

# Curriculum Vitae David Kaufmann

ETH Zürich  
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Born: 17th October 1985  
Swiss citizen

## Current Position

04/2026 – today Associate Professor of Spatial Development and Urban Policy, ETH Zürich  
09/2019-today Deputy Director, Institute for Spatial and Landscape Development, ETH Zürich  
01/2025-today Editor-in-Chief, *disP - The Planning Review*

## Areas of specialization

planning, urban studies, public policy, migration studies

## Education

2013-2016 Ph.D. in public administration  
University of Bern, Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences  
Ph.D.-Thesis: Varieties of Capital Cities: Explaining locational policies in four secondary capital cities.  
Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Fritz Sager; External evaluator: Prof. Dr. Daniel Kübler

2010-2012 Master of Arts in Political Science (major), Cultural and Social Anthropology (minor)  
University of Zürich

2006-2009 Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (major), Cultural and Social Anthropology (minor)  
University of Zürich and University of Lund

2005-2006 Higher education entrance qualification for adults (*Passarelle*)  
Cantonal High School for Adults, Zürich

2001-2004 Commercial apprenticeship with vocational maturity  
Vocational Business School, Wetzikon / Belimo Automation AG, Hinwil

## Memberships in academic boards and organizations (selection)

Since 2021 *urban publics Zürich*, co-founder, a public forum that connects urbanists in and beyond Zurich, linking to urban research and practices worldwide. Around 2-3 events per year.

Since 2020 Editorial board member, *Urban Affairs Review*

Since 2020 Co-Convenor, *Federalism and Territorial Politics working group*, Swiss Political Science Association

Since 2020 Beiratsmitglied, *Langfristige Raumentwicklungsstrategie Kanton Zürich*

Since 2019 Member of the ETH Zürich Networks: Network City and Landscape; Institute of Science, Technology and Policy; Center for Comparative and International Studies; ETH for Development (ETH4D).

2020-2022 Executive Council, *Urban and Local Politics section*, American Political Science Association

## Relevant Employment

09/2019- 03/2026	ETH Zürich Assistant Professor (Tenure Track) of Spatial Development and Urban Policy
01/2017- 08/2019	University of Bern, KPM Center for Public Management Postdoctoral researcher
05/2013- 12/2016	University of Bern, KPM Center for Public Management Research and teaching assistant
07/2015- 02/2016	<i>foraus</i> - Swiss think tank on foreign policy Senior Policy Fellow Migration (part-time)
08/2012- 01/2013	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Geneva Bureau for Switzerland and Liechtenstein, Protection Unit, Internship and project assistant
11/2009- 04/2013	Caritas Switzerland and VSJF Zürich (refugee NGOs) Delegate to monitor asylum interviews (part-time)

## Academic Experiences

09/23- 08/25	Director Network City and Landscape, ETH Zürich
09/21- 08/23	Deputy Director Network City and Landscape, ETH Zürich
06/2019- 07/2019	University of Toronto, School of Cities Visiting Postdoctoral Fellow
03/2015- 05/2015	Ottawa University, Center on Governance Guest Researcher
12/2014- 02/2015	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, National Capital Region Guest Researcher
09/2014- 11/2014	Leiden University, Campus The Hague Guest Researcher
09/2008- 06/2009	Lund University Erasmus exchange year (two terms)

## Awards

2021	<i>Best Paper Award in Urban or Regional Politics</i> awarded for best paper in urban or regional politics presented at the 2021 American Political Science Association conference, awarded by the American Political Science Association section “Urban and Local Politics” (together with Dr. Raffaele Bazurli)
2020	<i>Clarence Stone Scholar Award</i> awarded by the American Political Science Association section “Urban and Local Politics”. The award is given up to two post-PhD scholars who are in their career (pre-tenure, or recently advanced within the last 3 years).
2018	<i>Kommunalwissenschaftlicher Preis der Carl und Anneliese Goerdeler-Stiftung</i> Best Ph.D. thesis about local governance or local administration in business, law, social sciences or humanities in German speaking countries.

