
Curriculum Vitae

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Education & Experience

Education

- 09/2002 – 02/2006 Doctorate in Economics, University of Zurich (summa cum laude). Main advisor: Prof. Dr. Josef Zweimüller
- 01/2003 – 02/2004 Graduate Studies in Macroeconomics and Econometrics, Study Center Gerzensee, Switzerland
- 10/1997 – 07/2002 University education in Economics, University of Zurich and Humboldt Universität zu Berlin (summa cum laude)

Professional appointments

- 12/2014 – present Professor of International Economics, Department of Economics, University of Lucerne
- 01/2012 – 11/2014 Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Tilburg University; CentER Fellow; EBC Fellow
- 06/2010 – 12/2011 Assistant Professor, World Trade Institute, University of Bern
- 08/2008 – 05/2010 Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Tilburg University; CentER Fellow; EBC Fellow
- 08/2007 – 07/2008 Visiting Scholar, Department of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- 07/2006 – 07/2007 Senior Research Associate, Institute for Empirical Research in Economics (IEW), University of Zurich
- 08/2002 – 06/2006 Assistant at the IEW, Chair of Macroeconomics
- 07/2000 – 07/2002 Research and Teaching Assistant at the IEW

Short visits

- 09/2023 – 10/2023 Visiting Professor, Tilburg University, Tilburg
- 11/2018 – 12/2018 Visiting Professor, UC Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve
- 10/2018 Visiting Researcher, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Washington
- 08/2018 Visiting Academic Researcher, Universidad del Rosario, Bogotá

Research

Current research interests

Geopolitical risk and the international economy • Uncertainty and the origins of economic fluctuations and crises • Uncertainty and policy experimentation • International economic sanctions • Economic development

Publications

A. Peer-reviewed journals:

Open-Source Information and Repression (2025), JOURNAL OF COMPARATIVE ECONOMICS, 53(4), 1034-1048.

Investor Beliefs about Transformative Innovations under Uncertainty (2023), ECONOMICA, 90(360), 1119-1144 (with Johannes Binswanger and Anja Garbely).

Statistical Capacity and Corrupt Bureaucracies (2022). REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, 17, 143-174 (with Elias Steiner).

Fiscal Weakness, the (Under-)Provision of Public Services, and Institutional Reform (2021). CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AND PEACE SCIENCE, 38(1) 20-44 (with Mauricio Rodriguez).

Better Statistics, Better Economic Policies? (2020), EUROPEAN ECONOMIC REVIEW, 130, Article 103588 (with Johannes Binswanger).

Harmful Pro-Competitive Effects of Trade in Presence of Credit Market Frictions (2020). JOURNAL OF MONEY, CREDIT AND BANKING, 52(6), 1493-1525 (with Reto Foellmi).

Water Scarcity and Rioting: Disaggregated Evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa (2017). JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT, 86, 193-209 (with Christian Almer and Jérémy Laurent-Lucchetti).

Disagreement and Learning about Reforms (2015). ECONOMIC JOURNAL, 125(May), 853-886 (with Johannes Binswanger).

Targeting Autocrats: Economic Sanctions and Regime Change (2014). EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF POLITICAL ECONOMY, 36, 24-40.

Inequality and Growth: The Neglected Time Dimension (2014). JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC GROWTH, 19(1), 81-104 (with Daniel Halter and Josef Zweimüller).

Government Revenues and Economic Growth in Weakly Institutionalized States (2010). ECONOMIC JOURNAL, 120(June), 631-650.

Market Imperfections, Wealth Inequality, and the Distribution of Trade Gains (2010). JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS, 81(1), 15-25 (with Reto Foellmi).

Creditor Protection and the Dynamics of the Distribution in Oligarchic Societies (2009). JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC GROWTH, 14(4), 313-344.

Why Progressive Redistribution Can Hurt the Poor (2008). JOURNAL OF PUBLIC ECONOMICS, 92(3-4), 738-747 (with Reto Foellmi).

Who Gains from Non-Collusive Corruption? (2007). JOURNAL OF DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS, 82(1), 95-119 (with Reto Foellmi).

B. Working papers:

Borders at Risk: The Impact of Russian Aggression on FDI (2025, with Julia Fischer).

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=5330974

Uncertainty, Openness to Novelty, and Economic Growth (2024, with Maren Bartels and Johannes Binswanger).

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1v8FhfMjWX7dlfhQlao03cem4bTWTUATY/view?usp=sharing>

The Economics of Beliefs under Fundamental Uncertainty (2023, with Johannes Binswanger).

