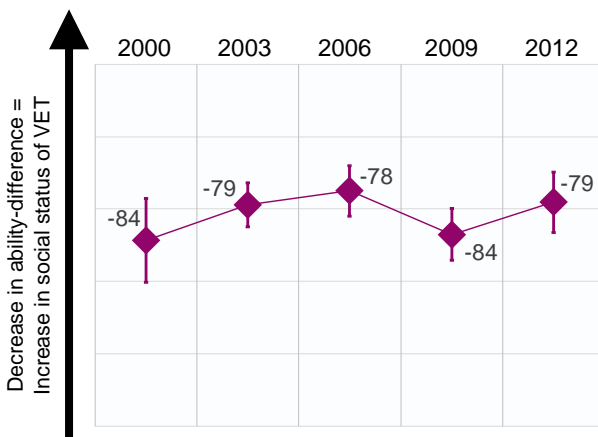


# The Social Status of Vocational Education and Training in Switzerland

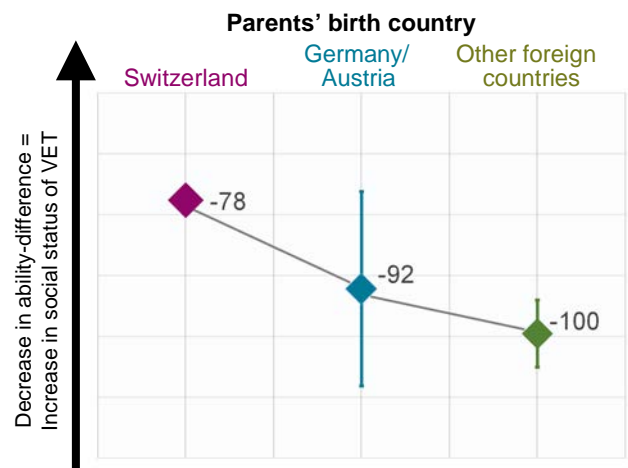
In Switzerland, about two-thirds of every upper secondary cohort starts initial vocational education and training (VET). If the social status of VET increases, adolescents with higher cognitive abilities decide to pursue VET. This leads to an increase in the relative abilities of the adolescents in VET compared to the ones choosing academic education. By comparing the abilities of VET and academic students, we can compare the social status of VET over time and between groups.

## How has the social status of VET developed over time?



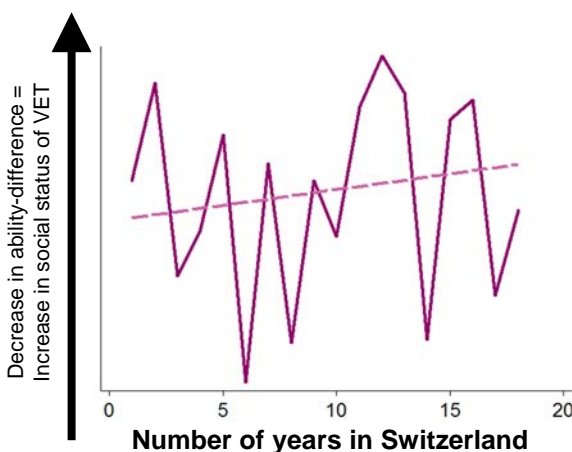
The relative abilities of future dual VET students compared to those who will pursue academic education was constant from 2000 to 2012. Thus the social status of VET did not change.

## How do immigrants perceive the social status of VET?



The social status of VET is higher for adolescents whose parents are born in Switzerland or in a country with a similar education system.

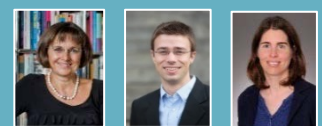
## How does the social status of VET change with immigrants' increasing time in Switzerland?



With more time spent in Switzerland, the relative abilities of immigrants choosing VET compared to those in academic education rises. We argue that immigrants' growing knowledge of the Swiss education system and its possibilities explains this increase in their perceived social status of VET.

The social status of VET is higher in rural than in urban regions.

Perceptions of VET status do not differ between men and women.



Dr. Ursula Renold, Dr. Thomas Bolli, Ladina Rageth