- 2017 *Susan Clarke Young Scholars' Award*  
awarded by the American Political Science Association section "Urban and Local Politics". The award recognizes scholars who completed their Ph.D. within the last three years (or are ABDs).
- 2017 *Best Comparative Policy Paper Award*  
awarded by the "Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis" and the "International Political Science Association Research Committee on Comparative Studies on Local Governments and Politics".

## Scientific publications

### Books

- Kaufmann, David, and Mara Sidney (eds.). 2026. *Global Urban Policy: A Framework for Analyzing State and Society*. University of Michigan Press.
- Kaufmann, David. 2018. *Varieties of Capital Cities: The Competitiveness Challenge for Secondary Capital Cities*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar. Published in *Cities* series.
- Mayer, Heike, Fritz Sager, David Kaufmann and Martin Warland. 2018. *The Political Economy of Capital Cities*. London: Routledge. Published in *Regions and Cities* series.

### Special Issues

- Debrunner, Gabriela, David Kaufmann, and Justin Kadi. Forthcoming. "The Business of Densification: Institutions, Actors, and Outcomes in the Transformation of Urban Settlements", *Urban Studies*.
- Kaufmann, David and Mara Sidney. 2020. "Towards an urban policy analysis", *PS: Political Science & Politics*. 53(1): 1–32.

### Journal Articles (double-blind peer review)

- Saakjans, Daniels, David Kaufmann, and Anna M. Hersperger. 2026. Scrutinising European land-use planning: Identifying the priorities and goals of building regulations. *Land Use Policy* 164 (2026): 107916.
- Wehr, Malte, Michael Wicki, Stefan Wittwer, and David Kaufmann. 2025. Beyond NIMBY-ism: rethinking acceptance of housing densification in a direct democratic renters society. *Journal of Public Policy*. Early Online.
- Morandell, Theresia, Michael Wicki, and David Kaufmann. 2025. Between fragmentation and integration: exploring urban-rural coordination in the planning of medium-sized European cities. *Territory, Politics, Governance*. Early Online.
- Wicki, Michael, Fiona Kauer, Katrin Hofer, and David Kaufmann. 2025. Nuancing NIMBYism: How regulatory preferences shape public acceptance of housing densification. *Journal of Urban Affairs*. Early Online.
- Kauer, Fiona, Elena Lutz, and David Kaufmann. 2025. Housing after redevelopment: Where and to what buildings do displaced residents move? *Urban Studies* 63(4): 737–755.
- Elvarsson, Arnór B., Bryan T. Adey, and David Kaufmann. 2025. On the responsiveness of infrastructure processes: from identifying needs to delivery. *Infrastructure Asset Management* 13 (1): 35 – 49.
- Morandell, Theresia, Michael Wicki, and David Kaufmann. 2025. The planning of urban–rural linkages: An automated content analysis of spatial plans adopted by European intermediate cities. *Landscape and Urban Planning* 255: 105258.

