Core Concepts in International Politics
(Department of Politics and Public Administration/Graduate School of Social and Behavioral Science, UKon, and Institute of Political Science, University of Zürich)

This class exposes students to core theoretical concepts used in current research on international politics. To this end, we will read a selection of key articles that have been published in recent years (loosely defined). The first goal of this class is that participants are enabled to sharpen the causal mechanisms that they will develop for their own dissertation projects. A second objective is to provide participants with a number of key texts outside their area of specialization. This will help them to prepare the curricula for the classes that they will be teaching in the future.

There will be three sessions:
- November 5, 2021: 10 am to 3 pm. Location: Zürich
- December 3, 2021, 9 am to 1 pm. Remote Workshop
- January 21, 10 am to 3 pm. Location: Konstanz

Students are expected to write a research paper of between 7000 and 9000 words (appendices excluded). The outline of the paper has to be presented in the last session of the class. All details will be discussed at the first session of the class.

The reading material consists of a rather eclectic list of general articles on how to build theoretical models and how to translate them into interesting prose (A), two equally heterogeneous lists of current research articles with interesting theoretical models and/or contributions, to be read in preparation the first and second meetings, respectively (i.e. lists B and C), and a collection of key background material (D).

Reading list A (Philosophy of science, model building, writing papers etc.)
- Schneider, Gerald (2011) How to avoid the seven deadly sins of academic writing. European Political Science 10 (3): 337-345.

**Reading list B (mandatory literature for November 5th 2021):**

**Reading list C (mandatory literature for December 3rd 2021):**

**Reading List D: Selected background literature:**