

# ELENA CATHARINA LUTZ

Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering, ETH Zurich  
elelutz@ethz.ch | elelutz@mit.edu

## EDUCATION

---

### ETH Zurich

*Ph.D. Urban Planning and Urban Economics*, Nov 2019 - May 2025 (expected)

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

Advisors: David Kaufmann (main advisor), Maximilian von Ehrlich

### Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Visiting Fellow at MIT Center for Real Estate, Sep 2022 - May 2023

Research Associate at MIT Urban Economics Lab, Sep 2023 - Sep 2025

### 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

---

### Peer-reviewed Publications

Buechler, S.\* & **Lutz E.\*** (2024). Making Housing Affordable? The Local Effects of Zoning Regulations on Housing Affordability. *Journal of Urban Economics*. [Media coverage: Business Insider, UCLA Housing Voice Podcast] \**These authors contributed equally*

**Lutz, E.**, Wicki, M., & Kaufmann D. (2024). Creating Inequality in Access to Public Transit? Densification, Gentrification, and Displacement. *Environment and Planning B: Urban Analytics and City Science*.

### Working Papers

**Lutz E.**, & Kaufmann, D. (2024). Riding to Opportunity? The effects of Bogotá's cable car on experienced segregation.

Kauer, F., **Lutz, E.**, & Kaufmann, D. (2024). Housing after redevelopment: Where and to what buildings do displaced residents move? (*Under Review*)

**Lutz E.**, Heroy, S., O'Clery, N. & Kaufmann, D. (2024). Policy evaluation using mobile phone data: Evidence from Bogotá's TransMiCable.

**Lutz, E.**, Kauer, F., Kurer, T., & Palmtag, T (2024). Urban segregation and electoral participation.

### 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*.

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

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

## AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

---

### Research Grants

- *Innosuisse Project "SynEnergie"*, 350,000 CHF 2023  
with Illias Hischier, Arno Schlüter and David Kaufmann
- *Research Grant Swiss Federal Housing Agency (BWO)*, 80,000 CHF 2023  
with David Kaufmann and Fiona Kauer
- *CIS Research Fund*, 10,000 CHF 2023  
with Fiona Kauer, Thomas Kurer, and Tabea Palmtag  
Project to map local intergenerational mobility in Switzerland
- *Early Career Grant - Leading House for the Latin American Region*, 5,500 CHF 2023  
Project Using Cellphone Data to Study Urban Mobility in Colombia

### Scholarships

- *SNF Doc.Mobility Grant*, 16,316 CHF 2022
- *Konrad Adenauer Scholarship*, ca. 40,000 Euro 2015/19
- *Baden-Württemberg Scholarship*, 6,000 Euro 2016

### 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

## TEACHING

---

### Thesis Supervision

- Main supervisor of 12 master's theses (1 prize for best thesis)
- Main supervisor of 5 semester projects

### ETH

- Fall 2024: Teaching Fellow "*Foundations of Spatial Planning*" (undergraduate)
- Fall 2024: Teaching Fellow "*Social Science Methods for Urban Planning and Urban Studies*" (master)
- Fall 2023: Teaching Fellow "*Basics of RE&IS*" (master)  
No ETH teaching evaluation conducted.
- Fall 2021: Teaching Fellow "*Urban Planning and Urban Policy*" (master)  
Teaching fellow in the first year of course, helped design outline, content, and Moodle page.  
ETH teaching evaluation: 4.8/5.

### Other universities

- Fall 2022: Guest Lecture "*Real Estate Economics*" (master) at MIT DUSP for Professor Albert Saiz
- Fall 2022: Guest Lecture "*Sustainable Urbanization Lab Seminar*" (master) at MIT DUSP for Professor Siqi Zheng
- 2016-2017: Teaching Assistant "*Intermediate Macroeconomics*" (undergraduate) at Tübingen University
- 2015-2017: Teaching Assistant "*Introduction to Economics*" (undergraduate) at Tübingen University

### 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

---

### Conference & Workshop Presentations

#### 2024:

UCL CASA Workshop (online), Workshop: Research Agenda for Land Use Regulation and Segregation (Zurich), ETH Center for Law and Economics Seminar, Zurichberg Colloquium (Zurich), SPSA Annual Congress 2024, Politics in Proximity Workshop (Zurich), Applied Economics Seminar Universidad del Rosario (Bogotá)

#### 2023:

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

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

---

### 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

---

## **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**

---

### **Programming Languages**

**Code:** R, Stata, Python, 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**

---

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