

# Jörg Balsiger

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## CURRENT POSITION

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- Since 09/2017 **Associate Professor**  
Department of Geography and Environment, and  
Institute for Environmental Sciences  
University of Geneva
- Since 06/2017 **Director**  
Environmental Governance and Territorial Development Hub  
University of Geneva

## EDUCATION

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- 2007 **PhD in Environmental Science, Policy & Management**  
University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, California, USA  
Dissertation: "Uphill Struggle: The Politics of Sustainable Mountain  
Development in the Swiss Alps and California's Sierra Nevada"
- 1996 **Master of Science in Foreign Service (*academic excellence*)**  
Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service, Washington D.C., USA
- 1993 **BA in International Affairs & History (*summa cum laude*)**  
Holy Names University, Oakland, California, USA

## EMPLOYMENT

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### Academic positions

- Sep 2015 – **Swiss National Science Foundation Professor**  
Aug 2017 Department of Geography and Environment, and Institute for  
Environmental Sciences  
University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland
- Jan 2010 – **Senior Research Associate and Lecturer**  
Aug 2015 Department of Geography and Environment  
University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland
- May 2008 – **Senior Researcher and Lecturer**  
Dec 2012 Chair of Environmental Policy and Economics, Department of  
Environmental Sciences  
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland

Sep 2007 – **Max Weber Fellow**  
 Aug 2008 European University Institute, San Domenico di Fiesole, Italy

Aug 2001 – **Graduate Student Researcher**  
 May 2006 Department of Environmental Science, Policy & Management  
 University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, California, USA

### Non-academic positions

Sep 2010 – **Lead author** (2010 UNEP Yearbook)  
 Jan 2011 United Nations Environment Programme

Sep 2000 – **Team Leader and Special Adviser**  
 May 2001 Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development  
 Hanoi, Vietnam

Sep 2000 – **Policy and Institutions Specialist**  
 Oct 2000 World Bank, Rural Development Section  
 Hanoi, Vietnam

Jun 1999 – **Forest Policy, Planning and Institutions Specialist**  
 Aug 2000 German Technical Cooperation Agency  
 Hanoi and four rural provinces, Vietnam

Apr 1999 – **Forest Policy and Institutions Specialist**  
 May 1999 Chemonics International  
 Hanoi, Vietnam

Feb 1999 – **Forest Policy and Institutions Specialist**  
 May 1999 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
 Bangkok, Thailand

Nov 1998 – **Research Editor and Capacity Building Advisor**  
 Jan 1999 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
 Beijing, China

Jun 1998 **Forest Policy and Institutions Specialist**  
 International Fund for Agricultural Development  
 Lusaka, Zambia

Apr 1997 – **Forest Policy and Institutions Specialist**  
 Aug 1998 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
 Rome, Italy

Jul 1995 – **Forest Policy and Institutions Specialist**  
 Aug 1996 World Resources Institute  
 Congo and Gabon

- Jun 1995 – **Intern**  
 Nov 1997 World Wildlife Fund, Private Agencies Collaborating Together, World Resources Institute  
 Washington, D.C., USA
- Feb 1995 – **Assistant Editor for *Development Connections***  
 May 1995 Society for International Development, Washington D.C. Chapter  
 Washington, D.C., USA
- 1992 – 1993 **Intern**  
 National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
 Oakland, California, USA

## RESEARCH GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

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### Research grants

- Nov 2020 Main applicant: **Mountains Connect**  
 United Nations Environment Programme
- Oct 2020 Main applicant: **Global ecosystem services and local water conservation knowledge battlefields in the Ecuadorian highlands**  
 Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation /  
 Universität St. Gallen, Seed Money Grant for Latin American Region
- May 2020 Main applicant: **Mining, Mountains and Environmental Defenders**  
 UNIGE G3S Seed Funding
- Nov 2019 Project partner: **Education for Sustainable Development in Higher Education**  
 UNIGE-Yonsei Joint Seed Funding 2019
- Oct 2019 Main applicant: **Enabling Global Change Research on Mountains: The Mountain Research Initiative Coordination Office**  
 Swiss Academy of Sciences
- Jul 2019 Main applicant: **Environmental defenders** (sister project of **At Risk**)  
 Geneva Science-Policy Interface
- Apr 2019 Main applicant: **At risk: Understanding contemporary environmental civil society challenges**  
 Fondation Ernest Boninchi
- Dec 2018 Co-applicant: **Strengthening the Climate Adaptation Capacities in the South Caucasus** (Implementation phase)  
 Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- Sep 2018 Project partner: **PHUSICOS – According to Nature**  
 Horizon 2020

