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Dear Community,

A lot of exciting things have happened in this first quarter of 2021 in the field of Citizen Science in Zurich and beyond. The very first Citizen Science Conference in Switzerland was certainly a highlight. New partnerships and collaborations have started, new projects have been launched and new members have joined our teams.

I'd like to take this opportunity to briefly introduce myself. I joined the team in January and am responsible for the community management. So whenever you have any questions, ideas or concerns, please always reach out to me.

I wish you a good read!

Warm regards,  
Ursina

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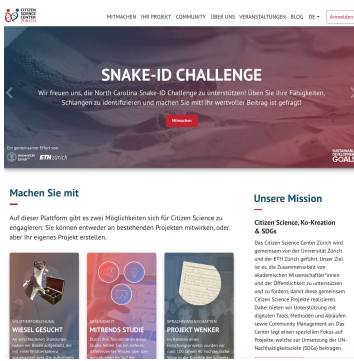
## NEWS AND UPDATES FROM THE CENTER



### CitSci Helvetia 2021 - the very first Citizen Science Conference in Switzerland

Bringing together and connecting the different Citizen Science practitioners - that was the aim of the Citizen Science Conference "CitSci Helvetia 2021" (14 - 15 January 2021). A big thank you to everyone who was part of this event, over 180 researchers and citizen scientists from all over Switzerland and beyond took part in the diversified program! We are looking forward to seeing you at the next conference. You'd like to know more? Find the full article in our blog.

[read our blog post](#)



## New year, new look: Our webpage shines in new splendor

Just in time for the new year our newly designed webpage went live. One of the adjustments is a well structured overview of the Center's activities and support right on the landing page. Visit our webpage and discover what else has been changed!

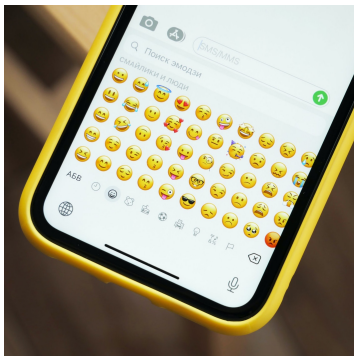
[visit our webpage](#)

## New partnership with "Schweizerisches Idiotikon"



The Institute "Schweizerisches Idiotikon" documents the German language in Switzerland from the late Middle Ages to the 21st century. Its main task is to compile the dictionary of the same name, which is considered the largest regional dictionary of German. The Institute is also home to other projects, such as the [Language Atlas of German-speaking Switzerland](#) (SDS) with its Citizen Science project "SDS-Steno-Labor".

[visit their webpage](#)



## ACCOMOJI project - how do Swiss people use emojis?

The Center newly collaborates with UNIL (Université de Lausanne) and EPFL (École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne) in the project "ACCOMOJI: Emoji accommodation in Swiss multilingual computer-mediated conversations". The project seeks to examine the ways in which people conversing in the Swiss national languages converge or diverge over time with regard to emoji usage. It is part of the Collaborative Research on Science and Society (CROSS) Program.

[find out more](#)



### Welcome to the team: Jan Stoffregen

I am **Jan**, a Science IT Engineer with more than 8 years of professional experience in Full-Stack Engineering and Scientific Computing. I have always liked versatility and realising creative ideas with the help of software. After collecting professional experiences in the Netherlands, Austria, Germany and the UK, I have found a place at the Citizen Science Center Zurich where I develop software which assists researchers in accomplishing their creative ideas by connecting to the crowd. I enjoy the many diverse types of ideas and projects that I am getting in contact with on a weekly basis as well as being part of the friendly and thriving team!



### Welcome to the team: Ursina Roffler

I am **Ursina**, a political scientist and communication enthusiast. I joined the Citizen Science Center Zurich in January 2021. As Community Manager I promote dialog and co-creation between science and society, connect people, and keep our community engaged and informed.

[more information](#)

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## NEWS FROM THE PARTICIPATORY SCIENCE ACADEMY



### Welcome to the team: Olivia Höhener

I am supporting the team of the Participatory Science Academy since March 1, 2021. One of my main tasks is to develop and offer services that introduce people to Participatory Science and strengthen and support those who are interested or involved in participatory science projects.

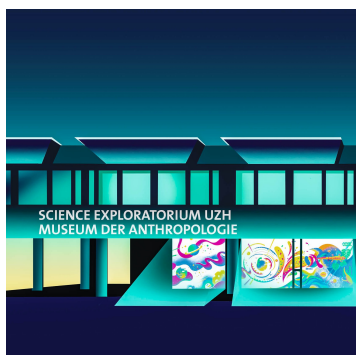
[more information](#)

## NEWS FROM PARTNERS & PROJECTS



### Project launch: Human Reproduction Reloaded | H2R

Becoming a parent is no longer a question of fate, but is usually based on a conscious decision. What are the prerequisites and what the consequences of taking the step into parenthood? These questions are explored by the University Research Priority Programm (URPP) "Human Reproduction Reloaded | H2R" of the University of Zurich. Following a co-designed citizen science approach, the project involves citizens in various steps in the research process. Interested citizens are warmly welcomed to participate.

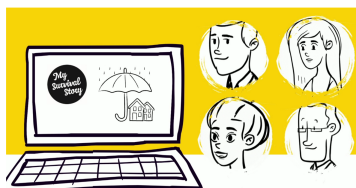
[follow them on twitter](#)[visit their webpage](#)

### Science Exploratorium UZH - discover the world of research at the MNF

The newly opened Science Exploratorium UZH offers an insight into the broad and diverse research at the Faculty of Science (MNF). In the Science Exploratorium UZH, MNF research is made visible with five temporary exhibitions. At the moment, visitors can learn more about superconductors, dark matter, hydrology, elementary particles and botany. They even introduce a citizen science project. Visit them and find out which one!

