

BENITA COMBET

DR. RER. SOC.

Universität Zürich
Institut für Soziologie
Andreasstrasse 15
CH – 8050 Zürich

combet@soziologie.uzh.ch
www.benitacombet.net

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

EMPLOYMENT / ACADEMIC POSITIONS / VISITING SCHOLAR

Since 07/2021	SNF Ambizione fellowship holder Institut für Soziologie, Universität Zürich
04/2021 – 06/2021	Postdoctoral fellowship holder Cluster of Excellence – The Politics of Inequality, Universität Konstanz
11/2020 – 03/2021	Interim professor for Prof. Dr. Thomas Hinz, chair for empirical social research Fach Soziologie, Geisteswissenschaftliche Sektion, Universität Konstanz
09/2018 – 10/2020	Postdoctoral Researcher with Prof. Dr. Katrin Auspurg Institut für Soziologie, LMU München
02/2018 – 05/2018	Visiting Scholar at Sciences Po Paris with Prof. Dr. Louis-André Vallet and Prof. Dr. Carlo Barone
09/2016 – 08/2018	Postdoctoral Researcher with Prof. Dr. Daniel Oesch Institut des sciences sociales, Université de Lausanne, LIVES, Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research
03/2016 – 08/2016	Postdoctoral Researcher with Prof. Dr. Ben Jann Institut für Soziologie, Universität Bern
03/2014 – 06/2014	Visiting Scholar at University of Luxembourg with Prof. Dr. Andreas Hadjar
09/2011 – 02/2016	Research Assistant with Prof. Dr. Ben Jann Institut für Soziologie, Universität Bern
08/2010 – 08/2011	Student Assistant with Prof. Dr. Ben Jann Institut für Soziologie, Universität Bern
01/2009 – 06/2009	Interviewer (guided interviews) for the NSP 58 conducted under Prof. Dr. Jörg Stolz, Université de Lausanne

EDUCATION

10/2018	Workshop Behavioral genetics in social science research GESIS training week, Cologne
09/2011 – 02/2016	Graduate Student at University of Bern (<i>insigni cum laude</i>), Date: 26.02.2016 Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Ben Jann Co-Supervisor: Prof. a.D. Dr. Dres. h.c. Walter Müller Subject: „Soziale Mobilität und Bildungsungleichheit in der Schweiz. Deskriptive und analytische Beiträge zur soziologischen Ungleichheitsforschung.“ (Social mobility and

educational inequality in Switzerland. Descriptive and analytical contributions)

- 05/2013 – 11/2015 CAS in Teaching in Higher Education (20.5 ECTS)
University of Bern
- 02/2010 – 08/2011 Master Major in Sociology
University of Bern
Master thesis: „Chancengleichheit oder Statusvererbung? Die temporale Veränderung sozialer Mobilität in der Schweiz.“
(Equal chances or inheritance of advantages? On the temporal change of intergenerational mobility in Switzerland)
- 02/2008 – 06/2010 Bachelor Minor in Sociology
University of Bern
- 10/2004 – 12/2008 Bachelor Major in Science of Religion
University of Bern
Bachelor thesis: „Die Religiosität der Studierenden der Theologie, der Religionswissenschaft und der Religious Studies an der Universität Bern. Eine empirische Untersuchung zur Fachhabitusstheorie.“
(How does the religiosity of students in the fields of theology, science of religion and Religious Studies differ? An empirical investigation on the subject habitus of students at the University of Bern)
- 10/2004 – 02/2009 Bachelor Minor in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies
University of Bern

2. LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL ARTICLES (ALL PEER-REVIEWED)

- 2021 The social-origin gap in university completion among youth with the same school abilities. Evidence from a Swiss cohort study. *Longitudinal and life course studies*, 12(2): 119-146.
(with Daniel Oesch, equal contribution)
- 2020 Educational aspirations and decision-making in a context of poverty. A test of rational choice models in El Salvador. *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*, 69.
(with Martina Jakob, equal contribution)
- 2019 The institutional dimension of class-based educational decision-making. Evidence from regional variation in Switzerland. *Zeitschrift für Soziologie*, 48(4): 301-320.
 - Media: Tagesanzeiger
- 2019 The gender wage gap opens long before motherhood. Panel evidence on early careers in Switzerland. *European Sociological Review*, 35(3): 332-345.
(with Daniel Oesch, equal contribution)
Runner-Up for ESR 2020 Best Article Prize
 - Lay summary: Die Lohnungleichheit zwischen Männern und Frauen beginnt lange vor der Familiengründung / L'inégalité salariale entre hommes et femmes commence bien avant la fondation d'une famille. *Social Change in Switzerland*, Number 18, June 2019.

