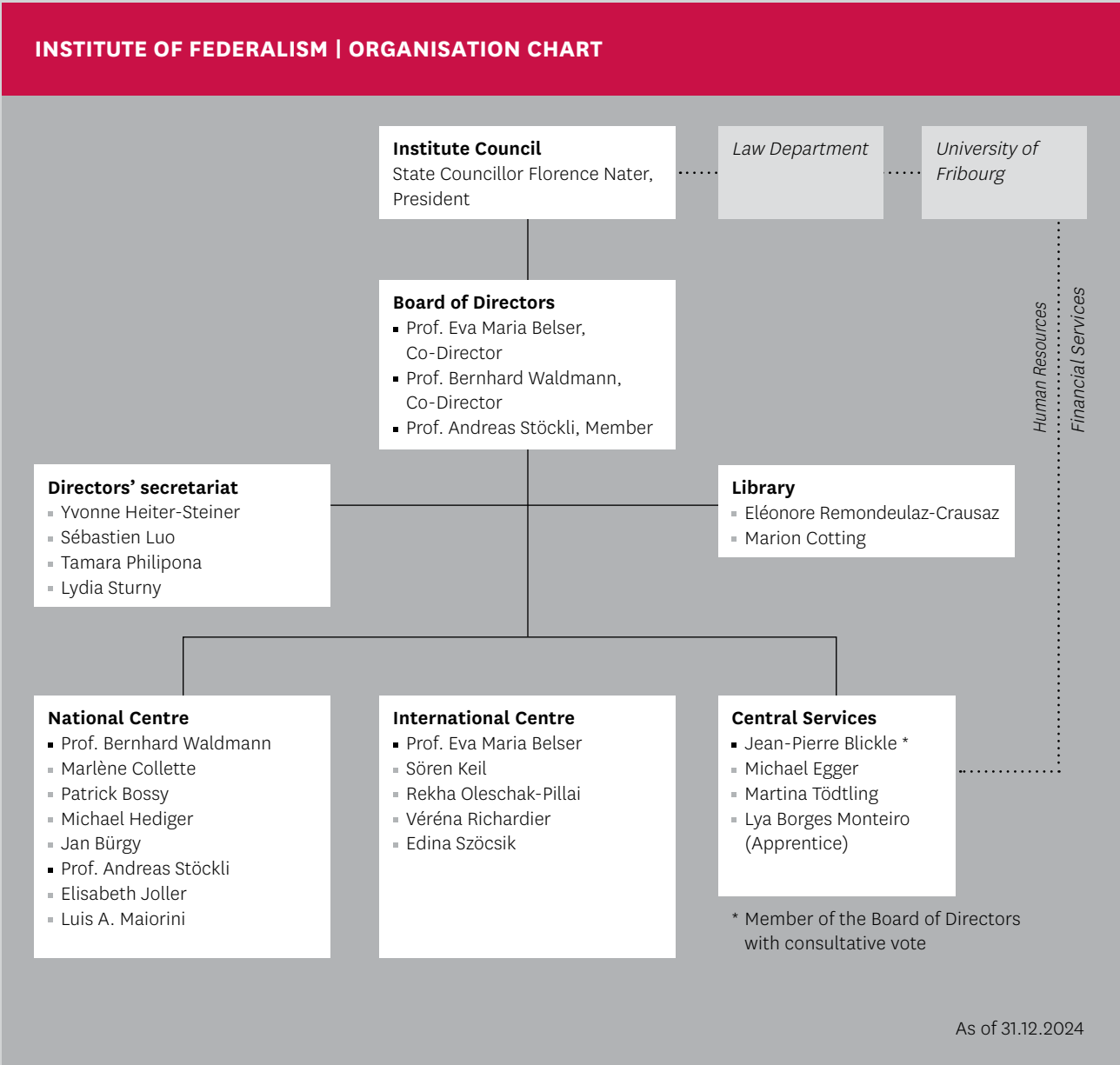


Martina TÖDTLING, MA
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Lya BORGES MONTEIRO
Apprentice (since 1.8.2024)
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4.4 Organisation Chart



5. OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES IN 2024

5.1 Research and publications

EVA MARIA BELSER

- Constitutional Reform – Jurisdiction Report – Switzerland, in: Luís Roberto Barroso and Richard Albert (eds.), *The 2023 International Review of Constitutional Reform*, Texas 2024, 351 – 356, available at https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4971295 (with Simon Mazidi).
- Constitutionalising Animal Welfare in Switzerland – Two Initiatives, Two Dynamics, Two Outcomes?, *Voices from the Field*, International IDEA, 5 July 2024, available at <https://constitutionnet.org/news/voices/constitutionalising-animal-welfare-switzerland-two-initiatives> (with Simon Mazidi).
- The Fiscal Equivalence Trap – Don't Decide, Don't Pay, How a Principle of Fiscal Federalism Motivates State Inaction, in: Cuadernos Manuel Giménez Abad, Special Issue 9, 185-203 (with Géraldine Catillaz).
- Le contrat social du Rojava aus prisme des systèmes fédéraux: Une expérience révolutionnaire aux contours flous, in: Couveinhes Matsumoto/Clarenc Bicudo (eds.), *Le Rojava démocratique et le droit*, Paris 2024, Chapter 11, 347-372 (with Lara Torbay).
- Why the World Did Not Come Together, The Failures of the «Committee to Frame A World Constitution», in: Peter Bußjäger/Mathias Eller/Julia Oberdanner (eds.), *The Making and Ending of Federalism, Studies in Territorial and Cultural Diversity Governance*, Leiden/Boston 2024, Chapter 1, 9–42 (with Salome Hunkeler).
- Engagement of Swiss Courts with International Law, Looking at the Swiss Federal Supreme Court and its Ways of Dealing with Conflicts between Domestic Law and International Human Rights Guarantees, in: André Nollkaemper/Yuval Shany/Antonios Tzanakopoulos/Eleni Methymaki (eds.), *The Engagement of Domestic Courts with International Law: Comparative Perspectives*, Oxford 2024, 271 – 290 (with Rekha Oleschak-Pillai).
- The greening of human rights, interview with Tobias Herbst, *Die Zeitschrift für Gewässerschutz, aqua viva* 3 / 2024, 34-37.
- Democracy: Promises, Premises and Prospects, in: Nico Steytler (ed.), *Montfleur Conversations on Constitutionalism*, Cape Town 2024, Chapter 1.
- Human Rights: in: Nico Steytler (ed.), *Montfleur Conversations on Constitutionalism*, Cape Town 2024, Comment to Chapter 5 by Octávio Ferraz.
- Federalism and Democracy, in: Nico Steytler (ed.), *Montfleur Conversations on Constitutionalism*, Cape Town 2024, Comment to Chapter 7 by Patricia Popelier.

- Fireside Story, in: Nico Steytler (ed.), *Montfleur Conversations on Constitutionalism*, Cape Town 2024, Chapter 10.
- Greta Klotz, *Intercommunal Co-operation in the Alpine Region, Local Services in Graubünden, South Tyrol and Tyrol*; Dissertation (Supervision Eva Maria Belser and Silvia Bolgherini).
- Petru Emanuel Zlătescu, *The evolutionary interpretation of the ECHR: Living instrument in the age of subsidiarity* (Supervision Eva Maria Belser).

PATRICK BOSSY

- (No) «terroir» in executive federalism? A note following the ruling of the Federal Administrative Court B-4173/2022 of 11 January 2024, in: *Newsletter IFF* 4/2024
- «Lobbyierende Kantone»: Book review of the dissertation by Rahel Freiburghaus, in: *Newsletter IFF* 4/2024
- Federalism-related court judgements of the year 2023 (together with Marlène Collette)
- Literature on Swiss federalism in 2023 (together with Marlène Collette and Gabriel Chocomeli)

MARLÈNE COLLETTE

- Commentary on the judgement of the Federal Supreme Court 2C_694/2022 of 21 December 2023, *Newsletter IFF* 2/2024.
- Digital transformation and federalism: A brief stocktaking and food for thought, *Newsletter IFF* 4/2024.

JOHANNA JEAN-PETIT-MATILE

- Judicial control of emergency law, effective legal protection in crisis management, in: *Jusletter* of 27 May 2024.

ELISABETH JOLLER

- The Prohibition of Sex Discrimination as a Prohibition of Sexist Discrimination, A Study on Art. 8 para. 2 and 3 of the Swiss Federal Constitution, *Diss. Fribourg* 2024, Bern 2024

SÖREN KEIL

- Power-sharing in the Global South - Patterns, Practices and Potentials, Palgrave MacMillian, editors Eduardo Abouttaif, Soeren Keil and Allison McCulloch
- Introduction: Power-sharing in the Global South, in: *Power-sharing in the Global South – Patterns, Practices and Potentials*, Palgrave MacMillian, editors Eduardo Abouttaif, Soeren Keil and Allison McCulloch pp. 1–16 (with Eduardo Abouttaif).

- Getting to a Power-Sharing Agreement: Insights for International Mediators on Adoptability from Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq, 50 Shades of Federalism, October 2024, available at: <https://50shadesoffederalism.com/federalism-conflict/getting-to-a-power-sharing-agreement-insights-for-international-mediators-on-adoptability-from-lebanon-syria-and-iraq/> (with Allison McCulloch; Eduardo Aboultaif; Clara Pergola; Sahar Ammar).
- Power-Sharing for Peace? Between Adoptability and Durability in Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq, Swisspeace Working Paper 3/2024, available at: <https://www.swisspeace.ch/assets/publications/Working-Papers/2024/Allison-McCulloch-Working-Paper-3-2024.pdf> (with Allison McCulloch, Sibel Gürler, Sahar Ammar, Eduardo Wassim Aboultaif, Clara Pergola, Jibril Kallas and Manar Zaiter)
- Federalism and Power-Sharing as Modes of Diversity Management in Europe. In Cooperative Federalism in South Asia and Europe Routledge India. (pp. 171–187).

