

# ELENA CATHARINA LUTZ

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## EDUCATION

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### ETH Zurich

*Ph.D. Urban Policy and Urban Economics*, Nov 2019 - Feb 2025 (expected)

Thesis Title: "Building socially and environmentally sustainable cities: The impacts of densification and transit-oriented development"

### Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Visiting Fellow at MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Sep 2022 - May 2023

Fellow at MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning, 2023 - 2024

### London School of Economics and Political Science

*MSc Political Economy of Europe*, 2018 - 2019

Distinction, Best student

Thesis: Understanding Innovation in Europe, Grade: 80/80, Regional Science Association Thesis Award

### Eberhard Karls University Tübingen, Germany

*BSc International Economics*, 2014 - 2018

GPA: 1.1, Best student

Thesis: Skills in the City

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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I study how transport systems and the built environment shape social and environmental outcomes. My work uses computational methods, including causal inference, mapping, and spatial analysis.

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Working Papers

Lutz, E., Wicki, M., & Kaufmann, D. (2023) Creating Inequality in Access to Public Transit? Densification, Gentrification, and Displacement [*Revise and Resubmit at Environment and Planning B: Urban Analytics and City Science*]

Lutz, E., & Buechler, S. (2023). The Local Effects of Zoning Regulations on Housing Affordability [*Under Review*]

Lutz, E., Heroy, S., O'Clery, N. & Kaufmann, D. (2023). Riding to Opportunity? The effects of Bogota's Cable Car on experienced segregation.

Kauer, F., Lutz, E., & Kaufmann, D. (2023). The Impacts of Rental Housing Demolition and Renovation on Displacement in the Canton of Zurich, Switzerland.

### In Preparation

Lutz, E., Zheng, S., & Moro, E. So close, yet so far: Using cellphone data to analyze co-location of new and incumbent residents in gentrifying neighborhoods.

Lutz, E. Variation in Urban Mobility of Low-Income households: Evidence from Colombian Cell Phone Data.

Kauer, F., Lutz, E., Kurer, T., & Palmtag, T. Urban Segregation and Voting Behavior.

### Other Publications

Lutz, E., Kauer, F. & Kaufmann, D. (2023). Mehr Wohnraum für alle? Zonenplanänderungen, Bauaktivität, und Mietpreise im Kanton Zürich von 1996-2020. *ETH Research Collection*.

Lutz, E. & Büchler, S. (2021). The local effects of relaxing land use regulation on housing supply and rents. *MIT Center for Real Estate Research Paper No. 21/18*.

Lutz, E. (2020). The housing crisis as a problem of intergenerational justice: The case of Germany. *Intergenerational Justice Review*.

## AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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### Grants & Scholarships:

- *Innosuisse Project "SynEnergie"*, 350,000 CHF  
with Illias Hischier, Arno Schlüter and David Kaufmann  
Role: Contributed to writing proposal  
Submission: 28 January 2024 (under review)
- *Research Grant Bundesamt für Wohnungswesen*, 80,000 CHF  
with David Kaufmann and Fiona Kauer  
Role: Wrote and initiated the proposal, managed communication with the BWO  
Submission: September 2023
- *CIS Research Fund*, 10,000 CHF  
with Fiona Kauer, Thomas Kurer, and Tabea Palmtag  
Project to create a public, interactive map of segregation and economic opportunity in Switzerland  
Role: Proposal writing  
Submission: March 2023
- *Early Career Grant - Leading House for the Latin American Region*, 5,500 CHF  
Project Using Cellphone Data to Study Urban Mobility in Colombia  
Submission: December 2022
- *SNF Doc.Mobility Grant*, 16,316 CHF  
Submission: March 2022
- *Konrad Adenauer Scholarship*, approx. 40,000 Euro
- *Baden-Württemberg Scholarship*, 6,000 Euro

### Awards:

- ARES 2022 Best Manuscript Award in the Category of Housing (with Simon Büchler)
- Nathaniel Lichtfeld Award 2020 (Regional Science Association Award for best master's thesis)
- Prize for the Best Overall Performance of the MSc Political Economy of Europe 2019
- Award for Best GPA 2018 of the Department of Economics and Business Administration, Eberhard Karls University Tuebingen
- Youth Peace Prize 2017 awarded by the German Society of the United Nations