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wYZq_PBITE3gmJJFyfg5KFXnGESjllsX/view?usp=sharing

Foreign Aid, Political Instability, and Economic Growth (2006). IEW WP No. 310.

http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=949149

C. Work in progress:

A Macroeconomy with Intuitive Thinkers (with Maren Bartels, Johannes Binswanger, and Albert Flak).

Working paper coming soon

Choice under Fundamental Uncertainty: The Case of Aggregate Consumption (with Johannes Binswanger and Albert Flak).

Working paper coming soon

D. Articles/appearances in the media:

Wachstum als Heilmittel gegen Staatsschulden? *SRF Echo der Zeit*, 2026.

US-Friedensinitiative: Europa hat viel zu verlieren. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, 2025.

Wachstum als Heilmittel gegen Staatsschulden? *SRF Echo der Zeit*, 2025.

Was Donald Trump am starken Dollar stört. *SRF Echo der Zeit*, 2025.

Trump spielt ein hochriskantes Spiel. *Tages-Anzeiger*, 2025.

Ende der liberalen Handelspolitik: Weshalb Trump auf Zölle setzt. *SRF Trend*, 2025.

Die Europäische Zentralbank in der Sackgasse. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, 2024.

Frankreich ist für die Eurozone «too big to fail». *SRF Tagesschau*, 2024.

Die Schwierigkeit von Schuldenschnitten. *SRF Rendez-vous*, 2024.

Resilienz der russischen Wirtschaft: Langer Atem nötig. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, 2024.

Schuldenkrisen: Der Schlüssel liegt in den Ländern selbst. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, 2024.

Die Meinungsfreiheit ist global im Krebsgang. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, 2023.

Tunesien: Geld gegen Reformen. *SRF Echo der Zeit*, 2023.

Ukraine: IT-Firmen zeigen sich kriegsresistent. *SRF 10 vor 10*, 2023.

China beliefert Lateinamerika. *Schaffhauser Nachrichten*, 2023.

Zinserhöhungen setzen armen Länder zu. *SRF Tagesschau*, 2023.

Kampf gegen Verschuldung von Entwicklungsländern. *SRF Echo der Zeit*, 2023.

China an der Weggabelung. *Finanz und Wirtschaft*, 2022 (with Johannes Binswanger).

IWF tagt in schwierigen Zeiten. *SRF Echo der Zeit*, 2022.

Wir leben in sehr volatilen Zeiten. *Schaffhauser Nachrichten*, 2022.

Globale Knappheit der Güter – alles andere als obsolet. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, 2022.

Die «Festung», die keine ist. *Finanz und Wirtschaft*, 2022.

Russland auf sowjetischen Pfaden. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, 2022.

Echtzeitdaten in der Wirtschaft. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, 2021 (with Johannes Binswanger).

In der Schweiz bleibt die Inflation tief. *Schaffhauser Nachrichten*, 2021.

IWF will armen Ländern finanziell helfen. *SRF Echo der Zeit*, 2021.

Ohne Mythen entsteht kaum Neues. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, 2020 (with Johannes Binswanger)

Kratzer am Gral der Geldpolitik. *Schaffhauser Nachrichten*, 2020.

Für die EU wäre es auch schmerzhaft. *Schaffhauser Nachrichten*, 2020.

Morgengast—Interview zum Brexit. *Radio Central*, 2020.

Trump-Administration will kurzfristig punkten. *Luzerner Zeitung*, 2018.

Zinsanstieg bedroht Schuldenstaaten. *Luzerner Zeitung*, 2018.

Weiter Weg zum Liberalisierungserfolg. *Die Volkswirtschaft*, 2017 (with Reto Foellmi)

Euro-Gezänk mit hohem Risiko. *Neue Luzerner Zeitung*, 2011.

G20 weiss, was auf dem Spiel steht. *Neue Luzerner Zeitung*, 2010 (with Thomas Cottier).

Arm trotz Finanzhilfe. *UniPress—Forschung und Wissenschaft*, 2010.

Es wird nur ein kleines Strohfeuer entfachen. *Schaffhauser Nachrichten*, 2009.

Destabilisierende Entwicklungshilfe. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, 2006.

Mehr Hilfe hilft nicht. *Die Weltwoche*, 2005 (with Reto Foellmi).