- Kaufmann, David, Michael Wicki, Stefan Wittwer, and Jake Stephan. 2024. Democratic discrepancies in urban sustainable development. *Nature Sustainability*. 7(11): 1409-1418.
- Palacios, Nicolás, and David Kaufmann. 2024. Strategies and Tactics in Platform Urbanism: Contested Spatial Production through Quick Delivery Platforms in Berlin and Barcelona. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 48(5): 833-854.
- Lutz, Elena, Michael Wicki, David Kaufmann. 2024. Creating inequality in access to public transit? Density, gentrification, and displacement. *Environment and Planning B: Urban Analytics and City Science* 51(9): 2196–2212.
- Debrunner, Gabriela, Katrin Hofer, Michael Wicki, Fiona Kauer, and David Kaufmann. 2024. Housing Precarity in Six European and North American Cities: Threatened by the Loss of a Safe, Stable, and Affordable Home. *Journal of the American Planning Association* 90(4): 610-626.
- Hofer, Katrin, Michael Wicki, and David Kaufmann. 2024. Public support for participation in local development. *World Development* 178: 106569.
- Wicki, Michael, Sophie Hauller, Thomas Bernauer, and David Kaufmann. 2024. Beyond a transport node? What residents want from transforming railway stations. *European Planning Studies* 32(1): 1–23.
- Hofer, Katrin, and David Kaufmann. 2023. Actors, Arenas and Aims: A Conceptual Framework for Public Participation. *Planning Theory* 22(4): 357-464.
- Wittwer, Stefan, Katrin Hofer, and David Kaufmann. 2023. An urban take on sustainable development policies and corresponding positioning strategies. *npj Urban Sustainability* 3, 1.
- Debrunner, Gabriela, and David Kaufmann. 2023. Land valuation in densifying cities: The negotiation process between institutional landowners and municipal planning authorities. *Land Use Policy* 132: 106813.
- Perić, Ana, Sophie Hauller, and David Kaufmann. 2023. Cooperative planning under pro-development urban agenda? A collage of densification practices in Zurich, Switzerland. *Habitat International* 140: 102922.
- Kaufmann, David, and Mala Walz. 2023. Irregular Migration and the City. In *Oxford Bibliographies in Urban Studies* (Online Bibliography). New York: Oxford University Press
- Kaufmann, David, and Laurent Bernhard. 2023. The Use of the Abuse Policy Narrative in Asylum Debates and its Effects on Citizens' Opinion Formation. *Journal of Public Policy* 43(2): 307-325.
- Bazurli, Raffaele, and David Kaufmann. 2023. Insurgent Asylum Policies in European Cities: A Multi-Level Governance Perspective. *Urban Affairs Review* 59(4): 1129-1159.
- Wicki, Michael, Katrin Hofer, and David Kaufmann. 2022. Planning instruments enhance the acceptance of urban densification. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (PNAS). 119 (38) e2201780119.
- Wicki, Michael, and David Kaufmann. 2022. Accepting and resisting densification: The importance of project-related factors and the contextualizing role of neighbourhoods. *Landscape and Urban Planning* 22: 104350.
- Hinterleitner, Markus, David Kaufmann, and Eva Thomann. 2022. The fit between regulatory instruments and targets: Regulating the economic integration of migrants *Regulation & Governance* 16: 892–909.
- Kaufmann, David, Nora Räss, Dominique Strebel and Fritz Sager. 2021. Sanctuary Cities in Europe? A Policy Survey of Urban Policies in Support of Irregular Migrants. *British Journal of Political Science* 52(4): 1954–1963.
- Kaufmann, David, and Dominique Strebel. 2021. Urbanizing Migration Policy-Making: Urban Policies in Support of Irregular Migrants in Geneva and Zürich. *Urban Studies* 58(4): 2991-3008.
- Kaufmann, David. 2021. Debating responsibility-sharing: An analysis of the European Parliament's debates on the Common European Asylum System. *European Policy Analysis* 7(1): 207-225.
- Kaufmann, David, and Mara Sidney. 2020. Toward an urban policy analysis: Linking urban politics and public policy, *PS: Political Science & Politics* 53(1): 1-5.

- Sager, Fritz, Céline Mavrot, Markus Hinterleitner, David Kaufmann, Martin Grosjean and Thomas Stocker. 2020. Utilization-focused scientific policy advice: A six-point checklist, *Climate Policy* 20(10): 1336-1343.
- Kaufmann, David, Johanna Künzler and Fritz Sager. 2020. How (Not) to Design and Implement a Large-Scale, Interdisciplinary Research Infrastructure, *Science and Public Policy* 20(10): 1336-1343.
- Kaufmann, David. 2020. Capital cities in interurban competition: Local autonomy, urban governance and locational-policy making, *Urban Affairs Review* 56(4): 1168–1205.
- Lutz, Philipp, David Kaufmann, and Anna Stünzi. 2020. Humanitarian protection as a European public good: The strategic role of states and refugees, *Journal of Common Market Studies*. 58(3): 757–775.
- Kaufmann, David, and Rahel Meili. 2019. Leaves in the wind? Local policies of small and medium-sized towns in metropolitan regions, *European Planning Studies* 27(1), 21–41.
- Kaufmann, David, and Stefan Wittwer. 2019. “Business centre or bedroom community? The development of employment in small and medium-sized towns”, *Regional Studies* 53(10): 1483–1493.
- Kaufmann, David. 2019. Comparing Urban Citizenship, Sanctuary Cities, Local Bureaucratic Membership, and Regularizations, *Public Administration Review* 79(3): 443–446.
- Kaufmann, David, and Fritz Sager. 2019. How to organize secondary capital city regions: Institutional drivers of locational policy coordination, *Governance* 32(1): 63–81
- Kaufmann, David, and Tobias Arnold. 2018. Strategies of cities in globalized interurban competition: The locational policies framework, *Urban Studies* 55: 2703–2720.
- Bernhard, Laurent, and David Kaufmann. 2018. Coping with the asylum challenge: Tightening and streamlining policies in Western Europe, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 44(15): 2506–2523.
- Kaufmann, David, Martin Warland, Heike Mayer, and Fritz Sager. 2016. Bern’s positioning strategy: Escaping the fate of a secondary capital city?, *Cities* 53: 206–215.
- Mayer, Heike, Fritz Sager, David Kaufmann, and Martin Warland. 2016. Capital city dynamics: Linking regional innovation systems, locational policies and policy regimes, *Cities* 51: 11–20.