LUIS A. MAIORINI

- Strengthening Parliament in times of crisis, assessment of the ParlG revision after the Covid-19 crisis, in: Jusletter of 10 June 2024
- Intergovernmental Relations in Federal Systems, The Role of Intergovernmental Conferences in Swiss Federalism (edited together with Andreas Stöckli), Bern 2024
- Introduction, in: Stöckli/Maiorini (eds.), Intergovernmental Relations in Federal Systems, The Role of Intergovernmental Conferences in Swiss Federalism, Bern 2024, pp. 1–5 (together with Andreas Stöckli)
- Conclusion, in: Stöckli/Maiorini (eds.), Intergovernmental Relations in Federal Systems, The Role of Intergovernmental Conferences in Swiss Federalism, Bern 2024, pp. 155–162 (together with Andreas Stöckli)

REKHA OLESCHAK-PILLAI

- Engagement of Swiss Courts with International Law, Looking at the Swiss Federal Supreme Court and its Ways of Dealing with Conflicts between Domestic Law and International Human Rights Guarantees, in: André Nollkaemper/Yuval Shany/Antonis Tzanakopoulos/Eleni Methymaki (eds.), The Engagement of Domestic Courts with International Law: Comparative Perspectives, Oxford 2024, 271–290 (with Eva Maria Belser).

- Engagement of Swiss Courts with International Law, Blog NUS Law, 2024: <https://blog.nus.edu.sg/lawresearch/2024/10/07/engagement-of-swiss-courts-with-international-law/>
- A democracy's fight for survival, universitas magazine 02/2024
- «The Southern Challenge»: Contestatory Federalism in India', 50 Shades of Federalism, <http://50shadesoffederalism.com/case-studies/1640>.

STEFANIE RUSCH

- Kantonale Notrechtssysteme, Eine vergleichende Übersicht des intrakonstitutionellen Notrechts in den Kantonen, in: Jusletter of 3 June 2024 (together with Bernhard Waldmann).

ANDREAS STÖCKLI

- Administration and political organisation – from a Swiss perspective, Deutsches Verwaltungsblatt (DVBl), 17/2024, pp. 1060–1064.
- Special regime for installations for electricity production from renewable energies: An interim assessment of the dynamic legal development, URP 4/2024, p. 335–337.
- SRG in the social media, discussion of BGE 149 I 2, ZSR 2024 I, p. 167–180.
- Freedom of belief and conscience over time - On developments and trends, in: René Pahud de Mortanges/Lorenz Engi (eds.), Von Freiheitsgewährung und Exklusion, Der Schutz der Religionsfreiheit seit der Bundesverfassung von 1848, Zurich/Geneva 2024, pp. 1–35.
- Commentary on Art. 33–35, 40, 54, 55, 67 DSG (together with Christoph Grüninger) and Art. 1 BGÖ (together with Gabor Blechta and Christoph Grüninger), in: Gabor Blechta/David Vasella (eds.), Basler Kommentar zum Datenschutzgesetz und Öffentlichkeitsgesetz, Basel 2024, pp. 681–701, 744–748, 905–910, 1045–1046, 1091–1099.
- Andreas Stöckli/Luis A. Maiorini (eds.), Intergovernmental Relations in Federal Systems, The Role of Intergovernmental Conferences in Swiss Federalism, Bern 2024, 165 pages.
- Introduction and concluding remarks, in: Andreas Stöckli/Luis A. Maiorini (eds.), Intergovernmental Relations in Federal Systems, The Role of Intergovernmental Conferences in Swiss Federalism, Bern 2024, pp. 1–5, 155–162 (together with Luis A. Maiorini).
- Current practice in constitutional and administrative law, Plädoyer 2/2024, pp. 46–52 (together with Sabine Cotting).

- Case law of the Federal Supreme Court, the Federal Administrative Court and the cantonal courts on administrative organisation law, state liability law and public service law from mid-2022 to mid-2023, in: Jahrbuch 2022/2023 der Schweizerischen Vereinigung für Verwaltungsorganisationsrecht, Bern 2024, pp. 1-88 (together with Gian Manuel-Weber).
- Selected developments in cantonal government and administrative organisation law from mid-2022 to mid-2023, in: Jahrbuch 2022/2023 der Schweizerischen Vereinigung für Verwaltungsorganisationsrecht, Bern 2024, pp. 143-177 (together with Christina Schuhmacher and Max Ammann).
- Case law on building permits, in: Baurecht 5/2024, pp. 229-233.
- Case law on building permits, in: Baurecht 2/2024, p. 63-66.

EDINA SZÖCSIK

- The Framing Territorial Demands (FraTerr) dataset: A novel approach to conceptualizing and measuring regionalist actors' territorial strategies" (Anwen Elias, Linda Basile, Núria Franco-Guillén und **Edina Szöcsik**): available at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/frfs20/collections/best-paper-prize-regional-federal-studies> (awarded the Best Article Prize of the Journal **Regional and Federal Studies**)