- Media: Tagesanzeiger, Der Bund, Le Temps, Swissinfo, La Liberté, Tribune de Genève, Le Nouvelliste, 24heures, RTN, Radio Lac, Reiso

- 2017 Late School Tracking, Less Class Bias in Educational Decision-Making? The Uncertainty Reduction Mechanism and Its Experimental Testing. *European Sociological Review*, 33(1): 124-136. (with Joël Berger, equal contribution)
Won the Best Student Paper Award, ISA 45
- 2013 Zum Einfluss von primären und sekundären Effekten der sozialen Herkunft beim zweiten schulischen Übergang in der Schweiz. Ein Vergleich unterschiedlicher Dekompositions- und Operationalisierungsmethoden. *Schweizerische Zeitschrift für Bildungswissenschaften*, 35(3): 447-471.
(The impact of primary and secondary effects of social origin on the second school transition in Switzerland: A comparison of decomposition methods and variable operationalization)
- 2012 Zur Entwicklung der intergenerationalen Mobilität in der Schweiz. *Swiss Journal of Sociology*, 38(2): 177-199. (with Ben Jann)
(On the development of intergenerational mobility in Switzerland)

UNDER REVIEW

- 1) The role of personality and preferences in the evolution of the gender pay gap at the beginning of the career in Switzerland. (with Barbara Zimmermann, I am the main contributor)
- 2) STEM field choice and the role of confidence in mathematical skills. Investigating supply-side mechanisms with a choice experiment.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

- 1) Unobserved effects in teacher's decisions - anticipation of parental support? An experimental analysis. (with Ulf Liebe, I am the main contributor)

CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1) Why women choose 'female' professions. Analyzing mechanisms explaining horizontal gender segregation with medical students (with Katrin Auspurg, LMU Munich)
- 2) Are entry barriers to university deterring lower social background students? A choice experiment. (with Florian Hertel, University of Hamburg)
- 3) Social class-based field of study choice. An examination of potential mechanisms with a choice experiment.

3. LIST OF SCIENTIFIC TALKS

INVITED TALKS

- 07/2021 "Investigating supply-side mechanisms of field of gendered field of study choice". Colloquium, Cluster of Excellence – The Politics of Inequality, Universität Konstanz.
- 06/2021 "Investigating supply-side mechanisms of field of gendered field of study choice". Colloquium, Leibniz-Institut für Bildungsverläufe, Bamberg.
- 05/2020 "Women's analytical skills are just not as good as men's." Why many explanations for the lack of women in STEM fields are wrong". Minorities and Philosophy chapter Munich (canceled due to COVID-19)
- 10/2019 „The value of the TREE dataset for exploring gender inequality“. TREE colloquium 2019, Bern
- 09/2019 „Can gender differences in personality explain the gender wage gap in the early career? Evidence from a youth cohort in Switzerland“. Plenary "School-to-work transitions and labour market integration". Congrès de la société suisse de sociologie, Neuchâtel
- 07/2019 „Which preferences cause horizontal sex segregation in fields of studies? Some experimental evidence“. Munich Inequality Workshop, ifo – Institut, Leibniz Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung an der Universität München, München
- 06/2019 „Which preferences cause horizontal sex segregation in fields of studies? Some experimental evidence“. (canceled due to family emergency) Colloquium, Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (DIW), Berlin
- 06/2018 „Are values and personality traits to blame? Non-cognitive skills' influence on the gender wage gap at the career entry“. (with Anja Ghetta and Barbara Zimmermann) Colloquium, Institut für Arbeitsmarkt- und Berufsforschung (IAB), Nürnberg
- 11/2017 „Unobserved effects in teacher decisions at educational transitions – bias or anticipation of future performance? An experimental analysis“. (with Ulf Liebe) Colloquium, Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES)
- 07/2017 „Wiederverwendung von Bildungsdaten. Ein Erfahrungsbericht“. Session: Wiederverwendung von Forschungsdaten in den Bildungswissenschaften. Congrès SSRE, Fribourg
- 06/2013 „Relative Risk Aversion, Information Asymmetry, and Tracking. An Experimental Investigation of Educational Inequalities“. (with Joël Berger) Colloquium, Institute for Education and Society, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg

TALKS AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

- 11/2020 "Personality's influence on the gender wage gap at the beginning of the career". (with Barbara Zimmermann) Analytische Soziologie: Theorie und empirische Anwendungen, Venice
- 09/2019 „Which preferences cause horizontal sex segregation in fields of studies? Some experimental evidence“. "Experimental Methods in Social Stratification in Research" Workshop. Sciences Po, Paris.
- „Which preferences cause horizontal sex segregation in fields of studies? Some experimental evidence“. European Consortium for Sociological Research, Lausanne.

