

# Swiss Leading House

Economics of Education • Firm Behaviour • Training Policies

Working Paper No. 68

## **Individual Policy Preferences for Vocational versus Academic Education. Micro Level Evidence for the Case of Switzerland**

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October 2011

Published as: "Individual policy preferences for vocational versus academic education: Microlevel evidence for the case of Switzerland." *Journal of European Social Policy*, 21(2011)3: 253-273. By Marius R. Busemeyer, Maria Alejandra Cattaneo and Stefan C. Wolter.  
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0958928711401769>

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The Swiss Leading House on Economics of Education, Firm Behavior and Training Policies is a Research Programme of the Swiss Federal Office for Professional Education and Technology (OPET).

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# **Individual policy preferences for vocational versus academic education: Microlevel evidence for the case of Switzerland†**

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† This article is published in *Journal of European Social Policy*. It is therefore no longer available as a Leading House working paper. An earlier version of the paper has been published as MPI DP, free download under: [http://www.mpifg.de/pu/mpifg\\_dp/dp10-11.pdf](http://www.mpifg.de/pu/mpifg_dp/dp10-11.pdf)

## **New source and suggested citation:**

**Marius R. Busemeyer, Maria Alejandra Cattaneo and Stefan C. Wolter (2011). Individual policy preferences for vocational versus academic education: Microlevel evidence for the case of Switzerland.**

**In: *Journal of European Social Policy*, July 2011, vol. 21 no. 3: 253-273**

**Link: <http://esp.sagepub.com/content/21/3/253.abstract>**

## **Abstract**

This paper uses an original dataset from a survey conducted in Switzerland in 2007 to explore the dynamics of education policy preferences. This issue has largely been neglected in that most studies on welfare state attitudes do not look at preferences for education. We argue that education policy preferences vary along two dimensions: the distribution of resources across different sectors of the education system (that is, vocational training versus academic education) and the level of investment in education both from public and private sources. With regard to the former, the findings suggest that individual educational experience matters most, that is, individuals prefer to concentrate resources on those educational sectors that are closest to their own educational background. With regard to the latter, we find that affiliation to partisan ideologies matters much more than other variables. Proponents of the left demand more investment both from the state as well as from the private sector and oppose individual tuition fees.

**Keywords:** academic education, vocational training, individual policy preferences, Switzerland

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