Awards

04/2011	Austin Robinson Memorial Prize 2010 (awarded by the Editors of the Economic Journal)
04/2006	Award for the Best Doctoral Thesis in Economics (“Jahrespreis 2005”), University of Zurich
04/2006	Selected for the final round of the “CESifo Prize in Public Sector Economics”, Munich
10/2005	Selected for the “European Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society”, Istanbul
04/2003	Spring Meeting of Young Economists Best Paper Prize of 2003

Research projects with external funding

09/2020 – 08/2024	Swiss National Science Foundation: Uncertainty, Beliefs, and Crises in Macroeconomics (with Johannes Binswanger)
08/2009 – 08/2016	Swiss National Science Foundation: NCCR Trade Regulation (WP6): Trade Openness, Efficiency, and Productivity
08/2007 – 07/2008	Swiss National Science Foundation Fellowship: The Persistence of Dysfunctional Institutions: A Political-Economy Approach
01/2004 – 12/2005	Research Grant, University of Zurich

Presentations*A. Invited seminars:*

- 2021: Annual Meeting of the Verein für Socialpolitik standing field committee “International Economics”, Bielefeld University
- 2020: Annual Meeting of the Verein für Socialpolitik standing field committee “International Economics”, Bielefeld University (cancelled)
- 2018: University of Gothenburg, Universidad del Rosario/Bogotá; Fed Board of Governors; UC Louvain
- 2016: University of Geneva, Goethe University Frankfurt, Harvard Kennedy School of Government
- 2014: University of Lucerne
- 2013: ETH Zurich
- 2012: Erasmus University Rotterdam “International Economics”
- 2011: University of Zurich, University of Cambridge, University of Lausanne, Tilburg University, LMU Munich (Chair of International Economics)
- 2010: University of Innsbruck
- 2009: University of Linz
- 2008: Brown University, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Oxford University, Tilburg University, University of Copenhagen, University of Göttingen
- 2007: Boston University, MIT (Macro Faculty Seminar), MIT (Development Seminar)
- 2006: University of Leicester

B. International conferences and workshops:

- 2025: Annual Conference of the Scottish Economic Society (Glasgow); Verein für Socialpolitik Annual Conference 2024 (Köln)
- 2024: Verein für Socialpolitik Annual Conference 2024 (Berlin); 7th International Conference on the Political Economy of Democracy and Dictatorship (Münster)
- 2023: 17th Workshop on Political Economy (Dresden); EU Annual Research Conference (Brussels); Society for Institutional & Organizational Economics Annual Conference (Frankfurt); 15th Conference on the Political Economy of International Organization (San Diego); European Public Choice Society Conference 2023 (Hannover)
- 2022: Workshop on Survey Data and Probabilistic Expectations, Heidelberg University
- 2020: 13th Conference on the Political Economy of International Organization (Vancouver); Annual meeting of the European Public Choice Society (Lucerne, cancelled); Society for Institutional & Organizational Economics Annual Conference (Cambridge, MA, cancelled)
- 2018: Annual Conference of the Royal Economic Society (Brighton); Society for Institutional & Organizational Economics Annual Conference (Montréal)
- 2017: Development Economics Workshop (Wageningen); Society for Institutional & Organizational Economics Annual Conference (New York)
- 2016: Development Economics Workshop (Tilburg); Tax Justice in a Global World (Zurich)
- 2015: Development Economics Workshop (Wageningen)

- 2014: Annual Conference of the Royal Economic Society (Manchester); Development Economics Workshop (Tilburg)
- 2012: Workshop International Trade and Development (Rotterdam); Development Economics Workshop (Tilburg)
- 2011: Annual Conference of the Royal Economic Society (Royal Holloway); Development Economics Workshop (Tilburg); Meeting of the German Economic Association (Frankfurt)
- 2010: Northeastern Universities Development Consortium Conference (Boston), Meeting of the German Economic Association (Kiel); Conference of Swiss Economists Abroad (Gerzensee)
- 2009: Annual Conference of the Royal Economic Society (Surrey); Conference of Swiss Economists Abroad (Basel)
- 2008: Northeastern Universities Development Consortium Conference (Boston)
- 2007: Annual Conference of the Royal Economic Society (Warwick)
- 2006: Meeting of the German Economic Association (Bayreuth), European Meeting of the Econometric Society (Vienna), DEGIT XI (Jerusalem), CESifo Area Conference on Public Sector Economics (Munich)
- 2005: Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society (Istanbul); German Macro Workshop (Würzburg); Annual Conference of the Royal Economic Society (Nottingham)
- 2004: Meeting of the German Economic Association (Dresden); Annual Congress of the European Economic Association (Madrid); Annual Conference of the Royal Economic Society (Swansea)
- 2003: Meeting of the German Economic Association (Zurich); Annual Congress of the European Economic Association (Stockholm); Spring Meeting of Young Economists (Leuven); Annual Conference of the Royal Economic Society (Warwick)
- 2002: Conference on “Institutional Structure of Policy Making” (Rome); European Science Days (Steyr)