### **Book chapters**

- Kaufmann, David, and Mara Sidney. 2024. “Urban Policy Process and Policy Analysis”. In Ronald K. Vogel (ed.) *Handbook of Urban Politics and Policy*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.
- Sager Fritz, and David Kaufmann. 2023. “Infrastructure Policy: Transport and Energy”, In: Emmenegger, Patrick, Flavia Fossati, Silja Häusermann, Yannis Papadopoulos, Pascal Sciarini, Adrian Vatter (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Swiss Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Kaufmann, David, and Stefan Wittwer. 2022. “Public policy and small and medium-sized towns”, In Mayer, Heike, and Michaela Lazzeroni (eds.) *A Research Agenda for Small and Medium-Sized Towns*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.
- Sager, Fritz, David Kaufmann, and Johanna Hornung. 2022. “Infrastrukturpolitik”, In: Wenzelburger, Georg, and Rainer Zohlhöfer (eds.) *Handbuch Policy-Forschung*. Springer VS, Wiesbaden.
- Sager, Fritz und David Kaufmann. 2022. “Infrastrukturpolitik: Verkehr, Energie und Telekommunikation”, In: Papadopoulos, Yannis, Pascal Sciarini, Adrian Vatter, Silja Häusermann, Patrick Emmenegger, und Flavia Fossati (eds.) *Handbuch der Schweizer Politik / Manuel Politique de la Suisse* (Edition 7). Zürich: NZZ Libro: 757-784.
- Mayer, Heike, Rahel Meili, and David Kaufmann. 2021. “Small and Medium-Sized Towns as Secondary Cities: The Case of Switzerland”, In Mark Pendras and Charles Williams (eds.) *Secondary Cities: Exploring Uneven Development in Dynamic Urban Regions*. Bristol: Policy Press.

Bernhard, Laurent, and David Kaufmann. 2020. "Die Rolle des Missbrauchsarguments im Rahmen von Abstimmungskampagnen: Eine empirische Analyse zu drei Referenden gegen Änderungen des Asylgesetzes". In: Anne-Cécile Leyvraz, Raphaël Rey, Damian Rosset and Robin Stünzi (eds.) *Asyl und Missbrauch: Multidisziplinäre Perspektiven auf einen vorherrschenden Diskurs*. Zürich: Seismo Verlag.

## Teaching

### Bachelor and Master Courses

- 2021-ongoing *Urban Planning and Urban Policies*, ETH Zürich, MSc course, 4 ECTS, annually.
- 2020-ongoing *Introduction to Spatial Development and Transformation*, ETH Zürich, MSc mandatory course, 3 ECTS, annually.
- 2020-ongoing *Interdisciplinary Project*, ETH Zürich, MSc mandatory course, 16 ECTS, co-teaching with all faculty of the master program Spatial Development and Infrastructure Systems.
- 2023-ongoing Basic of RE&IS, ETH Zürich, MSc mandatory course, 3 ECTS, co-teaching with other faculty of the master program Spatial Development and Infrastructure Systems.

