Erratum


The bar labels in original Figure 3 are in the wrong order and thus lead to a wrong description of attitudes toward Muslims in Switzerland. We present the corrected figure and the corrected descriptive paragraph in this erratum. Please note that all substantive results of the original article remain unaffected by this mistake.

Figure 3. Attitudes toward Muslims in Switzerland. Own calculations based on SELECTS 2011. Error bars refer to plus/minus one standard error. SELECTS = Swiss Electoral Study.
Figure 3 gives a first descriptive impression of attitudes toward Muslims across the whole of Switzerland. Over half (56 percent) of all Swiss agree with the statement that “there are too many Muslims in Switzerland”, 30 percent even “totally”. Only 24 percent do not share this view, and a further 20 percent is undecided on this issue. Thus a considerable part of the population holds reservations against Muslims. Interestingly, the attitudes toward the religious rights of Muslims are more polarized with more respondents taking sides and fewer neutral answers. While the right of Muslim women to wear their headscarves in public is again opposed by a majority of 57 percent of all Swiss, around a third (35 percent) support it. This makes the headscarf a slightly more contentious issue than the right to construct minarets which finds support from a third (30 percent) and is opposed by 61 percent of the Swiss population. Again, these numbers clearly indicate a rejection of Muslims that is widely held in Swiss society. However, there is also considerable subnational variation in attitudes toward Muslims and their religious practices.