

# Main prize

## Laudation

Dr. Clau Dermont

Clau Dermont has won the Bernese Award for Environmental Research for his PhD thesis, “Citizens’ support for the energy transition. The influence of policy and politics on citizens’ opinions towards renewable energy promotion”. His thesis examines why citizens are relevant to the transition to renewable energy, and what factors influence their opinions on these issues. Using innovative methods and concepts, Clau Dermont analyses how policy content and party political arguments influence citizens’ decision-making in direct democracy. His thesis thus makes an important contribution to the increasingly prevalent insight that the transition of energy systems is not possible without closer consideration of political aspects, and especially, of the role of the population.

## Biography

1988 Born in Ilanz/Glion, Switzerland

2008 – 2012 Bachelor’s in Social Science and History, University of Bern

2012 – 2014 Master’s in Political Science, Swiss Politics, and Comparative Politics, University of Bern

2015 – 2018 PhD in Political Science, University of Bern

2014 – 2018 Student assistant and teaching and research assistant to the Chair of Comparative Politics, Institute of Political Science, University of Bern, Prof. Dr. Isabelle Stadelmann-Steffen

2017 Visiting researcher at the Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University, with Prof. Dr. James N. Druckman

Since 2019 Postdoc at the Digital Democracy Lab, Institute of Political Science, University of Zurich (Research focus on Opinion formation, Digitalization and Energy policy)