BERNHARD WALDMANN

- Intergovernmental Relations in the Swiss Federal State, An Outline from a Legal Perspective, in: Stöckli/Maiorini (eds.), Intergovernmental Relations in Federal Systems, The Role of Intergovernmental Conferences in Swiss Federalism, Bern 2024, pp. 29-53.
- Kantonale Notrechtssysteme, Eine vergleichende Übersicht des intrakonstitutionellen Notrechts in den Kantonen, in: Jusletter of 3 June 2024 (together with Stefanie Rusch).
- Of (thick) coats in legislation, in: BR/DC 2024, p. 154.
- Case law on spatial planning law, in: BR/DC 2024, pp. 55-62, 222-229 (together with Tamara Wanner).
- Review: Georg Müller/Felix Uhlmann/Stefan Höfler: Elemente einer Rechtssetzungslehre, 4th ed., Zurich/Geneva 2024, in: LeGes 35 (2024) 2.
- Review: Florian Bergamin: Die Stadt im Bundesstaat, Eine rechtswissenschaftliche Einordnung der Städte und Gemeinden in der Schweiz, Diss. Fribourg, Bern 2024, in: IFF Newsletter 3/2024

5.2 Expert Reports

Validity of the cantonal popular initiative "Isleten für alle", legal opinion for the attention of the Justice Department of the Canton of Uri (**Bernhard Waldmann** and **Patrick Bossy Delgado**).

Consultation response to the draft partial revision of the Epidemics Act (EpidA) " (**Eva Maria Belser** and **Bernhard Waldmann**)

Colloquium and discussion paper on the proposal "Strengthening the crisis security of the political system" of the Canton of Glarus, 16 April 2024 (**Bernhard Waldmann**, **Johanna Jean-Petit-Matile** and **Stefanie Rusch**)

Member of the Swiss Federal Electricity Commission (ElCom) and Chairman of the Commission's Legal Affairs Committee (**Andreas Stöckli**)

Legal opinion on the "Waste law qualification of hydroxide sludges" for the attention of SwissZinc AG, June 2024, 40 pages (**Elisabeth Joller** and **Andreas Stöckli**)

Legal opinion on "Postulate 23.3496 Graf Maya: Legal basis and protection against discrimination in triage decisions regarding access to intensive care treatment" for the attention of the Federal Office of Public Health FOPH, December 2024, 80 pages (**Elisabeth Joller** and **Andreas Stöckli**)

Legal opinion on the "Draft law on the organisation and supervision of corporations (Corporation Supervision Act, KAG) of the Canton of Nidwalden: Examination of constitutional conformity" for the attention of the Canton of Nidwalden, December 2024, 87 pages (**Elisabeth Joller**, **Andreas Stöckli** and **Luis A. Maiorini**)

Working paper on parliamentary oversight of price monitoring for the attention of the Parliamentary Administrative Control (PAC), December 2024 (**Elisabeth Joller**)

Comparative Land Governance in Federal Countries: (**Rekha Oleschak-Pillai**, **Delilah von Streng**, **Arianna Guidolin** and **Daan Smeekens**) (funded by SDC)

5.3 Study Tours

27.–31.05. Kosovo	Study trip with a delegation of Syrian opposition members and journalists to Kosovo on the topic of «Decentralisation and Minority Rights» (Sören Keil)
12.–17.06. Fribourg	«Contrôler les finances publiques en Suisse» – 5 inspectors of the General Inspectorate of Finance of the Democratic Republic of Congo (Véréna Richardier)
02.–06.09. Fribourg	Study Mission of a delegation of the National Dialogue Commission, Ethiopia, consisting of 5 Commissioners and a Deputy Resident Representative of the UNDP Ethiopia Country Office, on the topic Management of Diversity in Switzerland (Rekha Oleschak)
04.09. Fribourg	«Judicial Review in Switzerland» – presentation to the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (Rekha Oleschak)
05.09. Berne	«Introduction to Swiss Federalism», Consular Directorate (CD) event with the Consular Corps, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (Rekha Oleschak)
14.–18.10. Fribourg	«Les enjeux de la décentralisation» – 7 participants of the General Assembly of Central Congo and the General Secretariat for Decentralisation (Véréna Richardier)
05.–09.11. Fribourg	Study mission of a Philippine delegation, consisting of around 40 vice governors of the Philippine provinces, on the topic of federalism in Switzerland for The Development Academy of the Philippines (Nicolas Schmitt)
13.11. Fribourg	Scoping mission of a delegation of the Cyprus Dialogue Forum on Federalism, consisting of 4 persons (Rekha Oleschak)
13.11. Fribourg	«Federalism and Conflict Resolution» presentation to a delegation from the Secretariat of the Cyprus Dialogue Forum (Rekha Oleschak)

5.4 Continuing education

Centre International de Formation Europeene – Beiträge zum Masterprogramm im Modul «Föderalismus» und im Modul «Konfliktlösung» Nizza, Tunis und Berlin, Januar–März 2024 (**Sören Keil**)

Academic Legal Writing: Basics and Innovations, Workshop at the Department of Law Central University of Kerala, 17.–19. Januar (**Rekha Oleschak**)

Intergovernmental Fiscal Federalism Technical Committee, Training zum Thema Fiskalföderalismus in Somalia 24.–28. Februar in Nairobi, Kenia (**Sören Keil** und Mark Schelker)

