Yves Kläy

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Education

Sep. 2023–now	**PhD in Economics, University of Fribourg** Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Reiner Eichenberger; Expected completion: 2027.
2022–2023	**Master of Arts in Economics, University of Fribourg** Summa cum laude.
2018–2021	**Bachelor of Arts in Economics, University of Fribourg** Summa cum laude.

Research Fields

Primary	Political Economy, Applied Econometrics
Research topics	Direct Democracy, Legislative Behavior, Representation

Academic Appointments

Sep. 2023–now	**Graduate Assistant, Chair of Public Economics, University of Fribourg** Working with Prof. Reiner Eichenberger.
Jan. 2023–now	**Research Assistant, Institute for Swiss Economic Policy (IWP), Lucerne** Working in the Institutions Division with Dr. Marco Portmann.
Feb.–Jul. 2026	**Visiting Researcher, Queensland University of Technology** ARC BITA with Prof. Benno Torgler.
2022–2023	**Junior Assistant, Chair of Public Economics, University of Fribourg** Working with Prof. Reiner Eichenberger.

Research

Job market paper

Kläy, Yves, Reiner Eichenberger, Marco Portmann, and David Stadelmann. 2026. "Decision-Makers as Decision-Shapers: Evidence on Legislators' Influence on Direct Democratic Votes." PDF.

Abstract: This paper examines whether elected representatives affect citizens' decisions in direct democratic votes. We study referendums, in which voters decide on the same policy proposals that legislators previously vote on in parliament, allowing a direct comparison between representatives' positions and citizens' binding policy choices. Using close elections between candidates with opposing positions on a given issue, we implement a regression discontinuity design that generates quasi-random variation in the issue positions of elected representatives. Being represented by an additional issue supporter instead of an additional issue opponent increases the electorate's share of yes votes by 8.7 percentage points. Positive changes in turnout explain about a quarter of the effect, at most one third. The effect of representatives on their voters tends to be larger when alternative information is scarce, consistent with representatives supplying cues on complex policies. The results imply that even when citizens can veto politicians, elected representatives remain important in shaping citizens' policy choices.

Peer-reviewed journal articles

Kläy, Yves, Marco Portmann, and David Stadelmann. 2026. "Representation, Party Discipline, and the Condorcet Jury Theorem." *Public Choice*. DOI.

Kläy, Yves, Reiner Eichenberger, Marco Portmann, and David Stadelmann. 2025. "Substantive Representation of Women: Empirical Evidence." *British Journal of Political Science* 55(e32). DOI.

Kläy, Yves, Reiner Eichenberger, Marco Portmann, and David Stadelmann. 2024. "Congruence of Female and Male Legislators With the Preferences of Women and Men." *Economics Letters* 242: 111854. DOI.

Working papers

Kläy, Yves, Reiner Eichenberger, Marco Portmann, and David Stadelmann. 2026. "The (Ir)Relevance of Demographic Characteristics for Substantive Representation." Under review. PDF.

Kläy, Yves, Marco Portmann, and David Stadelmann. 2026. "When Do Legislators Represent Their Constituents? Evidence from Swiss Roll Calls and Individual Voters."

Torrens, Gustavo, **Yves Kläy**, Marco Portmann, and David Stadelmann. 2026. "Who is the Boss of Legislators: Voters, Special Interest Groups or Parties?"

Work in progress

Kläy, Yves, Steve Bickley, and Benno Torgler. 2026. "Official Voter Information and Direct Democratic Outcomes: Experimental and Empirical Evidence from Swiss Federal Voting Brochures."

Presentations

2026 Verein für Socialpolitik Annual Conference (Innsbruck, Austria)
Australian Conference of Economists (Canberra, Australia)
ARC BITA Conference (Brisbane, Australia)

2025 Verein für Socialpolitik Annual Conference (Cologne, Germany)
European Public Choice Society Meeting (Riga, Latvia)
Swiss Network on Public Economics Workshop (Zürich, Switzerland)
Graduate Seminar, University of Bayreuth (Püchersreuth, Germany)

2024 CESifo 18th Workshop on Political Economy (Dresden, Germany)
Cookie Seminar, University of Fribourg (Fribourg, Switzerland)
B.S. Frey, PhD Conference (Fribourg, Switzerland)
European Public Choice Society Meeting (Vienna, Austria)

2023 European Public Choice Society Meeting (Hannover, Germany)
Verein für Socialpolitik Annual Conference (Regensburg, Germany)
PhD Seminar, University of Lucerne (Engelberg, Switzerland)
PhD Seminar, University of Fribourg (Fribourg, Switzerland)

2022 B.S. Frey, PhD Conference (Basel, Switzerland)

Grants

2025 University of Fribourg, Doc.Mobility Project and Travel Grant (CHF 28,460)

2025 Verein für Socialpolitik, Presentation Grant (EUR 300)

Teaching

2026, 2022 **Wirtschaftspolitik: Schwerpunktthemen**
BA seminar on environmental policy and international relations, University of Fribourg.

2025, 2023 **Ökonomische Reformen der wirtschaftlichen und politischen Institutionen**
MA seminar on political and economic institutions, University of Fribourg.

2024 **Aktuelle Probleme der Finanz- und Wirtschaftspolitik**
MA seminar on current challenges in public policy, University of Fribourg.

2024 **Crime, Sex and Drugs: Grenzbereiche der Finanzwissenschaft**
MA seminar on the economics of crime, corruption, drugs, terrorism, and prostitution, University of Fribourg.

Professional Service

Refereeing

Cogent Economics & Finance, *Democratization*, *Public Choice*, *Kyklos*.

Memberships

Economic Society of Australia, *European Public Choice Society*, *Verein für Socialpolitik*.

University service

Representative of the scientific staff in the *SES faculty council, University of Fribourg*.

Miscellaneous Writing

Book chapter

Eichenberger, Reiner, **Yves Kläy**, and David Stadelmann. 2024. "Zukunftstauglicher Föderalismus: Wie ihn die Globalisierung fordert, fördert und formt." In *Intergouvernementale Beziehungen in Föderalen Systemen: Die Rolle von Regierungskonferenzen im Schweizerischen Föderalismus*, edited by Andreas Stöckli and Luis A. Maiorini. 1st ed. Bern: Stämpfli Verlag.

Policy report

Eichenberger, Reiner, and **Yves Kläy**. 2024. "Schaffhausens innerkantonaler Finanzausgleich: Herausforderungen, Probleme, Perspektiven." Report for the Government of the Canton of Schaffhausen.

Media

Kläy, Yves. 2026. "Abweichler stärken die Vertretung der Bürger." *Luzerner Zeitung*, June 26.

Stadelmann, David, **Yves Kläy**, and Marco Portmann. 2024. "Repräsentieren weibliche oder männliche Politiker Fraueninteressen besser?" *Wirtschaftliche Freiheit*, October 15.

Eichenberger, Reiner, and **Yves Kläy**. 2023. "Keine Parteisoldaten in den Bundesrat: Die Bundesversammlung muss wieder selbst entscheiden." *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, December 11.

Skills

Software: R, LaTeX, Git, SQL. ***Languages:*** German (native), English (C1), French (C1).

References

Prof. Reiner Eichenberger
University of Fribourg
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Prof. David Stadelmann
University of Bayreuth
david.stadelmann@uni-bayreuth.de

Prof. Benno Torgler
Queensland University of Technology
benno.torgler@qut.edu.au