- Sep 2018 Main applicant: **Sub-regional environmental governance and transboundary conservation dynamics in Vietnam and neighbouring countries**  
Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation / ETH Zürich Bilateral research collaboration with Asia 2017-2020
- Sep 2018 Main applicant: **Global Assessment of Regional Mountain Governance**  
United Nations Environment, in the context of Project Accelerating Climate Action under Euroclima+
- May 2018 Main applicant: **JINX!** Support platform for student projects in sustainable development  
swissuniversities / td-net Programme "U Change"
- Jan 2018 Co-applicant: **Strengthening the Climate Adaptation Capacities in the South Caucasus** (Inception phase)  
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- Nov 2016 Main applicant: **Closing the Loop: Enhancing Interdisciplinarity in Research and Teaching (CLEAR)**  
Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (COST)
- Oct 2016 Co-applicant: **Global Change and Mountain Regions: the Mountain Research Initiative Coordination Office (MRI)**  
Swiss National Science Foundation project (transferred to Swiss Academies of Sciences in January 2017)
- Mar 2015 Main applicant: **Supporting Sustainable Mountain Development in the Caucasus**  
Swiss National Science Foundation and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SCOPES Programme)
- Feb 2015 Main applicant: **Regional Orders in International Environmental Politics**  
Swiss National Science Foundation (Prof Boursier)
- May 2014 Co-applicant: **Swiss Platform for Sustainable Development Research**  
Swiss University Conference
- Sep 2013 Team Member: **Environmental Governance and European Macro-regions**  
Swiss National Science Foundation
- May 2013 Co-applicant: **Creating Spaces for Transdisciplinary Learning (CreST)**  
Swiss University Conference
- Aug 2012 Main applicant: **Comparing Regional Environmental Governance in East Asia and Europe**  
Swiss National Science Foundation (International exploratory workshop)

- Sep 2011      Team Member: **European Regional Mountain Initiatives: From Pyrenees to Caucasus**  
Awarded by the Swiss National Science Foundation, CHF 400'000.
- Jul 2011      Principal Member: **Mountlennium: Reaching Millennium Development Goals through Regional Mountain Governance**  
Awarded by the Swiss Network for International Studies, CHF 215'903.
- Sep 2009      Co-applicant: **Ecoregional Territoriality: Rescaling Environmental Governance**  
Swiss State Secretariat for Education and Research (COST)
- Jul 2009      Co-applicant: **Regional Environmental Governance: Interdisciplinary Approaches, Theoretical Perspectives, Comparative Designs**  
Swiss Network for International Studies
- Nov 2009      Team member: **Integrated Water Governance with Adaptive Capacity**  
Swiss National Science Foundation (National Research Programme 61)

### Fellowships & Awards

- Aug 2017      Short-listed for **Crédit Suisse Best Teaching Award**  
University of Geneva
- Feb 2015      **Swiss National Science Foundation Professorial Fellowship**
- Oct 2013      Swiss Academies **Award for Transdisciplinary Research**
- Jan 2013 –      **GEC-Asia Platform Special Research Fellow**  
Feb 2013      Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Kyoto Japan
- Sep 2007 –      **Max Weber Postdoctoral Fellowship**  
Aug 2008      European University Institute
- Aug 2004 –      **W.S. Rosecrans Fellowship**  
May 2005      University of California at Berkeley
- Aug 2003 –      **John L. Simpson Memorial Research Fellowship in International and Comparative Studies; Hannah M. & Frank Schwabacher Memorial Scholarship; Frank Myers Scholarship in Forestry**  
May 2004      University of California at Berkeley
- Aug 2002 –      **Edward A. Coleman Fellowship in Watershed Management**  
May 2003      University of California at Berkeley
- Aug 2001 –      **Environmental Science, Policy & Management Departmental Fellowship**  
May 2002      University of California at Berkeley