- 03/2019 „Which preferences cause horizontal sex segregation in fields of studies? Some experimental evidence“.
Spring Meeting of the Research Committee on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28), Frankfurt.
„The social-origin gap in university completion among youth with the same school abilities. Evidence from a Swiss cohort study“. (with Daniel Oesch)
Spring Meeting of the Research Committee on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28), Frankfurt.
- 02/2019 „Unobserved Effects in Teacher Decisions at Educational Transitions – Bias or Anticipation of Future Performance? An experimental analysis“. (with Ulf Liebe)
Gesellschaft für empirische Bildungsforschung, Köln
- 11/2018 „Educational aspirations and decision-making in a context of poverty. A test of rational choice models in El Salvador“. (with Martina Jakob)
Analytische Soziologie: Theorie und empirische Anwendungen, Venice
- 10/2018 „Personality's influence on the gender wage gap at the beginning of the career“. (with Anja Ghetta and Barbara Zimmermann)
European Consortium for Sociological Research, Paris.
- 07/2018 „Unobserved effects in teacher decisions at educational transitions – bias or anticipation of future performance? An experimental analysis“. (with Ulf Liebe)
AMCIS Conference on Educational Inequality: Mechanisms and Institutions, Amsterdam
- 05/2018 „Unobserved effects in teacher decisions at educational transitions – bias or anticipation of future performance? An experimental analysis“. (with Ulf Liebe)
Spring Meeting of the Research Committee on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28), Seoul.
- 11/2017 „Unbeobachtete Effekte bei schulischen Übertrittsentscheidungen durch das Lehrpersonal – Bias oder Antizipation der zukünftigen schulischen Performance?“. (with Ulf Liebe)
Analytische Soziologie: Theorie und empirische Anwendungen, Venice
- 08/2017 „The gender wage gap in early careers: evidence from a youth cohort in Switzerland“. (with Daniel Oesch) TREE congress 2017, Bern
- 08/2017 „The gender wage gap in early careers: evidence from a youth cohort in Switzerland“. (with Daniel Oesch)
European Consortium for Sociological Research, Milano.
- 08/2017 „The gender wage gap in early careers: evidence from a youth cohort in Switzerland“. (with Daniel Oesch)
Summer Meeting of the Research Committee on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28), New York City.
- 08/2016 „Late Tracking, More Equality of Opportunity? An Experimental Analysis“. (with Joël Berger)
Summer Meeting of the Research Committee on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28), Bern.
- 07/2016 „Late Tracking, More Equality of Opportunity? An Experimental Analysis“. (with Joël Berger)
ISA RC 45 Session: Rational Choice and Inequalities in the Life Course. Third ISA Forum of Sociology, Vienna.
- 11/2015 „Late Tracking, More Equality of Opportunity? An Experimental Analysis“. (with Joël Berger)
Rational Choice Sociology, Theory and Empirical Applications. Workshop at Venice International University, Venice.
- 07/2015 „How the Education System Moderates Parents' Influence on their Children's Track Choice in Switzerland“.
(Persistent) Inequalities Reconsidered: Education and Social Mobility“, Monte Verità, Ascona.
- 05/2015 „How the Education System Moderates Parents' Influence on their Children's Track Choice in Switzerland“.
Spring Meeting of the Research Committee on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28), Tilburg.

- 11/2014 „Wie das Schulsystem den Einfluss der sozialen Herkunft bei schulischen Übertritten moderiert“.
Rational Choice Sociology, Theory and Empirical Applications. Workshop at Venice International University, Venice.
- 07/2014 „How do educational systems moderate the primary and secondary effect of social origin?“
„How do educational systems shape educational inequalities?“, Luxembourg.
- 11/2013 „The influence of primary and secondary effects of social origin on educational transitions after compulsory education in Switzerland.“
TREE congress 2013, „Youth and Young Adulthood: Transitions in the 2nd and 3rd Decade of Life“, Basel.