### Continued Education

- 2021-ongoing *Citizen and Stakeholder Participation in Policy-Making*, ETH Zürich, 4-day course in CAS Technology and Public Policy, bi-annually.
- 2021-ongoing *Urban Sustainable Development*, ETH Zürich, CAS Public Administration and Governance, one day, annually.
- 2020-ongoing *Planning and Politics*, ETH Zürich, Week course in Master of Advanced Studies in Spatial Planning, bi-annually.
- 2020-ongoing *Local Government and Urban Policy*, University of Bern, One day course in Executive Master of Public Administration, bi-annually.

### Former teaching experience

- 2019-2021 *Sustainable Development*, University of Bern, MA and BA seminar, 4 ECTS, together with Dr. Elisabeth Bürgi Bonanomi, annually
- 2019 "Migration policies", University of Bern, MA seminar, 6 ECTS.
- 2014-2018 "Urban politics, urban policies, and metropolitan governance", University of Bern, MA seminar, 6 ECTS, together with Prof. Dr. Fritz Sager and alone, annually.

### Research grants (selection)

- 2025-2029 Swiss National Science Foundation National Research Program 81 *Baukultur. For an ecological and social transition of the built environment*. "Beyond Replacement Construction: Implementing the Socio-Ecological Transformation of the Swiss Built Environment", Role: PI.
- 2024-2027: Swiss National Science Foundation research project. "The Responsible City: Swiss Responses to Housing in Socio-ecological Crises". Role: Co-PI.
- 2024-2027: Horizon Europe. "ReHousIn: Contextualized pathways to Reduce Housing Inequalities in the green and digital transition". Role: CO-PI.
- 2024-2027: Innosuisse – Swiss Innovation Agency. "SynEnergie - Verdichtung im Bestand". Role: CO-PI.

- 2024-2026: Swiss Federal Office for Energy research grant. “Policy4Rebuild—Zur Reduktion von grauen Treibhausgasemissionen in der Gebäudeerstellung: Politische Instrumente zur Förderung von Umbau gegenüber Ersatzneubau.” Role: Co-PI.
- 2024-2025: CIFAR SNSF Catalyst grant. “Future-Proofing ‘Climate Boomtowns’: Lessons from Geneva, Zurich, Chicago and Toronto.” Role: Co-PI.
- 2023-2026: Swiss National Science Foundation SPIRIT grant “Sustainable Housing in Urban Humanitarian Crises”, Role: PI.
- 2023-2025 Swiss National Science Foundation National Research Program 80 *Covid-19 in Society* “The COVID-19 Pandemic and its Implications for Urban Essential Workers”, Role: PI.
- 2023-2025 Swiss Federal Office for Housing, research project “Bauaktivitäten und Verdrängung in der Schweiz.” Role PI.
- 2021-2025 Swiss National Science Foundation research project. “Densifying Switzerland: Exploring the Acceptance and Support of Densification Projects in Swiss Cities”. Role: PI.
- 2022-2024 ETH4D Humanitarian Action Challenge. “Building Resilience in Health Infrastructure” Role: Co-Pi.
- 2022-2024 ETHZ D-BAUG lighthouse project. “E-bike City”. Role: Co-Pi.
- 2021-2024 Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and UNHCR. “Cooperation within the *Geneva Technical Hub* for a sustainable planning of refugee camps”. Role: PI
- 2021-2024 ETH Zürich Future City Laboratory. “Dense and Green Cities”. Role: Co-PI.
- 2020-2022 Swiss Federal Railways “Co-creating Mobility Hubs”. Role: Co-PI.
- 2020 City of Zürich, Report “Rolle der Stadt Zürich als politische Akteurin in der nachhaltigen Entwicklung”. Role: PI.

### **Research funds as a host**

- 2025-2026: Swiss Network for International Studies (SNIS), grant for Dr. Yaël Borofsky “Do Successful Infrastructure Technology Pilots Lead to Policy Change?”
- 2023-2026: SNSF Ambizione for Dr. Sven-Daniel Wolfe “After the spotlight: Sustainable urban development and geopolitical legacies in former mega-event cities”
- 2023-2024: Collegium Helveticum Junior Fellowship for Dr. Ari Ray
- 2022: ETH4D Doctoral Mentorship Programme for Parwiz Mosamin
- 2021: ETH4D student grant for Parwiz Mosamin

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