

Curriculum vitae
Alois Stutzer

February 2026

University of Basel
Faculty of Business and Economics
Peter Merian-Weg 6
4052 Basel
Switzerland

Phone: +41 (0)61 207 33 61
Email: alois.stutzer@unibas.ch
Web: <https://wwz.unibas.ch/en/stutzer>
OrcID: 0000-0002-7410-5513

Employment

08/2009 - present Full Professor of Political Economy, Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Basel
07/2006 - 07/2009 Assistant Professor of Public Finance/Public Economics, Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Basel
2003 - 06/2006 Senior Assistant, Institute for Empirical Research in Economics, University of Zurich
2002 Research Fellow, Boalt Hall School of Law, University of California, Berkeley
1997 - 2001 Assistant, Institute for Empirical Research in Economics, University of Zurich
1994 - 1996 Teaching assistant, Statistical Seminar, University of Zurich
1991 - 1992 Trainee, Swiss Reinsurance Company, Zurich

Education

2007 Habilitation in economics, University of Zurich
2001 Dr. oec. publ., University of Zurich, with summa cum laude (Ph.D., Economics)
1998 Lic. oec. publ., University of Zurich, with summa cum laude

Institutional Responsibilities

Dean, Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Basel (2023-2026)
Director of the Center for Research in Economics and Well-Being (CREW)
Member of the Executive Committee of the Summer School in Law, Business and Economic Policy at the University of Basel

Research Interests

Political economy, economics of well-being, public economics, law and economics, economics and psychology

General Academic Visibility and Impact

As of February 2026, the scientific work has attracted 35,872 Google Scholar citations (7,838 since 2021) and 7,231 citations according to the Web of Science (with an H-index of 32 based on 76 publications indexed in the Web of Science).

Publications

Books and edited volumes

Frey, Bruno S. and Alois Stutzer (eds.) (2013). *Recent Developments in the Economics of Happiness*. The International Library of Critical Writings in Economics Series. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.
Frey, Bruno S. and Alois Stutzer (eds.) (2007). *Economics and Psychology. A Promising New Cross-Disciplinary Field*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

- Frey, Bruno S. and Alois Stutzer (2002). *Happiness and Economics. How the Economy and Institutions Affect Human Well-Being*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (with translations into Japanese, Chinese, Italian and Korean)
- Stutzer, Alois (2001). *Eine ökonomische Analyse menschlichen Wohlbefindens*. Dissertation, University of Zurich. (Published with Shaker Verlag, Aachen, 2003)

Selected scientific articles in refereed journals

- Schreiner, Nicolas and Alois Stutzer (2026). Direct Democracy and Political Extremism. Accepted at *Economica*.
- Balles, Patrick, Ulrich Matter and Alois Stutzer (2026). The Political Economy of Attention: Media Salience, Voter Cognition, and Electoral Accountability. Forthcoming in the *Journal of Economic Surveys*.
- Balles, Patrick, Ulrich Matter and Alois Stutzer (2024). Special Interest Groups versus Voters and the Political Economics of Attention. *Economic Journal* 134(662), 2290–2320.
- Slotwinski, Michaela and Alois Stutzer (2023). Women Leaving the Playpen: The Emancipating Role of Female Suffrage. *Economic Journal* 133(650), 812–844.
- Schmid, Christian P. R., Nicolas Schreiner and Alois Stutzer (2022). Transfer Payment Systems and Financial Distress: Insights from Health Insurance Premium Subsidies. *Journal of the European Economic Association* 20(5): 1829-1858.
- Goette, Lorenz and Alois Stutzer (2020). Blood Donations and Incentives: Evidence from a Field Experiment. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* 170: 52-74.
- Odermatt, Reto and Alois Stutzer (2019). (Mis-)Predicted Subjective Well-Being Following Life Events. *Journal of the European Economic Association* 17(1): 245-283.
- Meier, Armando, Lukas Schmid and Alois Stutzer (2019). Rain, Emotions and Voting for the Status Quo. *European Economic Review* 119: 434-451.
- Odermatt, Reto and Alois Stutzer (2015). Smoking Bans, Cigarette Prices and Life Satisfaction. *Journal of Health Economics* 44: 176-194.
- Hodler, Roland, Simon Luechinger and Alois Stutzer (2015). The Effects of Voting Costs on the Democratic Process and Public Finances. *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* 7(1): 141-171.
- Stutzer, Alois, Lorenz Goette and Michael Zehnder (2011). Active Decisions and Prosocial Behaviour: A Field Experiment in Blood Donation. *Economic Journal* 121(556): F476-F493.
- Stutzer, Alois and Bruno S. Frey (2008). Stress That Doesn't Pay: The Commuting Paradox. *Scandinavian Journal of Economics* 110(2): 339-366.
- Stutzer, Alois and Rafael Lalive (2004). The Role of Social Work Norms in Job Searching and Subjective Well-Being. *Journal of the European Economic Association* 2(4): 696-719.
- Frey, Bruno S., Matthias Benz and Alois Stutzer (2004). Introducing Procedural Utility: Not Only What but also How Matters. *Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics* 160(3): 377-401.
- Stutzer, Alois (2004). The Role of Income Aspirations in Individual Happiness. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* 54(1): 89-109.
- Frey, Bruno S. and Alois Stutzer (2002). What Can Economists Learn from Happiness Research? *Journal of Economic Literature* 40(2): 402-435.
- Frey, Bruno S. and Alois Stutzer (2000). Happiness, Economy and Institutions. *Economic Journal* 110(466): 918-938.

