Stanford



Roberta Leonie Claude Fischli

Postdoctoral Scholar, Political Science

Bio

BIO

Roberta Fischli is a postdoctoral scholar in the Department of Political Science and the AI Governance Lab at Stanford University. She researches how to safeguard personal liberty and human agency in an age of advanced machine intelligence.

Roberta was previously an AGI Fellow at the Johns Hopkins School of Government and Policy and a Visiting Faculty Researcher at Google, where she worked on AI agents and value alignment. Previous research appointments include the University of California Berkeley, Georgetown University, and the University of St. Gallen. She is a research affiliate at the Machine Intelligence and Normative Theory (MINT) Lab at Johns Hopkins University, led by Seth Lazar.

Roberta holds a PhD (summa cum laude) in International Affairs and Political Economy from the University of St. Gallen. Her dissertation monograph "Freedom after Algorithms" investigates the changing role of freedom in the digital age. Her research has appeared in Perspectives on Politics, the European Journal of Political Theory, and History of Political Thought, among others. Before becoming a researcher, Roberta worked as a freelance journalist for various newspapers and media outlets.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Hoefer Mentoring Award, Program in Writing and Rhetoric, Stanford University (2026)
- Postdoctoral Mobility Fellowship, Swiss National Science Foundation (2025 - 2027)
- DIA prize 2025 for the best dissertation, DIA Program Committee (International Affairs and Political Economy), University of St. Gallen (2024 - 2025)
- Mobi.Doc, University of St. Gallen (2022 - 2022)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Affiliate Researcher, MINT Lab, Johns Hopkins School of Government and Policy (2024 - present)
- Postdoctoral Researcher, AI Governance Lab, Stanford University (2026 - present)
- Member, Stanford HAI Policy Working Group (2026 - present)

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- PhD, University of St. Gallen , International Affairs and Political Economy (2024)
- MA, University of Zurich , Political Economy and Philosophy (2018)
- BA, University of Zurich , Political Science and Modern History (2013)

STANFORD ADVISORS

- Rob Reich, Postdoctoral Faculty Sponsor

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Agents, Alignment, and the Many Faces of Autonomy** *MINDS AND MACHINES*
  Fischli, R., Franklin, M., Manzini, A., Gabriel, I.
  2026; 36 (34)
- **Architecting Trust in Artificial Epistemic Agents** *arXiv*
  Marchal, N., Chan, S., Franklin, M., Revel, M., Keeling, G., Fischli, R., Chandra, B., Gabriel, I.
  2026
- **Empowering Digital Democracy** *PERSPECTIVES ON POLITICS*
  Fischli, R., Muldoon, J.
  2024; 22 (3): 819-835
- **Data-owning democracy: Citizen empowerment through data ownership** *EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF POLITICAL THEORY*
  Fischli, R.
  2024; 23 (2): 204-223
- **CITIZENS' FREEDOM INVADED: DOMINATION IN THE DATA ECONOMY**
  Fischli, R.
  IMPRINT ACADEMIC.2022: 125-149