Wenn Welten aufeinanderprallen. Die medialen Auseinandersetzungen zwischen Konservativen, Liberalen und Radikalen von der Regeneration bis zur Bundesstaatsgründung (1830-1848) [Arbeitstitel]

With recourse to John G. A. Pocock's concept of 'political languages', this research aims at examining the discourse in historical sources in terms of a) content (mainly: political thought/ideas) b) typical characteristics of the language itself as rhetoric, pen, defining terms/concepts. The sources to be analysed are the media which significantly influenced the development of the public sphere in the long 19th century: journals and weeklies whose number in Switzerland drastically increased in consequence of the newly gained press freedom in 1830/31. The period between 1830 and 1850 is crucial for the history of Switzerland. After 11 cantons freed themselves from the old elites and revised their constitutions began what Albert Tanner called a "political religious war" (*politischer Glaubenskrieg*). Not only fought in this small republic in the middle of Europe, this conflict basically manifested itself as a 'war' between conservatism and liberalism (and later on radicalism), a war that mainly revolved around the issue of the future polity. Beside the political contention of the period that is called Regeneration, a particular focus will be placed on another subject: In the contemporary press – in specific articles about political issues, but also in general – numerous mention is made of how the 'new' virtuous male citizen should behave and what his main merits should be within the new social order. These merits may concern politics (such as the citizen as 'homo politicus' should fight for freedom, for the welfare of his fatherland and for a new polity), but also general characteristics of the new 'Bürger' such as virtuousness, temperance and an 'enlightened' kind of religious belief. The keyword 'male' points to a last important aspect of my thesis: The chosen sources provide a lot of information about the new 'middle class' gender order. Thus, this research combines the history of political thought, media history, the history of middle classes ('Bürgertum') and gender history with new political history that refuses to reduce politics to 'decision making' and instead comprehends politics as an area, in which values and ideas are negotiated.

Roman Bonderer

Bern, January 2016