Invitation to a guest-lecture by
Dr. des. Nadine Eggimann

title: On Courage, Comradeship, Discipline, and Security:
Values and Virtues in the Swiss Armed Forces
day: Thursday, 12th of April 2018
time: 10.15 - 12.00
room: to be announced, Binzmühlestrasse 14/7, 8050 Zürich
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Abstract
Expressions describing values and virtues (e.g., honesty, security, loyalty, integrity) have always been a top priority within the military context of leadership, training, ethical commitment, and psychological research. Values and virtues are qualified as morally good, positive characteristics of personality (De Raad & Van Oudenhoven, 2011). Likewise, concepts of positive psychology such as character strengths, values, and virtues are regarded as highly influential on work satisfaction, individual performance, motivation, adaptability, and effective leadership in the military context (Matthews, Eid, Kelly, Bailey, & Peterson, 2006). Additionally, the military environment is a natural home for concepts of positive psychology and their overall importance is widely documented (Matthews, 2008). This perspective supports the inclination to view the military, specially the Swiss Armed Forces, as a value-oriented organization. However, there has not yet been an empirical psycholexical assessment of military values and virtues and a corresponding analysis of the factorial structure within a military organization. The scope of this research included a psycholexical-based identification of military value and virtue descriptors and the assessment of their factorial structure, in collecting data from professional and militia military persons across the different hierarchical levels. As part of this presentation selected results will be discussed to highlight the current military-specific culture of values and virtues, as it aligns with the Swiss military organization. The findings will assist to further optimize the training programs for Swiss military personnel and to take ongoing advantage to apply positive psychology within the traditional military psychology.

Relevant references

Short biography
Nadine Eggimann received her M.Sc. in psychology from University of Zurich in 2009 with a major in Personality Psychology and Assessment. Since 2009 she has been working as a research assistant and lecturer in the Department of Military Psychology and Military Pedagogy Studies at the Swiss Military Academy at ETH Zurich. As part of her function she is involved in the evaluation, development and procedures of the Assessment Centers for future career officers, for future career NCO candidates, for general staff officer candidates and for prospective defence attaché candidates in the Swiss Armed Forces. She is also in the board of the Swiss Assessment Society. In January 2018 she completed her PhD studies supervised by Prof. Dr. Ruch. Her thesis investigated the subject of values and virtues within the military context.