Workshop, «Epidemiengesetz 2.0: Anpassungen für eine Post-Covid-Ära», Freiburg, 26. Januar 2024 (**Johanna Jean-Petit-Matile, Eva Maria Belser, Andreas Stöckli, Bernhard Waldmann, Luis A. Maiorini** und **Stefanie Rusch**)

Inhouse-Seminar «La Loi sur les Épidémies (1800–1921): Histoire d'une centralisation sanitaire» mit Séveric Yersin, Freiburg 22. Februar 2024 (**Johanna Jean-Petit-Matile, Eva Maria Belser, Andreas Stöckli, Bernhard Waldmann, Luis A. Maiorini** und **Stefanie Rusch**)

Spring University Myanmar, März bis Juli 2024, online (**Team IRCC, Rekha Oleschak**)

Zentralschweizer Praktikantenkurse, Seminar Verwaltungsverfahren, 7.–8. März 2024, Cham (**Bernhard Waldmann**)

Murtner Gesetzgebungsseminar, Grundlagenseminar I: Rechtsetzungsmethodik, in Zusammenarbeit mit dem Zentrum für Rechtssetzungslehre der Universität Zürich, 13.–15. März 2024, Murten (**Bernhard Waldmann**)

16. Wissenschaftliche Tagung der Schweizerischen Vereinigung für Verwaltungsorganisationsrecht zum Thema «Aktuelle Fragen im öffentlichen Personalrecht: Fachkräftemangel – Flexibilisierung der Arbeitsbedingungen – Digitalisierung – Datenschutz», 22. März 2024, Casino Bern (**Andreas Stöckli**, zusammen mit Ursula Marti und Natascia Nussberger).

Spring University Myanmar, verschiedene Beiträge, online, April–Juni 2024 (**Sören Keil, Daan Smeekens, Véréna Richardier, Rekha Oleschak** und **Edina Szöcsik**)

Staatsrechtsseminar für (neu gewählte) Mitglieder der Kantonsregierungen, 24. Juni 2024 (**Bernhard Waldmann**, zusammen mit **Eva Maria Belser** und **Andreas Stöckli**)

Zwei Vorträge zu Föderalismustheorie und Föderalismus in Myanmar, Federalism Leadership Programme (FLP), organisiert von der Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung, online, 12.–13. Juli 2024 (**Sören Keil**)

Intergovernmental Fiscal Federalism Technical Committee, Working Paper Diskussionen zum Thema Fiscal Federalism in Somalia, 3.–9. August 2024 in Kengali, Ruanda (**Sören Keil**)

2. Freiburger Föderalismustage zum Thema «Kompetenz- und Aufgabenteilung im Bundesstaat – Grundsätze und deren Anwendung im Gesundheits- und Sozialwesen», 2. und 3. September 2024, Universität Freiburg (**Andreas Stöckli, Eva Maria Belser** und **Bernhard Waldmann**).

Murtner Gesetzgebungsseminar, Grundlagenseminar II: Erlassredaktion, in Zusammenarbeit mit der Bundeskanzlei und dem Bundesamt für Justiz, 6.–8. November 2024, Murten (**Bernhard Waldmann**)

9. Forum für Verwaltungsrecht, Öffentliches Entschädigungsrecht, 14. November 2024, Bern (**Bernhard Waldmann**, zusammen mit Isabelle Häner)

«Science Webtoon – les langues en Suisse» Präsentation eines Comics über die Schweizer Mehrsprachigkeit, der aus einem von Eva Maria Belser und Simon Mazidi verfassten Artikel hervorgegangen ist, Workshop anlässlich der Konferenz der Jugendparlamente, 26. Oktober 2024, Lausanne (**Véréna Richardier**)

Summer University on Decentralisation and Conflict Resolution, 12.–30. August 2024, Freiburg (**Eva Maria Belser, Sören Keil, Daan Smeekens, Véréna Richardier** und **Rekha Oleschak**)

Jubiläumskonferenz der 30. Summer University, 22.–23. August 2024, «Is Federalism still a viable tool in times of crisis?» (**Véréna Richardier** und **IRCC Team**)

«Introduction to the Swiss Constitutional and Public Law», Vorlesung, die im Rahmen des Blockkurses Introduction to Swiss Law auf Englisch gehalten wird, 24. Oktober 2024, Universität Freiburg (**Marlène Collette**)