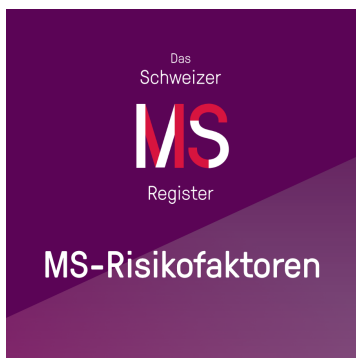
[find out more](#)

### 90% of cancer patients had positive emotions after watching My Survival Stories



My Survival Story collects personal narratives from cancer survivors and shares them online as videos and podcasts. My Survival Story and the Institute for Complementary and Integrative Medicine, USZ, partnered to investigate in a scientific study how cancer patients and their relatives perceive such narratives. They used a participatory approach, where citizens and researchers were equally involved. Find out more about the insightful results in their video!

[watch the video](#)



### Risk factors with MS

The topic «Risk Factors and MS» was repeatedly suggested by participants of the Swiss MS Registry as a desired topic to learn more about the causes of MS. The collaboration has resulted in the new “Risk Factors and MS” survey, which will be launched in April 2021. The first part of the survey will capture the assessments of the participants themselves, the second part consists of a set of known risk factors, which will be compared between persons with and without MS. Stay tuned for updates and the synthesis!

[find out more](#)



### Research Publication: Crowdsourcing snake identification with online communities

Species identification can be challenging for biologists, healthcare practitioners and members of the general public. Snakes are no exception, and the potential medical consequences of venomous snake misidentification can be significant. The Snake ID Challenge aimed at assessing the capacity of online communities to correctly identify snakes from photographs. Therefore a week-long citizen science challenge was hosted in 2019 on our platform. The researchers recently published their findings in the Royal Society Journal.

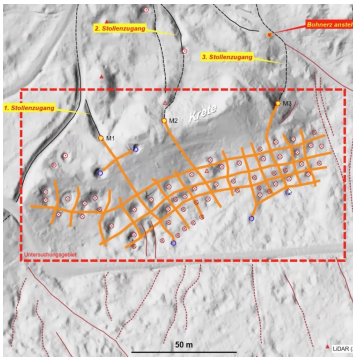
[read our blog post](#)



### Explore your soil: #soilyourundies

How healthy are Swiss soils? Where are they the healthiest and why is that? Together with 1,000 farmers and hobby gardeners and with 2,000 pairs of underpants, the “Piece of evidence: Underpants” project is getting to the bottom of these questions. The idea behind: two cotton underpants are buried in the ground. The better these underpants are decomposed, the healthier the soil. The project starts on April 7, 2021. Join in and explore your soil!

[find out more](#)



## Mining goes public

In February's Brownbag Lunch we went on a virtual journey to Erzmetz, in the Canton of Solothurn. Ore was mined there until 1850 and traces of it are still visible today. Rouven Turck from the Department of Prehistoric Archaeology at the University of Zurich and Beat Meier, geologist and dedicated private researcher, presented their citizen science project that wants to explore these traces. Dive with us into the mysterious world of historic mining! Find the full story in our blog.

[read our blog post](#)



## Article in the journal for social work SozialAktuell

What does participatory research mean from the students' point of view? In the Citizen Science project "Social participation opportunities for young refugees and refugee children", a student from the University of Zurich was able to participate in all parts of the research process as a student co-researcher. She reported in the [journal for social work SozialAktuell](#) about the opportunities and possibilities this opened up for her, as well as the challenges she encountered.

[to the project site](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wednesday,  
April 7  
19:30**

### "Pub forscht" - the Citizen Science Pub Quiz

*Österreich forscht* and the NestCams project of the Konrad Lorenz Research Center invite you to the Citizen Science Online Pub Quiz. Join them in guessing with lots of science and fun, and also according to the strictest corona rules, namely purely online! The quiz takes place on April 07 from 19:30-21:30 via zoom! And once again there will be a great prize for the winning team! So it's worth taking part.

[More information and registration](#)

**Saturday,  
April 10**

### Get started with CrowdWater in Citizen Science Month April

Would you like to join the CrowdWater project and collect data on watercourses? But you don't know exactly how everything works yet? Then join them on their webinar on

**18:00**

April 10. They will explain everything step by step. You can find more information on the Scistarter website. There are also other great events to discover as part of Citizen Science Month! They look forward to seeing you there.

[More information and registration](#)

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**Saturday,  
April 17  
14:20**

### **Workshop at Swiss Students Conference StuCon**

This year's [StuCon](#) is the Second interdisciplinary Swiss students' conference. The Participatory Science Academy is looking forward to being a part of it by offering a workshop titled «Citizen Science: Where Science and Society Meet». Join them on Saturday, April 17 at 14:20!

[More information](#)

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**Tuesdays,  
April 20 + 27  
09:00 - 17.30**

### **Advanced Citizen Science: Designing and facilitating participatory research process competently**

In this workshop, you will be enabled to develop basis competences for process design and facilitation of knowledge co-production through participatory research in different research fields. The workshop is part of the series of courses that the Participatory Science Academy offers in collaboration with Graduate Campus.

[More information and registration](#)

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**Saturday,  
May 22**

### **Science and Nature Festival**

Let's discover the newly opened Science Exploratorium UZH and the biodiversity in Irchelpark with numerous guided tours, workshops and experiments!

[You can find more information about the program, covid-regulations and registration on their website.](#)



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