## TEACHING & TRAINING EXPERIENCE

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### University of Geneva

- Fall 2017 – **Territories and borders**  
Master's level, taught in French
- Fall 2017 – **Sustainable development and political agendas**  
Master's level, taught in English
- Spring 2017 – **Objective 2030! and Capstone Project**  
Continuing education modules, taught in French
- Spring 2016 – **Society and sustainability**  
Master's level, taught in French
- Fall 2015 – **Interdisciplinarity Workshop**  
Master's level, taught in French
- Spring 2014 **Creating Spaces for Transdisciplinary Learning**  
Master's level, taught in French
- Fall 2013 – **Political Geography**  
Bachelor level, taught in French

### Federal Institute of Technology Zürich

- Spring 2011 **Transdisciplinary Case Study (tdCS) “Sustainable Water Management”** (Course Co-Supervisor)  
Master's level, taught in English
- Fall 2008 – 2012 **Concepts and Assessments of Sustainable Development** (Co-instructor)  
Master's level, taught in English

### European University Institute

- Spring 2008 **Federalism and Democracy** (Co-instructor)  
PhD level, taught in English

### University of California at Berkeley

- Fall 2002 **International Environmental Politics** (Teaching Assistant)  
Bachelor level, taught in English
- 03/2009 - Various **guest lectures** in English, German, and French  
University of California, Berkeley, European University Institute Florence, ETH Zurich, University of Geneva, Institut Universitaire Kurt Boesch

## Supervising

2008 -	Thesis (Co-)Supervisor Bachelor, Master and Doctoral theses at ETH Zurich, Oxford University, University Bayreuth, University of Geneva, University of Ferrara, Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies Geneva, and Central European University
PhD students	Battistina Cugusi (05/2015–), Ian Florin (08/2015–), Marta Vetier (11/2015–02/2020), Loris Germann (10/2016–03/2018), Diana Joaqui Lopez (10/2016–), Elena Koritchenko (12/2016–), Melanie Plangger (02/2017–11/2018), Krittika Uniyal (09/2019–), Chloé Baruffa (10/2019–)
PhD juries	Christine Schenk, University of Geneva (Chair, 05/2016); Stephanie Mansourian, University of Geneva (Chair, 11/2017); Emilie Dupuits, University of Geneva (Member, 11/2017); Yixian Sun, Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies (Member, 11/2018), Rebecca Durollet, University of Geneva (Chair, Spring 2021)

## Training

Training workshops	Proposal writing (Caucasus, graduate students and academic staff), academic publishing (Caucasus, undergraduate and graduate students), Stakeholder analysis (senior forestry officials, Vietnam), Multi-criteria decision making (senior forestry officials, Vietnam)
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## CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

10/2019	Second Caucasus Mountain Forum, Ankara, Turkey
11/2017	First Caucasus Mountain Forum, Tbilisi, Georgia
01/2013	Comparing Regional Environmental Governance in East Asia and Europe, Kyoto, Japan
06/2010	Regional Environmental Governance: international approaches, theoretical issues, comparative designs, Geneva, Switzerland

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & ACADEMIC SERVICE

### Professional affiliations

- International Studies Association (ISA), Environmental Studies Section (ESS)
- Swiss Academic Society for Environmental Research and Ecology
- Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society of the Social Sciences

### Academic service outside the University of Geneva

- Member of the Editorial Boards of *Global Environmental Politics*, *Mountain Research and Development*, *Journal of Alpine Research*, and *Asian Social Science* (until 09/2019)
- Member of the Editorial Board, Oxford University Press *Studies in Comparative Energy*