## TEACHING

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### Supervision & Mentoring

- Main supervisor of 10 master's theses (1 prize for best thesis, 1 PhD admission to ETH)
- Main supervisor of 3 semester projects
- Scientific advisor of PhD student Fiona Kauer

## Courses

- Fall 2023: Teaching Fellow “*Basics of RE&IS*” (master level, mandatory methods course for master’s students in urban planning)
- Fall 2021: Teaching Fellow “*Urban Planning and Urban Policy*” (master level)  
Teaching fellow in the first year of course, helped design outline, content, and Moodle page.  
ETH Teaching evaluation: 4.8/5.
- Fall 2022: Guest Lecture “*Urban Analytics*” at MIT DUSP (master level)
- Fall 2022: Guest Lecture “*Sustainable Urbanization Lab Seminar*” at MIT DUSP (master level)
- 2016-2017: Teaching Assistant “*Intermediate Macroeconomics*” (undergraduate)
- 2015-2017: Teaching Assistant “*Introduction to Economics*” (undergraduate)

## Other teaching experience

- 2013-2014: One-year full-time English High School Teacher in Colombia at Colegio INSEANDES, Sogamoso as part of Voluntary Social Service

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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### Conference & Workshop Presentations

#### 2024:

Zurichberg Colloquium (Zurich), SPSA Annual Congress 2024

**2023:**  
Royal Geographical Society Annual International Conference 2023 (London), Center for Regional Economic Development Seminar (University of Bern), 2023 AREUEA National Conference (Washington DC)

#### 2022:

LSE Department of Geography and Environment (London), Swiss Young Economists Meeting (online), Swiss Network on Public Economics General Meeting (Zurich), European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association (London), Annual Congress of Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics (Fribourg), ETH Urban Research Seminar, Zurich Political Economy Seminar Series (online), Konstanz Politics of Place Workshop, North American Meeting of the Urban Economics Association (Washington), CURE (Philadelphia), ACSP Conference (Toronto), MIT SUL Research Seminar (Boston)

#### 2021:

WSL Conference 2021, Ivory Innovations Hack-a-House 2021, LSE Department of Geography and Environment Applied Economics Work-in-Progress Seminar (London)

### Invited Talks

#### 2024:

UCL CASA Workshop (online)

#### 2023:

NYU Furman Center (NYC), MIT Sustainable Urbanization Research Seminar (Boston), Schweizer Wohntage (Biel), 10 Jahre RPG 1 (ETH Zürich)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Dedomena, 2020-2022

Startup developing methods to use cellphone data and point of interest data for urban planning

### German Development Cooperation (GIZ), 2018

Sustainable and Green Infrastructure (Intern)

**Ernst & Young Global Ltd.**, 2017-2018  
Financial Services Advisory (Working Student)

**German Central Bank**, 2017  
Summer Internship

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

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### **Work with Swiss Government Bodies on Sustainable Urban Planning**

I meet with Swiss Government Bodies (e.g. Amt für Raumentwicklung Kanton zürich) to communicate the insights of my research. I was invited to speak at events, such as the Schweizer Wohntage 2023, and my research has been covered in Swiss media, e.g. by SRF, Blick, and Tagesanzeiger.

### **Ambassadors Foundation for the Rights of Future Generations**, 2019-2021

Participation in COP26 Climate Negotiations as civil society representative for sustainable urban development, Research and advocacy for intergenerational justice (press interviews, panel speaker e.g. Demographie Tage Rheinland-Pfalz 2021), Judge on German Intergenerational Justice Prize 2020 (Topic: Housing Justice)

## **SKILLS**

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### **Programming Languages**

**Code:** Python, R, Stata, SQL, Amazon Web Services, LaTeX  
**Mapping:** ArcGIS, QGIS, Leaflet

### **Languages**

German (native), English (fluent), Spanish (fluent), French (B1)

### **PhD-level Courses**

**ETH Zurich:** Machine Learning using Python, Geo-spatial Statistics, Methods IV: Statistical Learning, Urban Economics, Statistics 2

**Other Institutions:** AESOP Winter School on Social Science Research Methods 2019 (Florence), ECPR Winter School Causal Inference for Observational and Experimental Studies (Bamberg), Urban Economics Reading Group 2022 (Harvard)

## **REFEREEING**

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Journal of Regional Science, Journal of Environmental Planning and Management  
Scientific Committee for Research Partnership Grant of Leading House for the Latin American Region  
Scientific Committee for the AREUEA International Conference 2023 Cambridge