

CV of Prof. Dr. Thomas Bernauer

Personal Information

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Education

MA University of Zurich, 1988, Political Science, History, International Law

Doctorate University of Zurich, 1992, Political Science

Postdoc Harvard University, 1992-94: Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Center for Science and International Affairs, 1992–1993 (collaboration with Profs. Graham Allison, Ashton Carter, Steven Miller); International Environmental Institutions Fellow, Center for International Affairs, 1993–1994 (collaboration with Prof. Robert Keohane and Prof. Oran Young)

Employment History

1988 – 1992 United Nations, Research Associate, UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), Geneva

1994 –1995 University of Zurich, Senior Lecturer, Department of Political Science

1995 – ETH Zurich, Professor of Political Science (International Relations), Department of Humanities, Social and Political Sciences (D-GESS), Center for Comparative and International Studies (CIS, from 1997), Institute of Science, Technology and Policy (ISTP, from 2015, Einstein School of Public Policy from 2026), Institute for Environmental Decisions (IED, until 2014). Full Professor since 2004, Associate Professor 1999 – 2004 and Assistant Professor 1995 – 1999 at ETH Zurich.

Institutional Responsibilities

2003 – 2004 ETH Zurich: Director of Studies, BA in Public Affairs

2003 – 2009 ETH Zurich / University of Zurich: Deputy Director of the ETH Zurich and University of Zurich Center for Comparative and International Studies (CIS) (2003-2005, 2009); Director of the CIS (2005-2009)

2004 – 2006 ETH Zurich: Head of Department (Dean), Department of Humanities, Social and Political Sciences (D-GESS)

2004 – 2012 Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF): Member of the National Research Council and delegate of the SNSF for national research programs on right-wing extremism and benefits and risks of genetically modified organisms (2004-2012); member of the SNSF committee for international cooperation (2009-2010); President of Division IV of the SNSF (national research programs, NRP, and national centers of excellence, NCCR) (2011-2012).

2009 – 2014 ETH Zurich: Director of Studies, MA Program in Comparative and International Studies (MACIS)

2015 – 2021 Founding Director of ETH Zurich's Institute for Science, Technology and Policy (ISTP)

2015 – Director of Studies of the MSc and continuing education program in Science, Technology and Policy, formerly in the ISTP, now part of the Einstein School of Public Policy

2025 – ETH Zurich: Associate Vice President (Delegate of the Executive Board) for Sustainability Transformation and Chair of ETH Zurich's Sustainability Council

Currently Ongoing Grant-Funded Research Projects

- ETH Domain (competitive research funding), project “SPEED2ZERO, Sustainable Pathways of Environmental and Energy Development towards Net Zero Switzerland” (- 2026)

- ETH Mobility Initiative (competitive research funding), project “ALIGN, Aligning policies and business

strategies for sustainable mobility with consumer and citizen attitudes, behavior, and policy preferences” (Jan. 2024 – Dec. 2027)

- Swiss National Science Foundation (div.1, basic research), project “Clean Air Policy in Urban Areas of the Global South: Identifying and Explaining Variation in Monitoring Behavior, Pollution Levels, and Citizen Preferences” (Nov. 2023 – Aug. 2027)

Supervision and mentoring of Junior Researchers

Thus far, Prof. Bernauer served as the main supervisor of around 40 doctoral students (completed) and as a committee member or co-advisor for more than 30 doctoral students in Switzerland and abroad. His group currently includes 7 doctoral students, 2 postdocs, and 3 senior researchers. Several former junior researchers/doctoral students from his group are now professors/faculty members, including: Dr. Zorzeta Bakaki, University of Essex, UK; Prof. Dr. Michael Bechtel, University of Cologne, Germany; Dr. Liam Beiser, LSE, UK; Prof. Dr. Tobias Böhmelt, University of Essex, UK; Prof. Dr. Lukas Fesenfeld, ETH Zurich; Prof. Dr. Robert Huber, University of Reading, UK; Prof. Dr. Aya Kachi, University of Basel, Switzerland; Prof. Dr. Carola Kloeck, Science Po, France; Dr. Dennis Kolcava (Vienna University of Economics); Prof. Dr. Quynh Nguyen, University of Bern; Prof. Dr. Thomas Sattler, University of Geneva, Switzerland; Prof. Dr. Lena Schaffer, University of Lucerne, Switzerland; Prof. Dr. Gabriele Spilker, University of Konstanz, Germany; Prof. Dr. Stefanie Walter, University of Zurich, Switzerland.

Memberships in Committees, Panels, Boards

2020 - 2025	Working group Mobility 4.0, Swiss Federal Roads Office
2018 – 2023	IPCC, lead author in Working Group II for the AR 6 Report
2008 –	Centre for the Study of Democracy, Aarau: Member of the governing board (www.zdaarau.ch)
2008 – 2017	Swiss Network for International Studies: Member of the governing board (www.snis.ch).
2013 –	World Trade Institute (WTI), University of Bern: Member of the advisory board
2013 – 2015	Steering Committee, Swiss Competence Centers for Energy Research (SCCER)
2010 – 2012	United Nations Environment Program: lead author of UNEP’s Global Environmental Outlook (GEO-5) report, Europe
2015 – 2016	United Nations Environment Program: coordinating lead author of UNEP’s Global Environmental Outlook (GEO-6), regional assessment Europe, policy part
2018 –	Member of the Committee of Experts for the German Excellence Strategy
2020 – 2025	Member of the Committee of Experts for the Elite Network Bavaria
2026 – 2028	Chercheur Associé, SciencesPo, Centre de Recherches Internationales, Paris

Prizes, Awards, Fellowships, Bibliometrics

Scholarship for Prospective Researchers (postdocs), Swiss National Science Foundation, 1992-1994; American Political Science Association: Don K. Price Award 2005 for the best book on science, technology and environmental politics for “Genes, Trade and Regulation: The Seeds of Conflict in Food Biotechnology”, Princeton University Press, 2003; International Geneva Award 2012 („aims to encourage outstanding researchers and reward scientific publications that are particularly relevant for International Organizations“) for the article „Climate Change and International Water Conflict in Central Asia“ (Journal of Peace Research, 2012); ERC Advanced Grant for project „Sources of Legitimacy in Global Environmental Governance“ (September 2012 – February 2018); American Political Science Association (Science, Technology & Environmental Politics Section), Elinor Ostrom Career Achievement Award, given to an individual in recognition of their lifetime contribution to the study of science, technology, and environmental politics (2019); Journal of Public Policy Best Paper Award 2021 for “Are policymakers responsive to public demand in climate politics?” (co-authored with Lena Schaffer and Bianca Oehl). 2025 best paper award by the City of Vienna (Vienna University of Business and Economics) for “Stringent sustainability regulations are supported across middle-income democracies. Nature Communications <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-024-45399-5> (co-authored by Keith Smith and Dennis Kolcava); International Studies Association (ISA), Environmental Studies Section, Distinguished Scholar Award 2027.

Thomas Bernauer is the author/co-author of more than 190 articles in scientific journals, 12 books, around 40 chapters in edited books (as of July 2026), and many contributions to newspapers and blogs. Google

citation index: citations= 19'432/ h-index=77 / i-10 index=200. According to a 2025 global [ranking](#) of the research productivity of political science departments, Bernauer ranked 1st in Europe and 5th globally in terms of journal publication impact.