and Environmental Politics series

- Member of the Interacademic Commission for Alpine Studies (until its dissolution and merger into FoLAP)
- Founding member of the Swiss National Academies of Sciences Forum Landscape, Alps, Parks (FoLAP, since 01/2018)
- Founding member of the Swiss National Academies of Sciences Sustainability Research Initiative (since 09/2018)
- Chair of the Mountain Research Initiative (since 10/2019)
- Co-Chair of the Mountain Research Initiative (10/2016–09/2019)
- Member of the Science Leadership Council, Mountain Research Initiative (since 05/2012)
- Member of the Steering Committee of the Network for European Mountain Research (since 11/2019)
- Founding Chairman of the Board, Caucasus Network for Sustainable Development of Mountain Regions (since 06/2014)
- Member of the Board of Zoë Environment Network (since 03/2018)
- Member of the Scientific Committee, University of Reims Summer School of Sustainability (since 03/2016)
- Member of the Working Group “Education for Sustainable Development” of the Swiss Academic Society for Environmental Research and Ecology (2014-2017)
- Member of the Board of Contributors, International Environmental Agreements Database (since 10/2016)
- International Studies Association (ISA) Margaret & Harold Sprout Award Committee 2010-2012 (Chair) and 2017-2019 (Member)
- Member of the ISA ESS Nominations Committee, 2013-2015
- Reviewer for 19 scientific journals: *Global Environmental Politics*; *International Environmental Agreements*; *Global Environmental Change*; *Environmental Politics*; *Environment and Planning C*; *Journal of Environmental Planning & Policy*; *Environmental Science & Policy*; *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*; *African Journal of Political Science and International Relations*; *Mountain Research and Development*; *Journal of Alpine Research/Revue de géographie alpine*; *Climate Policy*; *Land Use Policy*; *Futures*; *Science, Technology, and Human Values*; *European Journal of Forest Research*; *Schweizerische Zeitschrift für Forstwesen*; *Brazilian Journal of Urban Management (urbe)*; *Géo-Regards*
- Book proposal reviewer for Springer
- Research grant proposal reviewer for the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft DFG), French National Research Agency (Agence Nationale de la Recherche), and Swiss National Science Foundation

## **Academic service at the University of Geneva**

### *University*

- Member of the University Council for Sustainable Development (since 12/2015)
- President of the Jury, Fund for Student Projects in Sustainable Development (since 03/2016)
- Member of the Scientific Committee for the 2016 Geneva Dialogue (2015/2016)
- Member of the Scientific Committee of the Master in Innovation, Human Development and



Sustainability (since 09/2016)

- Member of the Advisory Board of GRID-Geneva (since 10/2018)

#### *Geneva School of Social Sciences*

- Director of the Institute for Environmental Governance and Territorial Development (since 06/2017 - 05/2020)
- Director of the Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) “Sustainable Development: Horizon 2030” (since 04/2016)
- Member of the Faculty College of Professors (since 09/2015)
- Member of the Scientific Committee of the Doctorate in Geography (since 09/2015)
- Director of the Scientific Committee of the Doctorate in Environment and Sustainable Development (since 08/2016)
- Member of the Scientific Committee of the Master in Cultural and Political Geography (09/2015 – 09/2018)
- Member of the Scientific Committee of the Master in Territorial Development (since 03/2018)

#### *Institute for Environmental Sciences*

- Director of the Hub of Environmental Governance and Territorial Development (since 06/2017)
- Member of the Board of Directors of the Institute (since 07/2017)
- Member of the Strategic Council of the Institute (since 07/2017)
- Member of the Scientific Committee of the Master in Environmental Sciences (since 09/2015)
- Director of the Certificate of Advanced Studies in Sustainable Development (since 07/2016)
- Director of the Training “Mobiliser la pensée systémique pour devenir acteur de la transition – Écologie, société, économie: comprendre les changements en cours pour mieux y trouver sa place” (since 2017)
- Member of the Scientific Committee of the Master of Advanced Studies in Urbanism (since 2017)
- Member of the Scientific Steering Council of the continuing education program “Grand Genève et Développement durable” (since 04/2016)
- Member of the Management Committee of the Certificate of Advanced Studies in Energy Management (since 08/2016 – 04/2018)

## **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

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German/Swiss German	Mother tongue
English	Near-Native speaking, reading and writing
French	Fluent speaking, reading and writing
Italian	Fluent reading, fair speaking
Spanish	Fluent reading, fair speaking