

**Zeitschrift:** Schweizerische Zeitschrift für Soziologie = Revue suisse de sociologie  
= Swiss journal of sociology

**Herausgeber:** Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Soziologie

**Band:** 40 (2014)

**Heft:** 1

## **Inhaltsverzeichnis**

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 09.02.2026

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

# Swiss Journal of Sociology

Vol. 40, Issue 1, March 2014

German and French abstracts on page 155|159

## Contents

5 Editorial [E] Christian Suter

9 Diversity of Family Configurations in Stepfamilies:  
Choices and Constraints [F] | Ivan De Carlo, Gaëlle Aeby, and Eric D. Widmer

Stepfamilies highlight the limitations of family research focused on the household. Family that matters goes beyond the household boundaries in those cases. This study is based on a sample of 300 female respondents who have a child aged between 5 and 13 years, half of which are in a stepfamily structure. The diversity of combinations of significant family contexts is accounted for by nine types of configurations. These types are present both in first-time and in stepfamilies. They go far beyond the household framework and reflect the choices made by the respondents and her family members as well as the socio-demographic constraints which are imposed by the kinship reservoir and the institutionalization of the couples.

Keywords: Family household, family configurations, stepfamilies, family ties, kinship

29 Regional Disparities in Divorce Rates Within one Country: The Case of Switzerland [E] | Fabienne Robert-Nicoud

This paper presents a cross-regional analysis for Switzerland's divorce rates and its determinants. Ever since the establishment of a cantonal report of demographic statistics in Switzerland, there have been substantial regional differences in divorce rates. Focusing on three dimensions of social change – demographic behavior, socioeconomic situation and cultural values – this article shows the relative importance of each in explaining disparities in divorce patterns. The main results are that the demographic behavior is no longer a potent explanatory dimension, at least not in Switzerland, whereas the socioeconomic dimension overtakes the relative importance of cultural values.

Keywords: Total divorce rate, canton, second demographic transition, socioeconomic situation, cultural values

57 The Career of an African Physician in Europe: Being a Physician with an African Degree in the United Kingdom, in France, and in Switzerland [F] | Angèle Flora Mendy

By interrogating the migration of African doctors in three European countries (United Kingdom, France and Switzerland), this article intends to go beyond an approach that exclusively looks into the main reasons for their migration. It takes into account the entire migrant's career and especially her/his specific occupational integration in the host country. In doing so, this paper aims at understanding the common reasons of the choice to leave their country of origin, and the profoundly different situations of arrival. The analysis of the national contexts studied here underscores the considerable importance of the political and institutional legacy in the host countries regarding the possibility to work as a physician.

Keywords: International migration, physician with an African degree, occupational careers, institutional context, Europe

79 Civil Associations, Social Capital, and the Wealth of Communities in the Canton Bern [G] | Axel Franzen and Katrin Botzen

This paper investigates the relation between social capital and wealth in the 382 communities of the Canton Bern. We measure social capital by the number of civil associations. Our results indicate that there are 10 130 associations in the canton. The multivariate analysis reveals a statistical significant relationship between the number of civil associations and the communities' economic well-being even after controlling for other relevant variables. In addition, we conducted written interviews of 2 577 associations in a subsample of 100 communities. The results show that the number of active members within a community matters more than the mere existence of voluntary organizations or passive membership. Also, "Putnam associations" are more important than "Olson associations." Overall, the results confirm the assumption that social capital drives the wealth effect.

Keywords: Social capital, regions, economic wealth, civil associations, canton Bern

99 The Social Recruitment of Upper Secondary Schools in the Public and Private Sectors. A Diachronic Analysis of Inter- and Intra-sector Dynamics [F] | Pierre Merle

This paper seeks to analyze the social specificities of public and private upper secondary schools (*lycées*). The social recruitment of upper secondary schools is characterized by an obvious social differentiation: schools in the public sector have a greater number of students from a working-class; schools in the private sector more students from the upper classes. A diachronic analysis of the school recruitment in the public and private sectors shows that this segregation increased from 2006 to 2010. In addition to this growing inter-sector segregative dynamics comes an intra-sector dynamics. The new procedure for assigning students in public upper secondary schools accounts partly for the increasing school segregation.

Keywords: School segregation, social mix, private school, educational policy, school distribution

121 **Stratification, Social Mobility, and Political Positioning in Switzerland**  
[F] | Robin Tillmann, Monica Budowski, and Maurizia Masia

This study addresses the debate on the persistence or the decline of social class, especially regarding political positioning. The introduction contains considerations about class analysis and the often claimed end of class. After a section dedicated to the theoretical framework with regard to social inequalities, we analyse the effect of social class on different political attitudes. Empirical results seem to indicate a continuing influence of class on these attitudes. We conclude that social class, together with religious affiliation, still appear to be a factor in political cleavage.

**Keywords:** Social stratification, social mobility, political behavior, political attitudes, Switzerland

139 **Book Reviews**