

Editorial

Roman Gibel, Matthias Leanza, Núria Sánchez-Mira, Stephanie Steinmetz,
and Mattia Vacchiano

In the first issue of the *Swiss Journal of Sociology* (SJS) each year, we traditionally reflect on the year gone by, share updates on recent developments, and offer an outlook for the year ahead. As reported in the 2025 editorial, the journal underwent a substantial modernization and was successfully relaunched in 2024. Building on this transition, 2025 was characterized by optimization, consolidation, and the strengthening of the journal's foundations. Throughout the year, the editorial team worked closely with the journal manager (Marion Beetschen), Seismo, and the SSA Board to enhance the journal's long-term sustainability, visibility, and governance. These efforts aimed to ensure that SJS remains resilient, efficient, and well positioned for the future. In this context, we continued to refine and optimize the newly established workflow connecting editors, the journal manager, and the publisher, resulting in a more coordinated and transparent editorial process. A central achievement was the successful transfer of the journal's complete archive to the SOAP2 platform. This step not only secures the journal's digital infrastructure over the long term but also improves accessibility, discoverability, and continuity. Alongside this technical consolidation, we further streamlined operations and reduced costs in ways that support sustainability without compromising scholarly quality or the integrity of the publication process.

Furthermore, important steps were taken to strengthen SJS's governance and intellectual direction. Following the departure of Kenneth Horvath (Zurich University of Teacher Education), who contributed enormously to the journal's successful transformation, the remaining editorial team launched a call for new co-editors in April 2025 and was delighted to receive many excellent applications. After internal deliberations and formal approval by the SSA Board, we are pleased to welcome Matthias Leanza (University of Basel) and Mattia Vacchiano (University of Geneva) to the editorial team. At the same time, the editors used this moment of transition as an opportunity to introduce a rotating system for the editorial team, designed to ensure both continuity and renewal in the journal's development. Under this model, editors serve a three-year term, with the possibility of one additional three-year extension. Another important milestone was the renewal and restructuring of the international advisory board at the end of 2025, now renamed the Editorial Advisory Board. Following formal approval by the SSA Board, eleven new members were appointed (the full list of names is available on the journal's website). The composition of the board seeks to strike a balance between expertise, seniority,



regional representation, and gender. The Editorial Advisory Board will support the editors through strategic guidance, promotion of the journal within the scholarly community, and contributions to the peer-review process. Members are appointed for three years, renewable once.

In terms of content, SJS's 2025 volume presented a productive interplay of two special issues, each with a clear thematic focus, and one varia issue, spanning topics from gender and work to the use of visual data in sociological research, as well as economic sociology. This diversity underscores the journal's leading role in advancing sociological knowledge that is theoretically informed, empirically grounded, and relevant to both Swiss and international scholarly debates. Vol. 51 No. 1 opened the year with a special issue titled *New Work – New Problems? Gender Perspectives on the Transformation of Work*. Guest edited by Lucia Lanfranconi, Isabelle Zinn, Stephanie Steinmetz, Gesine Fuchs, and Christina Bornatici, this collection brought together nine contributions originally presented at the 2023 conference of the same name. It explored how evolving forms of work—including remote work, platform work, and flexible arrangements accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic—intersect with gender norms, inequalities, and organizational practices. Topics ranged from gendered stereotypes surrounding working from home and the implications of teleworking for mobility and work–life balance to collaboration in non-urban workspaces and the regulation of digital sex work. By scrutinizing “new work” through a gender lens, the issue advanced critical insights into the opportunities and risks associated with contemporary labor transformations. Vol. 51 No. 2 was published as a thematically coherent varia issue rather than a formally designated special issue. Under the unifying theme of *Big Visual Data as a New Form of Knowledge*, the contributions highlighted how visual data—from machine-assisted analyses of historical photo collections to virtual museum spaces and planning infrastructures—are reshaping sociological inquiry. With an introduction by Sebastian W. Hoggenmüller, the issue addressed conceptual and methodological questions concerning the materiality and interpretive capacities of visual data in social research. The articles reflected on the processual nature of digital infrastructures, the role of algorithmic conditioning in image production, and the challenges of operationalizing visual sources in empirical research. Vol. 51 No. 3 returned to the format of a special issue, centering on *The Transformation of Banking and Finance*. Edited by Philip Balsiger and Léna Pellandini-Simanyi, this collection examined the sociological dimensions of recent shifts in banking structures, financial practices, and regulatory landscapes. Particular attention was paid to the Swiss context, where the financial sector is both large relative to the national economy and central to political debates about economic change. The contributions analyzed the role of core and peripheral organizations in interest defense, historical transformations of banking elites and strategies, the ways in which financial devices prefigure class habitus, and the emerging forms of economic participation, such as cryptocurrency engagement among young Argentines.

The issue also addressed moral and ethical concerns related to impact investing and explored the motivations underpinning ethical finance in Switzerland.

Looking ahead to 2026, we will continue to provide the Swiss sociology community with engaging insights into a broad range of topics. In doing so, the journal remains committed to publishing theoretically informed, methodologically rigorous, and empirically grounded research that speaks both to the Swiss context and to broader international debates. We expect to publish two *varia* issues featuring contributions, for example, on discrimination and gender-based violence; the short- and long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on perceptions of job insecurity in Switzerland, with particular attention to reduced working hours and working from home; media repertoires and political engagement in Switzerland from a longitudinal perspective; and innovation diffusion in large, heterogeneous populations using a group-level network approach. Together, these articles reflect the diversity of contemporary sociological research in terms of substantive focus, theoretical perspectives, and methodological strategies. In addition, we will publish a special issue entitled *25 Years of Longitudinal Surveys in Switzerland: Analyzing Social Dynamics in Switzerland and Beyond*, edited by Sandra Hupka-Brunner, Ben Jann, Robin Tillmann, and Valerie-Anne Ryser. This issue will highlight the unique contribution of long-running survey infrastructures to the study of social change and life-course dynamics and showcase how Swiss data can inform both national and comparative research.

Given current social and political challenges, providing reliable insights into core sociological issues is more important than ever. As social inequalities, political polarization, demographic transformations, and technological innovations continue to reshape the foundations of societies, sociology is called upon to foster a nuanced understanding and informed public debate. We therefore warmly invite submissions of high-quality articles and welcome further proposals for special issues.

The Editorial Board
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