5.5 Presentations and conferences

26.01. Fribourg	«Epidemics Act 2.0: Adaptations for a post-Covid era – Comments on the consultation draft for the partial revision of the Epidemics Act from a legal perspective», lecture and panel discussion, event organised by the Institute of Federalism in partnership with the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), the FOPH, the GDK and the KdK as part of NRP 80 «Covid-19 in Society» (Bernhard Waldmann)
26.01. Fribourg	Leading the panel discussion at the Institute for Federalism's event on «Epidemics Act 2.0: Adaptations for a post-Covid era» (Andreas Stöckli)
26.01. Fribourg	«Auswirkung der WEKO-Entscheide – eine Evaluation ex post, Sektoranalyse: Submissionen», lecture at the 16th Conference on Competition Law of the Institute for Law and Economics of the University of Fribourg (Andreas Stöckli)
29.01. Berne	Hearing in the Safety Commission of the Grand Council of the Canton of Berne on the bill concerning the outsourcing of the Road Traffic and Navigation Office (SVSA) (Andreas Stöckli)
08.–09.02. St. Gallen	«Ex-post legislative oversight of Covid-19 crisis governance: The comeback of legislatures after the pandemic?», lecture at the annual congress of the Swiss Political Science Association (Edina Szöcsik)
08.02. London (UK)	«Why the World Did Not Come Together, The Failures of the 'Committee to Frame A World Constitution'», lecture at the Center for Transnational Legal Studies, Transnational Law Colloquium (Eva Maria Belser)
18.–19.02. Nice (F)	Participation and co-organisation of the workshop «Can Federalism Answer the Big Questions of the 21st Century» together with Centre International de Formation Europeene (CIFE) (Sören Keil)
05.03 Lucerne	«Notrecht: Notwendiges Übel oder Gefahr für den Rechtsstaat?», lecture to the Lawyers' Association of the Canton of Lucerne (Bernhard Waldmann)
07.03.–08.03. Cham	«Administrative activity and administrative procedure», «Reconsideration and revision», lectures at the seminar on administrative procedure as part of the Central Switzerland trainee courses (Bernhard Waldmann)
07.03. Weggis	Participation in the SNSF NRP 80 Corona research conference as part of the SNSF NRP 80 project «Covid-19 in society» (Luis A. Maiorini, Johanna Jean-Petit-Matile and Stefanie Rusch)
11.–13.03. Como (I)	Participation in the Myanmar Conference of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, with lecture on the topic of federalism discussions in Myanmar (Sören Keil)
11.03. Fribourg	«Agreements with the EU: Do we need a majority of the cantons?», input presentation at the Institute Council meeting of the Institute for Federalism (Andreas Stöckli)
13.03. Murten	«Regulatory instruments», lecture at the Murten legislative seminar on legislative methodology (Bernhard Waldmann)
13.03. Online	«Judicial Review and Direct Democracy in Switzerland» Constitutional Justice Systems and Models of Judicial Review In America And Europe. Comparative Analysis of Their Evolution and Main Characteristics (Rekha Oleschak).
21.03. Berne	«Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Switzerland's federal system», presentation at the 2024 general meeting of the Network of Cantonal Sustainability Offices (NKNF) (Andreas Stöckli)
21.03. Berne	«Administrative Supervision», lecture as part of the Executive Master of Public Administration programme at the University of Bern (Andreas Stöckli)
22.03. Berne	Organisation, conference management and moderation, 16th Scientific Conference of the Swiss Association for Administrative Organisation Law on the topic «Current issues in public personnel law: shortage of skilled workers – flexibilisation of working conditions – digitalisation – data protection» (Andreas Stöckli, Ursula Marti and Natascia Nussberger).

22.03. Berne	«Aktuelle Rechtsprechung zum öffentlichen Personalrecht», lecture at the 16th Scientific Conference of the Swiss Association for Administrative Organisation Law on the topic «Current issues in public personnel law: shortage of skilled workers – flexibilisation of working conditions – digitalisation – data protection» (Andreas Stöckli and Ursula Marti)
28.03. Lille (F)	Contribution to the study day «Les questions au Gouvernement», organised by the University of Lille and the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Lille (Marlène Collette)
16.04. Glarus	Colloquium on the proposal «Strengthening the crisis security of the political system of the Canton of Glarus», Glarus State Chancellery (Bernhard Waldmann)
17.–20.04. Ljubljana (SLO)	LEGITIMULT Mid-Term Conference (Sören Keil)
18.–19.04. Ljubljana (SLO)	«Ex-post legislative oversight of Covid-19 crisis governance», Paper Presentation, LEGITIMULT Mid-Term Conference (Edina Szöcsik)
23.04. Lausanne	«Contestatory Federalism in India», Seminar at the University of Lausanne with Dr Sean Müller (Rekha Oleschak)
04.05. Online	«Agonistic Assemblies: Internet Shutdowns in India and their impact on freedom of expression», International Seminar on Freedom of Expression and Role of Media: Reflections on the Commonwealth Latimer House Principles, Commonwealth Legal Education Association, New Delhi, (Rekha Oleschak)
06.05. Berne	«India Votes: Democracy Bar with Bernard Imhasly and Rekha Oleschak» at the Politforum Bern (Rekha Oleschak).
06.05. Göttingen (D)	«Emigration and right-wing populism», lecture at the research colloquium of the Institute for Democracy Research at the University of Göttingen (Edina Szöcsik)
09.05. London (UK)	«Constitutionalism in Times of Crisis: Transnational Perspectives on Challenges & Ways Forward», lecture at the CTLS Global Conference 2024 (Eva Maria Belser).
14.05. Online	«The EU Budget and its Conditionalities, by Mario Kölling», Moderation of Session on «Turn on Federalism» (Rekha Oleschak)
03.06. Cagliari (IT)	International Conference of the journal «Scuola Democratica», presentation on the drawing of scientific work, University of Cagliari (Italy) (Verena Richardier)
06.06. Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)	«Public Policy Making in Multi-Level Governance: Power, Institutions and Laboratory Federalism in Ethiopia», Centre for Federalism and Governance Studies, PhD Viva with Niguisse Daba Heyi (Eva Maria Belser).
07.06. Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)	«Solving Federal Disputes – Conflict Resolution Between Judicial Adjudication and Political Mediation», lecture at the Center for Federalism and Governance Studies 2024 Graduate Seminar (Eva Maria Belser).
11.–14.06. Montreal (CAN)	Participation in the Canadian Political Science Association with a lecture on «Power-sharing for Peace» (Sören Keil)
12.06. Fribourg	«Fédéralisme et décentralisation en Suisse: enjeux et histoire», lecture during the visit of a delegation from the Inspection Générale des Finances de la République Démocratique du Congo (Eva Maria Belser)
12.06. Fribourg	«Fédéralisme et fiscalité en Suisse: introduction», lecture during the visit of a delegation from the Inspection Générale des Finances de la République Démocratique du Congo (Eva Maria Belser)
13.06. Fribourg	«Les besoins en termes de formation _ IGF», lecture during the visit of a delegation from the Inspection Générale des Finances de la République Démocratique du Congo (Eva Maria Belser)