Selected Approved Research Projects (2000-2026)

- IP Leader in the NCCR - on the move. Begin: January 1, 2016; end: May 31, 2022.
- SNF Project No. 200946 on “The Political Economy of Attention and Electoral Accountability”. Begin: May 1, 2021; end: October 31, 2024.

Supervision of Junior Researchers

Primary supervisor of doctorates: Thomas Brändle (2012), Michael Zehnder (2015), Ulrich Matter (2015), Reto Odermatt (2015), Michaela Slotwinski (2016), Armando Meier (2018), Kerstin Hansen (2020), Nicolas Schreiner (2020), Patrick Balles (2021), Tobias Schib (2025)

Ongoing primary supervision: Tobias Auer, Benjamin Jansen, Tabea Keller, Kelly Liu

Teaching Activities (Selection)

Regular courses at the Faculty of Business and Economics at the University of Basel:

BA level: Introduction to Political Economics, Public Choice and Public Economics, Seminar Bachelor thesis in Public Choice and Public Economics

MA level: Political Economics, The Economic Approach and Its Psychological Extensions, Economics of Public Policy, Seminar in Public Economic Policy

Memberships in Panels, Boards, and Reviewing Activities

Editorial experience

Editor of *Kyklos* (2012-2019)

Associate editor of the *International Review of Economics* (2013-present)

Member of the editorial boards of *Politics, Philosophy & Economics* (2000-present), the *Journal of Happiness Studies* (2005-present), *Economic Analysis and Policy* (2008-present), *International Journal of Happiness and Development* (2012-present), *Constitutional Political Economy* (2013-present), *Behavioral Public Policy* (2016-present) and *Open Economics* (2016-present).

Refereeing

Journal articles: Ad-hoc reviewer for more than 40 journals

Books: Princeton University Press, Routledge

Research projects: Swiss National Science Foundation, US National Science Foundation, Hong Kong Science Foundation, Jubiläumsfonds der Österreichischen Nationalbank, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

Active memberships in scientific societies

Active member of the European Public Choice Society (since 2000)

Research Fellow, CREMA (Center for Research in Economics, Management and the Arts), Basel (since July 2003)

Research Fellow, Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), Bonn, Germany (since July 2005)

Prizes, Awards, Fellowships (Selection)

Keynote Lecture at the Workshop on Paternalism: Origins and Consequences, MPI Harnack House, Berlin, December 5, 2022: “Happiness, Public Policy and Paternalism”.

Keynote Lecture at the 5th Economics of Media Bias Workshop, WZB, Berlin, April 1, 2022: “Media Attention and Political Accountability”.

Keynote Lecture at the Tagung Sozialwissenschaften und Praxis im Dialog: Auf dem Weg zu klimaneutralen Städten, University of Basel, Basel, January 30, 2020: “Glücklich sein mit weniger? Gedanken aus der ökonomischen Glücksforschung.”

Keynote Lecture at the CESifo 13th Workshop on Political Economy, Dresden, November 29, 2019: “Does Public Attention Reduce the Influence of Special Interest Groups and Increase Political Accountability?”