„Der Einfluss der kantonsspezifischen Bildungssysteme auf die Stärke der primären und sekundären Herkunftseffekte in der Schweiz“.
Rational Choice Sociology, Theory and Empirical Applications. Workshop at Venice International University, Venice.
- 06/2013 „Der Einfluss der kantonsspezifischen Bildungssysteme auf die Stärke der primären und sekundären Herkunftseffekte in der Schweiz“.
SGS-Kongress 2013, „Ungleichheit und Integration in der Krise“, Bern.
- 11/2012 „Der Einfluss der primären und sekundären Herkunftseffekte auf Bildungstransitionen nach der obligatorischen Schulbildung in der Schweiz“.
Rational Choice Sociology, Theory and Empirical Applications. Workshop at Venice International University, Venice.
- 07/2012 „Der Einfluss der sozialen Herkunft auf die Entscheidung für den Besuch eines Gymnasiums nach der obligatorischen Schulzeit. Eine Dekomposition primärer und sekundärer Herkunftseffekte anhand PISA- und TREE-Daten“.
SGBF-Kongress 2012 „Bildungsungleichheit und Gerechtigkeit – Wissenschaftliche und gesellschaftliche Herausforderungen, Bern.
- 11/2011 „Intergenerational Mobility in Switzerland“.
Rational Choice Sociology, Theory and Empirical Applications. Workshop at Venice International University, Venice.
- 06/2011 “Like Father, Like Son. Intergenerational Transmission of Social Inequality in Switzerland”.
(with Ben Jann)
6th International Conference of Panel Data Users in Switzerland, Lausanne.

4. THIRD PARTY FUNDING & AWARDS

AWARDS

07/2020	Best Article Prize (runner-up) for the article "The gender wage gap opens long before motherhood. Panel evidence on early careers in Switzerland." European Sociological Review 2020 Best Article Prize
10/2019	Teaching award for my seminar „Genetik in den Sozialwissenschaften" (Genetics in Social Science) University of Bern
07/2016	Best Student Paper Award: „Late School Tracking, Less Class Bias in Educational Decision-Making? The Uncertainty Reduction Mechanism and Its Experimental Testing" Research Committee on Rational Choice (ISA RC 45)

THIRD PARTY FUNDING

09/2021 - 08/2025	Awardee of an Ambizione grant (CHF 830'349, around € 776'000) Funding Scheme by SNSF (Swiss National Science Foundation) Sole principal investigator
04/2021 - 08/2021	Awardee of a fellowship at the Cluster of Excellence "The Politics of Inequality" (€ 63'000) University of Konstanz
declined	Awardee of a return grant (CHF 112'383, around € 105'000) Funding Scheme by SNSF (Swiss National Science Foundation) Sole principal investigator
09/2018 - 08/2020	Awardee of a Postdoc.Mobility grant (CHF 97'400, around € 86'000) Funding Scheme by SNSF (Swiss National Science Foundation) Sole principal investigator
08/2013 - 07/2015	Awardee of a Doc.CH grant (CHF 151'400; around € 135'000) Excellent Young Scholar Funding Scheme by SNSF (Swiss National Science Foundation) Sole principal investigator

5. ACTIVITIES AS AN EXPERT / PUBLIC OUTREACH

TV INTERVIEWS, INVITED TALKS, PANEL DISCUSSIONS, EXPERT FOR NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

04/2021	“Wer hat, dem wird gegeben? Eine kritische Betrachtung der Chancengerechtigkeit im deutschen Bildungssystem”. Keynote for a seminar on elite promotion in Germany. Konrad-Adenauer Foundation, Munich
04/2021	Interview on science communication with Sabine Gysi. SciComm Palaver.
04/2021	“Social inequality in tertiary education Taking a closer look at the dimension social class and gender” Keynote. 2 nd interdisciplinary Swiss students' conference.
01/2021	Scientific expert for the newspaper article “Gesucht: Gesamtlösungen statt Einzelpflasterchen” by Claudia Weiss. Curaviva, Ausgabe 1-2, 2021
01/2021	Interview and scientific expert for the newspaper article “Gelernte Rollenbilder zeentieren die Lohnlücke” by Jonas Raab. Die Wirtschaftszeitung, January 2021
01/2021	TV interview and scientific expert for the TV show “Fast Forward” on the question of educational inequality in Switzerland. Schweizerischer Rundfunk. 17.1.2021
09/2020	Expert for the newspaper article: “Gemütliches Beisammensein im Elfenbeinturm” by Diana Frei. Surprise.
07/2020	Expert for the newspaper article: “In Zürich ist das Gerangel um Gymiplätze am härtesten.” by Simone Luchetta and Edgar Schuler. Tagesanzeiger.
05/2020	“Wer hat, dem wird gegeben? Eine kritische Betrachtung der Chancengerechtigkeit im deutschen Bildungssystem”. Keynote for a seminar on elite promotion in Germany. Konrad-Adenauer Foundation, Munich (canceled due to COVID-19)
03/2020	Expert in TV show “Abendschau”. Topic: Gender pay gap and the role of negotiations. Bayerischer Rundfunk, 17.3.2020
03/2020	“Zu viel Gefühl, zu wenig Biss? Zu Mythos und Wirklichkeit beim Thema Frauen in Gehaltsverhandlungen”. Opening keynote for the Bavarian Equal Pay Day and participation in the panel discussion. Bavarian Ministry of Social Affairs and Catholic German Women's Association (KDFB)
11/2019	“Zu viel Gefühl, zu wenig Biss? Zu Mythos und Wirklichkeit beim Thema Frauen in Gehaltsverhandlungen”. Opening keynote for the German Equal Pay Day Forum. International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW) Germany e.V. on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