24.06. Fribourg	«Die Stellung der Regierung im Gefüge der Gewaltenteilung», lecture at the constitutional law seminar of the Institute for Federalism for new members of government (Andreas Stöckli)
28.06. Innsbruck (AT)	«Finanzausgleich in der Schweiz», lecture at the event «40 Jahre Föderalismusinstitut in Fribourg», working discussion with the Institute for Federalism at the University of Innsbruck (Andreas Stöckli)
12. – 15.08. Dublin (IRL)	«Expert advice bodies' role in Covid-19 crisis governance: Covid-19 vaccination mandates in Austria, Germany and Switzerland», Paper Presentation, ECPR General Conference, UCD (Edina Szöcsik)
12.08. Fribourg	«What is a State?», lecture at the Summer University on Federalism, Decentralisation and Conflict Resolution (Eva Maria Belser)
14.08. Fribourg	«Federalism in Switzerland», lecture at the Summer University on Federalism, Decentralisation and Conflict Resolution 2024 (Eva Maria Belser)
14.08. Fribourg	«Theories of Federalism», lecture at the Summer University on Federalism, Decentralisation and Conflict Resolution 2024 (Sören Keil)
22.08. Fribourg	«Federalism and resource tensions», lecture at the conference «Is Federalism still a Viable Governance Tool in Times of Crisis?» (Eva Maria Belser)
22.08. Fribourg	«India's descent into autocratic legalism: A federal perspective» Summer University 30th edition «Is Federalism still a Viable Governance Tool in Times of Crisis?» (Rekha Oleschak).
23.08. Fribourg	Final conference of the project «Power-sharing for Peace?» (Sören Keil)
26.08. Fribourg	Federalism and Conflict in India, Summer University on Decentralisation and Conflict Resolution, 12.08. – 30.08. (Team IRCC, Rekha Oleschak)
02. – 03.09. Fribourg	Conference chair and moderator, 2 nd Fribourg Federalism Days on the topic «Division of competences and tasks in the federal state – principles and their application in the health and social sector» (Andreas Stöckli and Bernhard Waldmann)
02.09. Fribourg	«Rechtsschutz bei Kompetenzstreitigkeiten», lecture at the 2 nd Fribourg Federalism Days on the topic «Kompetenz- und Aufgabenteilung im Bundesstaat – Grundsätze und deren Anwendung im Gesundheits- und Sozialwesen» (Andreas Stöckli)
02.09. Fribourg	«An Introduction to the Swiss Federal System: Linguistic, Religious and Cultural Diversity», lecture during the visit of a delegation from the National Dialogue Commission Ethiopia (Eva Maria Belser)
02.09. Fribourg	Moderated panel discussion with Martin Bühler, Jacques Dubey, Michael Hermann, Florence Nater and Marie-France Roth Pasquier (Eva Maria Belser)
03.09. Fribourg	Moderation of the panel discussion «Task Reform: Review and Outlook» with Mayor (Biel) Erich Fehr, Councillor of States (FR) Johanna Gapany, Deputy Secretary General KdK Thomas Minger and Government Councillor (FR) Jean-Pierre Siggen on the occasion of the 2 nd Fribourg Federalism Days (Luis A. Maiorini)
04.09. Fribourg	«Protection of Minorities in Federal States: Issues and Challenges», lecture during the visit of a delegation of the National Dialogue Commission Ethiopia (Eva Maria Belser)
12. – 13.09. Vienna (AT)	LoGov – Local Government and the Changing Urban-Rural Interplay, Final Conference (Eva Maria Belser) Governing cities and their surroundings, discussion with Karten Zimmermann (Eva Maria Belser)
13.09. Fribourg	«News on administrative law», lecture as part of the Alumni Ius Frilex Service Pack 2024 (Andreas Stöckli)

