

CALL FOR PAPERS

8th Workshop on Experiments in Social Science Research

We invite submissions for the **8th Workshop on Experiments in Social Science Research**, to be held in *Bern, Switzerland*, from August 31 to September 1, 2026. The workshop, jointly organized by [the Institute of Sociology at the University of Bern](#) and the [Department of Social Work at Bern University of Applied Sciences](#), provides a forum for the critical discussion and development of experiments in social science including education, social policy, and social work.

Experimental research increasingly relies on collaboration between academic researchers and practitioners (e.g., public administrations, NGOs, schools, firms, and policy organizations). While such collaborations offer substantial potential for policy-relevant and scalable evidence, they also raise methodological, organizational, and ethical challenges. This year's program will include a practitioner–researcher panel focused on the co-production of interventions and the joint design of randomized controlled trials (RCTs).

Workshop Aim and Scope

The workshop provides a forum for in-depth scientific discussion among scholars from sociology, economics, political science, psychology, and related disciplines using experimental methods.

We welcome contributions employing **randomized controlled trials (RCTs)** and related approaches, including:

- Field experiments
- Laboratory and lab-in-the-field experiments
- Survey and vignette experiments
- A/B testing and other randomized designs

Special emphasis is placed on **education, labour market, and policy research**, although contributions from other fields are also encouraged. We particularly welcome submissions that address implementation challenges or collaboration with practitioners.

Special Panel

The workshop will feature a **dedicated panel of researchers**, who will discuss the co-production of interventions and RCT design. We are pleased to host [Dorian Kessler](#), working on RCTs in social assistance in Switzerland, [Carla Coccia](#), working on RCTs in education in El Salvador, and [Stefan Speckesser](#), working on RCTs in vocational training in England. They will be accompanied by practitioner partners [Kevin Meyer](#) and [Dan Muir](#) to reflect on the challenges and opportunities of collaborative experimental research, followed by a public discussion.

Submission Guidelines

Submissions may be made to one of two sections:

1. **Research Design Section**
For planned or ongoing experimental projects without results. Submissions should focus on the research question, theoretical motivation, and experimental design.
2. **Paper Section**
For completed or advanced experimental studies with results. Submissions should include information on data, key findings, and their implications.

Authors are invited to submit an **extended abstract (300–500 words)**, clearly indicating:

- The section applied to (Research Design or Paper)
- Research objectives and theoretical background
- Experimental design and methodology
- For paper-section submissions: data description, main results, and implications

Abstracts should be submitted to rctbern2026.soz@unibe.ch by **April 30th**.

Acceptance notifications will be sent by **May 30th**.

Submissions will be evaluated by the **scientific committee**.

Participants may also propose entire sessions (rather than individual papers) organized around shared themes or methodological approaches. Session proposals should identify a session chair.

Participation without presenting a paper is possible but requires registration.

Fees

Category	Fee
Regular participants	125
Doctoral & postdoctoral researchers*	90
Social dinner (optional)	100

Fees include coffee breaks, lunches, and workshop materials.

*Researchers based in low- and middle-income countries are eligible for a reduced fee; please contact rctbern2026.soz@unibe.ch

Venue

The workshop will take place at **UniS, University of Bern (Schanzeneckstrasse 1, 3001 Bern)**.

Program

The preliminary program will be available in **June 2026**.

The workshop will start at approximately **9:00 on August 31** and conclude around **18:00 on September 1**.

There is an optional social dinner the evening of Monday August 31st.

Organizing and Scientific Committee

- Dr. [Alessandra Rusconi](#), WZB Berlin
- Prof. [Carlo Barone](#), Sciences Po Paris
- Dr. [Tamás Keller](#), HUN-REN KRTK and HUN-REN TK
- Dr. [Gianluca Argentin](#), Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca

Local Organizers

- Prof. [Benita Combet](#), University of Bern
- Prof. [Debra Hevenstone](#), Bern University of Applied Sciences