



Dr. Tibor Szvircsev Tresch

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Biography

Tibor Szvircsev Tresch has been a lecturer on military sociology at the Military Academy at the ETH Zurich since August 2008. Born in 1967 in Zug Switzerland, he studied sociology, political science and criminology at the University of Zurich. In 2005, Szvircsev Tresch was awarded a doctorate by the University of Zurich for his work «The change in Europe's armed forces: from an army of conscripts to an army of volunteers. An empirical study of European armed forces from 1975 to 2003».

From 2002 to 2006, he was an assistant in the Military Sociology Department. From August 2006 to August 2007, he worked as a senior research fellow at the NATO Defense College in Rome. From September 2007 to July 2008, he worked for the Directorate for Security Policy (DSP), conducting a research project on «Challenges in recruiting the professional military personnel in Europe: Lessons Switzerland has learned» at the Center for Security Studies, ETH Zurich. From 2008 to 2012 he was the secretary and since 2008 he has been the Working Group Coordinator for Recruitment & Retention in the European Research Group on Military & Society (ERGOMAS). He was appointed a board member of Research Committee 01 of the International Sociological Association (ISA-RC01) in 2010 and since 2014 has been vice president of this organisation. He served in the Swiss Armed Forces until the end of 2014, working as specialist with the rank of captain in the psychology and pedagogy service.

From August 2018 to July 2019 he was a Visiting Researcher at the Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies (SIWPS) at the School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University in New York.

Since 2008 Szvircsev Tresch is the editor of the annually published study series «Sicherheit» («Security»), jointly conducted by MILAC and the Center for Security Studies. He published amongst others in Armed Forces & Society, Defence Studies, Contemporary Military Challenges, Res Militaris, Sociology Study, Military Psychology, International Journal of Selection and Assessment, and Zeitschrift für Aussen- und Sicherheitspolitik (ZFAS).

Main Areas of Research

Changes within the Swiss Armed Forces and militia system

- Annual survey of views on security policy in Switzerland. Repetition of core issues relating to security and defence policy for trend studies as well as surveys on selected issues requiring in-depth analysis. Publication «Sicherheit. Aussen-, Sicherheits- und Verteidigungspolitische Meinungsbildung im Trend» (Security. Trends in foreign, security and defence policy).

- The importance of conscript military training and careers to recruitment for civilian businesses and public administrations.
- Incentives to undergo military officer training.

International development of armed forces

- Further continuation of the project on the trend towards professionalisation and the abolition of the duty to perform military service in Europe.
- The challenge of recruiting professional military personnel in Europe.

Civil–military relations

- Civilian-military relations in Switzerland.
- Survey on values and political attitudes of military cadets and students at civilian universities.
- Traditions in the conscript system.
- Integrative effect of military service for members of the armed forces with a migrant background.
- Career plans of young women and men.
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- Diversity management in the Swiss Armed Forces.
- Social media and military.

International cooperation on foreign missions

- Cultural challenges for members of the armed forces in cooperation while on multinational missions.

Teaching

General Sociology

- Organisational sociology
- Social change
- Demography
- Institutions of society
- Power, authority and violence
- Security
- Political extremism

Military Sociology

- Change in general social conditions for the armed forces
- Military as organisation
- Democratic control
- International development of armed forces
- Foreign missions
- Military as profession
- Recruitment and retention of military professionals
- Integrative effect of the duty to perform military service
- Diversity in armed forces
- Media and military
- Conscription system in Switzerland

Publications

See German site