13.09. Fribourg	«New developments in administrative law», lecture as part of the Alumni Ius Frilex Service Pack 2024 (Bernhard Waldmann)
17.–18.09. Antwerp (NL)	Dynamic Federalism, IACFS Conference 2024 (Eva Maria Belser) Navigating between Uniformity and Subsidiarity: The European Court of Human Rights and Federal Human Rights Dynamics (Eva Maria Belser and Daan Smeekens)
20.09. Cyprus	«Dive into Swiss federalism: a practical insight into the field of education», Publik Talk organised by the Swiss Embassy in Larnaca as part of the visit of Swiss federalism experts (Eva Maria Belser)
21.09. Cyprus	«Federal power-sharing: a discussion on living diversity and unity in peace», exchange in the framework of the International Day of Peace, organised by the Swiss Embassy in Larnaca, Cyprus (Eva Maria Belser)
26.09. London (UK)	Talking about Justice: Minority Rights, lecture at the Centre for Transnational Legal Studies (Eva Maria Belser)
26.09. Berne	Participation in the SNSF NRP 80 Cluster Meeting on Governance & Economy as part of the SNSF NRP 80 project «Covid-19 in society» (Luis A. Maiorini and Michael Hediger)
11.10. Budapest (HU)	«Switzerland: Swiss and EU-relations: Current challenges and their causes», lecture at the workshop «Western Balkan's European future. The role of non-EU states in shaping European Integration», Andrassy University Budapest (Edina Szöcsik)
14.10. Fribourg	«Fédéralisme et décentralisation en Suisse: enjeux et histoire», lecture in the context of the visit of a delegation of the Assemblée Provinciale du Congo Central et Secrétariat Général à la Décentralisation (Eva Maria Belser)
14.10. Fribourg	«Différence entre fédéralisme et décentralisation», lecture in the context of the visit of a delegation of the Assemblée Provinciale du Congo Central et Secrétariat Général à la Décentralisation (Eva Maria Belser)
21.10. online	«Religionsfreiheit im Arbeitsverhältnis», lecture as part of the online event series «Wissen am Mittag» of the Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences (OST) (Andreas Stöckli)
22.10. Geneva	«How do you speak Swiss?» Consensus democracy, multilingualism and political participation Workshop as part of the Mobiliar-funded project «Future of Switzerland» with Prof Juliane Schröter (University of Geneva) (Verena Richardier and Naomi Schaffer)
04.11. Nairobi, Kenya	«Constitutional and Legal issues related to Federalism in Somalia», Workshop on Fiscal Federalism in Somalia, organised with Intergovernmental Fiscal Federalism Technical Committee (IGFFTC), World Bank and SDC (Rekha Oleschak).
5.11. Brazil Online	«The Constitution-making Power of Swiss Cantons and their Use: From a Time of Slumber to a New Awakening», Centre for Research in SubConstitutionalism, Federal University of Mato Grosso do Sul (Eva Maria Belser)
07.11. Murten	«Regulatory architecture and structure of enactments», lecture on the occasion of the Murtner Legislation Seminar 2024 (Andreas Stöckli)
07.11. Murten	«Norm Types», lecture at the Murten Legislation Seminar on the Drafting of Legislation (Bernhard Waldmann)
11.11. Online	«On Corporations: Understanding the Role and Limits of the Law», Induction Session for Students of St Dominics College of Law, Kanjirapally, India (Rekha Oleschak)
13.11. Oxford (UK)	Research Workshop Human Rights (Eva Maria Belser)

14.11. Oxford (UK)	«Why the World did not Come Together», Bonavero Human Rights Institute, Thursday Perspectives (Eva Maria Belser)
14.11. Berne	«Liability for legal acts», lecture at the 9th Forum for Administrative Law on the topic of «Public Compensation Law», Bern (Bernhard Waldmann)
14.11. Berne	«Haftungssubjekte im Gefüge dezentraler Verwaltungsstrukturen», lecture at the 9th Forum for Administrative Law on the topic «Ausgewählte Fragen zum öffentlichen Entschädigungsrecht» of the Institute for Law and Economics of the University of Fribourg (Andreas Stöckli)
14.11. Berne	«How much parliament do we need in times of crisis?», lecture as part of the «Democracy Bar» series of events organised by the Polit-Forum Bern (Luis A. Maiorini)
30.11. Cape Town (SA)	«Inclusive decision-making», Conversations: Democracy and development government by the people, for the people, with Karen van Marle and Susan Booysen, moderated by Nico Steytler (Eva Maria Belser)
01.12. Cape Town (SA)	«The right to development and global democracy», Conversations: Democracy and development – government by the people, for the people, with Christina Murray, Xavier Philippe and Benyam Mezmur, moderated by Jaap de Visser (Eva Maria Belser)
01.12. Cape Town (SA)	«Democratic governance and the lack of inclusive development», Conversations: Democracy and development – government by the people, for the people, with Zemelak Ayele, Nico Steytler, Ebrahim Fakir and Benyam Mezmur (Eva Maria Belser)
05.12. Lucerne	«Liability of employees in the public sector», lecture at the conference on public personnel law organised by the Institute of Law and Legal Practice at the University of St. Gallen (Andreas Stöckli)
10.12. Online	«Postcolonial Federalism and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan», by Shahal Khoso, Moderation of Session on «Turn on Federalism» (Rekha Oleschak).

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