ARTICLES FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

2020	“Zu viel Gefühl, zu wenig Biss? Mythen und tatsächliche Ursachen des Gender Pay Gaps”. Journal zum Equal Pay Day 2020: 8 – 9.
2019	“Die Lohnungleichheit zwischen Männern und Frauen beginnt lange vor der Familiengründung / L'inégalité salariale entre hommes et femmes commence bien avant la fondation d'une famille”. Social Change in Switzerland, Number 18, June 2019. (with Daniel Oesch)
2019	“Lohnungleichheit startet lange vor der Mutterschaft / L'inégalité salariale entre les sexes commence bien avant la maternité”. Tagesanzeiger / Der Bund, Le Temps. Edition from June 7 th , 2019. (with Daniel Oesch)

REVIEWING ACTIVITIES

Applied Economics, European Sociological Review, Journal of Labour Market Research, Quality and Quantity, Social Politics, Social Stratification and Mobility, Sociology of Education, Swiss Journal of Sociology, Swiss Political Science Review

6. TEACHING

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fall 2020	Vorlesung „Empirie. Quantitative Methoden“ inkl. Tutoratsaufsicht Universität Konstanz <i>(Lecture in quantitative methods)</i> Evaluation score (average): 4.3 out of 5 (scale reversed)
Fall 2020	MA-Seminar „Soziale Ungleichheit in der Coronakrise“, with Prof. Dr. Andreas Diekmann Universität Konstanz and Universität Leipzig <i>(Social inequality during the Corona crisis)</i> Evaluation score (average): 4.4 out of 5 (scale reversed)
Fall 2020	Kolloquium Empirische Sozialforschung, with Prof. Dr. Claudia Diehl, Prof. Dr. Susanne Strauß and Prof. Dr. Maarten Buis Universität Konstanz
Fall 2019 Fall 2018 Fall 2017	Übung „Arbeitstechniken der Sozialwissenschaft“ Universität Bern <i>(Working techniques in Social Science)</i> Evaluation score (average): 4.6 out of 5
Spring 2019	Blockseminar „Genetik in den Sozialwissenschaften“ Universität Bern <i>(Genetics in Social Science)</i> Evaluation score (average): 4.9 out of 5, won a teaching award by the University of Bern
Spring 2016	BA-Seminar „Workshop empirische Arbeiten schreiben“ Universität Bern <i>(Workshop on how to write an essay)</i> Evaluation score (average): 4.9 out of 5
Fall 2015 Fall 2011	BA-/MA-Seminar „Einführung in die empirische Religionssoziologie“ Universität Bern <i>(Introduction to the field of sociology of religion)</i> Evaluation score (average): 4.7 out of 5
Spring 2015 Spring 2013	BA-/MA-Seminar „Empirische Studien zu Geschlechterungleichheit“ Universität Bern <i>(Introduction to the field of gender inequality)</i> Evaluation score (average): 4.6 out of 5
Fall 2014 Fall 2012	BA-/MA-Seminar „Ungleichheit und soziale Gerechtigkeit“, with Prof. Dr. Ben Jann Universität Bern <i>(Inequality and social justice)</i> Evaluation score (average): 4.7 out of 5

- Fall 2013 BA-/MA-Seminar „Arbeitsmarktsoziologie“, with Prof. Dr. Ben Jann
Universität Bern
(*Labour market sociology*)
Evaluation score (average): 4.4 out of 5
- Spring 2012 BA-/MA-Seminar „Abweichendes Verhalten“, with Prof. Dr. Ben Jann
Universität Bern
(*Deviant behavior*)
Evaluation score (average): 3.9 out of 5
- Spring 2012 Proseminar „Einführung in die Soziologie“, with Prof. Dr. Ben Jann
Universität Bern
(*Introduction to sociology*)
Evaluation score (average): 4.0 out of 5