## Science and Policy: Introduction to Political Sciences

**Lecturer: Dr. Sarah Bütikofer** (Department of Political Science, University of Zurich)
**Location:** ETH Zurich
**Dates:** June 20 and 22, 2016
**Credit Points:** 1 ECTS

### Course Description
The course offers an introduction to political science for experts from natural sciences. We discuss theoretical approaches to the study of politics and policies across a range of states, international organizations and issue areas.
You will learn about the influence of political actors on decision-making processes, political negotiations and public opinion.

### Course Program
*Introduction:* What is politics? Approaches to the study of politics: What is a policy analysis?
*Overview about the leading ideologies in political sciences:* Left versus right. Liberalism, conservatism, socialism, radicalism
*Democracies:* how can a government be democratic?
*Actors in politics:* international organizations, national governments, legislatures, political parties, public administrations, interest groups and NGOs
*Public opinion:* mass media and popular rights
*Decision making, negotiations and evaluation:* identity and roles of participants, leaders and leadership styles, evaluation of public policies and policy outcomes

**Prior Knowledge:** None

**Number of Participants:** Participation is limited to 25 people.

**Individual Performance and Assessment:**
In order to obtain the ECTS point, each participant is required to actively participate in the case-study work and discussions during the course days. In addition, participants are expected to:

a) read the required reading before the course days. The reading will be available in PDF in advance (before the Easter holiday).

b) prepare for the second day a written essay and a short presentation. The essays mainly consist in answering a couple of questions concerning the required reading.

**Lecturer:** Dr. Sarah Bütikofer studied Political Science and International Law at the University of Zurich and the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona. She was a lecturer and research associate at the universities of Zurich and Geneva and received her PhD in Political Science from the University of Zurich in 2011. Sarah is a research associate at the Chair for Global Governance, ETHZ since 2009. She is currently involved in several research projects on Swiss parliamentarian studies and teaches Swiss politics in various institutions.