Services for the profession

A. Refereeing:

American Economic Review • Canadian Journal of Economics • Econometrica • Economic Inquiry • Economic Journal • Economic Policy • European Economic Review • European Journal of Political Economy • International Economic Review • Journal of Comparative Economics • Journal of Development Economics • Journal of Economic Growth • Journal of Economic Inequality • Journal of Economic Theory • Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics • Journal of the European Economic Association • Kyklos • Quarterly Journal of Political Science • Resource and Energy Economics • Review of Economic Studies • Review of International Organizations • Swiss Journal of Economics and Statistics • World Development

B. Workshop co-organization:

- 2017: 8th Development Economics Workshop, Wageningen (University of Lucerne, Tilburg University, Wageningen University, UK-DFID)
- 2016: 7th Development Economics Workshop, Tilburg (University of Lucerne, Tilburg University, Wageningen University, UK-DFID)

- 2015: 6th Development Economics Workshop, Wageningen (Tilburg University, Wageningen University, UK-DFID)
- 2014: 5th Development Economics Workshop, Tilburg (CentER, Tilburg University, Wageningen University)
- 2013: 4th Development Economics Workshop, Tilburg (CentER, Tilburg University, Wageningen University)
- Causal Analysis in International Trade, Villars-sur-Ollon (CEPR, Swiss National Science Foundation)
- 2012: 3rd Development Economics Workshop, Tilburg (CentER, Tilburg University, Wageningen University)
- 2010: 1st Development Economics Workshop, Tilburg (CentER, Tilburg University)

Teaching & Supervision

Lectures

A. Bachelor level:

Introduction to Macroeconomics: University of Lucerne (Spring terms 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017); Tilburg University (Fall terms 2009, 2008); University of Zurich (Summer term 2007)

Growth and Development: University of Lucerne (Spring terms 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015)

International Trade: University of Lucerne (Spring terms 2016, 2015)

International Finance: Tilburg University (Spring terms 2014, 2013, 2012)

B. Master level:

Growth Theory: University of Lucerne (Fall terms 2025, 2024, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2017, 2016, 2015)

International Macroeconomics: University of Lucerne (Fall terms 2025, 2024, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2016, 2015)

Economic Development and Growth: University of Bern (Spring term 2011); Tilburg University (Fall terms 2009 and 2008)

Macroeconomics: University of Bern, Master of International Law and Economics (MILE) program (Fall terms 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010)

C. Research master/PhD level:

Macroeconomics, covering OLG and RBC models, taxation, fiscal policy and social security: Tilburg University (Spring terms 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012)

Development and Growth: Tilburg University (Fall terms 2014, 2013, 2012); University of St. Gallen (Spring terms 2014, 2013, 2012)

Seminars and tutorials

Recent Topics in International Economic Development: University of Lucerne (Fall term 2025, 2024, 2022, 2021)

Historical and Deep-Rooted Factors of Economic Development: University of Lucerne (Fall terms 2019, 2017, 2016, 2015)

Globalization and Inequality: University of Zurich (Winter terms 2006, 2005)

Economic Development in Historical Perspective: University of Zurich (Winter term 2004)

Income Distribution in Macroeconomic Models: University of Zurich (Summer terms 2007, 2006, 2005)

Advanced Macroeconomics (Growth theory): University of Zurich (Winter terms 2004, 2003, 2002)

Macroeconomics: University of Zurich (Summer terms 2004, 2003, 2002, 2001)

PhD thesis supervision

06/2025 – present Alice Pontoglio

10/2022 – present Alejandra Rodriguez Morales

09/2022 – present Julia Fischer (Lucerne)

09/2020 – 11/2024 Maren Bartels (Lucerne)

10/2019 – 06/2024 Paula Sánchez Gil (Lucerne)

09/2017 – 12/2022 Anja Garbely (Lucerne)

03/2016 – 01/2021 Elias Steiner (Lucerne)

09/2013 – 12/2016 Mahsa Jahan Dideh (Tilburg, jointly with Sjak Smulders)

09/2012 – 06/2016 Mauricio Rodriguez Acosta (Tilburg, jointly with Sjak Smulders)

Other activities

11/2023 – present SNSF Ambizione Evaluation Panel

11/2021 – present Standing field committee “Int. Economics”, Verein für Socialpolitik

08/2019 – 07/2023 Senate, University of Lucerne

08/2018 – present Research Committee, University of Lucerne

12/2014 – 07/2018 Research Seminar Coordinator, University of Lucerne

12/2012 – 11/2014 Education Coordinator Macroeconomics, CentER Graduate School (Economics), Tilburg University

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