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## Dual Citizens: Hazard or Vanguard of Citizenship in the (Post-) Westphalian Order?

### 1. Summary of the research plan

In recent decades we have seen a dramatic rise of dual citizenship; many states are now officially accepting the fact that their citizens have a further passport and many people use the opportunity to formalize their multiple affiliations. Switzerland is a vanguard in this respect. It accepted dual citizenship in 1992. Today more than a quarter of the Swiss population has more than one passport. However, the consequences of this trend are disputed and not well understood. In popular discourses it is mostly seen as a threat to national cohesion and democracy. In contrast, many intellectuals and scholars conceive of dual citizens as vanguard of citizenship practices above and across nation states, and as an important source for democratizing a globalizing world order. However, the debates on national integration and the discourses on cosmopolitan/ transnational democracy are not only taking place in different discursive fields, the two aspects are also not well connected in empirical research. The proposed research project tries to fill this void by tracing the political involvement of dual citizens in Switzerland as well as their transnational and their cosmopolitan citizenship practices.

Since the terms cosmopolitan and transnational citizenship are often used in a fuzzy and inconsistent way, a first goal of the proposed research project is to lay out a theory-based and coherent typology of spaces of citizenship practices and political involvement beyond the nation state. This will facilitate our second and main goal which is to find out empirically whether transnational ties and membership in multiple national communities hinder political involvement in the country of residence, and whether they facilitate the development of supranational citizenship practices. Our analysis thus focuses on the question whether the formal membership of citizens in more than one political community (their citizenship status) influences their political involvement (their citizenship practices) within and beyond their country of residence. Focusing on the influence of formal status on actual practices of citizenship also allows us to evaluate the proposition that various forms of citizenship (status, rights, participation and identity) can be disaggregated and assigned to various political levels/ fields of citizenship.

Our empirical study will follow a mixed methods approach. On the one hand we will analyze quantitative survey data. We will conduct a survey among dual citizens and among control groups (autochthonous Swiss, foreign residents, naturalized mono-citizens) in Switzerland. On the other hand we will trace causal configurations, pathways and mechanisms by qualitative methods, namely by conducting narrative and semi-structured interviews with three sets of carefully selected (dual) citizens.

By tracing citizenship practices of dual citizens in Switzerland, in other countries and on a supra-national level, we will be able to provide answers to the theoretically and practically highly salient question whether political involvement in one community hinders political involvement in other communities or not. This will also allow us to assess whether dual citizens are a hazard for the political community of the country of residence and/or a vanguard for political community building beyond national confines.