

## Research Interests:

Political Economy, Migration and Development

## CURRENT

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<b>PostDoc</b> University of Lucerne, Chair of <a href="#">Prof. Dr. Simon Lüchinger</a>	Luzern, CH 2023–Current
<b>Post Doctoral Fellow</b> Hebrew University	Jerusalem, IL 2023–Current

## EDUCATION

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<b>University of Göttingen</b> , Göttingen, DE Ph.D. in Economics ( <i>summa cum laude</i> ), Advisor: <a href="#">Prof. Dr. Axel Dreher</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Research Stay (2023): Georgetown University, US Invited by <a href="#">Prof. Anna Maria Mayda</a></li><li>– Research Stay (2023): UC Davis, US Invited by <a href="#">Prof. Giovanni Peri</a></li></ul>	2018–2023
<b>University of Göttingen</b> , Göttingen, DE M.A. in International Economics, Top 1% <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Semester Abroad: Delhi School of Economics, India</li></ul>	2016–2018
<b>University of Bayreuth</b> , Bayreuth, DE B.A. in International Economics and Development, Top 5% <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Semester Abroad: University of Copenhagen, Denmark</li></ul>	2013–2016

## WORKING PAPERS

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**Immigration, Political Ideologies and the Polarization of American Politics**, with Dreher A., S. Langlotz, A. Mayda and C. Parsons, *CEPR Discussion Paper*, Dec. 2020  
*Financed by the DFG*

We provide causal evidence showing that migration increased the polarization of politicians campaigning for the House of Representatives between 1992 and 2016. Our polarization measures derive from ideology data based on 3 million campaign contributions. Our shift-share estimates hold over the medium-run, although they wane over time. These effects are strengthened should counties host similarly educated or more culturally distant migrants. Contributors' race, employment status and occupations play important roles. Our results hold when focusing specifically upon refugees, where we exploit the spatial and temporal variation stemming from the opening of refugee resettlement centers for the sake of causal identification.

Refugee Data Website: [here](#)

**Do Unions Shape Political Ideologies at Work?**, with Schmeißer, A., *arXiv, September 2023*  
*Runner-Up for the Wicksell Prize of the European Public Choice Society*

Labor unions' largest potential for political influence likely arises from their direct connection to millions of individuals at the workplace. There they may change the political views of both unionizing workers as well as of their non-unionizing management which is arguably the most relevant out-group. In this paper, we analyze the impact of unionization on workers' and managers' campaign contributions at the workplace over the 1980-2016 period in the United States. Therefore, we combine establishment-level union election data with transaction-level campaign contributions to federal and local candidates. In stacked Difference-in-Differences models, we find that unionization results in a leftward shift of campaign contributions. Unionization increases the support for Democrats relative to Republicans not only among workers but also among managers. To test the validity of these findings, we perform Regression Discontinuity exercises which show that there are no differential trends along placebo vote share cutoffs and that the results hold when comparing increasingly close elections. Moreover, we provide evidence that our results are not driven by compositional changes of the workforce.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

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### **Liberating International Connections: The Mobile Internet Revolution**

- This paper assesses the changing influence of the diaspora on anti-authoritarian protests with the emergence of mobile internet.

### **Politicians' Migration Narratives in the Media and Politics** (with Tobias Großbölting)

- This project aims to understand the influence of politicians' migration narratives on the political response to migrants and refugees.

### **Can Refugees Revitalize Rural America?** (with Axel Dreher, Christopher Parsons and Giovanni Peri)

- This project assesses the economic impact of refugees on rural America.

### **GI's WWII Experience and the Civil Rights Movement** (with Simon Chang and Christopher Parsons)

- This project analyzes the influence of black GI's WWII experience on the civil rights movement.

### **Fueling Divisions? The Arrival of Fast Internet to Indian Villages**

- This paper assesses the role of political online communication on Hindu-Muslim violence in rural India.

- Village-level Internet Data: [here](#). Soon also available on [SHRUG](#).

## PUBLICATION (PRE-PHD)

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**Chinese Aid and Health at the Country and Local Level**, with Cruzatti J. and Dreher, A.  
*World Development (2023) Vol. 167, 106214* [[Link](#)] [[Paper](#)]

We investigate whether and to what extent Chinese development finance affects infant mortality, combining 92 demographic and health surveys (DHS) for a maximum of 53 countries and almost 55,000 sub-national locations over the 2002-2014 period. Our results show that Chinese aid decreases infant mortality at the country level. Relative to the country average, aid however increases infant mortality at sub-national scales. In several tests, we show that this stark contrast likely results from aid being fungible within recipient countries.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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<b>PostDoc</b> University of Lucerne at the Chair of Simon Lüchinger	Luzern, CH 2023–Current
<b>Post Doctoral Fellow</b> Hebrew University	Jerusalem, IL 2023–Current
<b>Research Associate &amp; PhD Candidate</b> University of Göttingen, RTG Globalization and Development	Göttingen, DE 2018–2023
<b>Research Associate</b> Heidelberg University at the Chair of Axel Dreher	Heidelberg, DE 2019–2023
<b>Visiting PhD Student</b> UC Davis, invited by Giovanni Peri	Davis, US 2023
<b>Visiting PhD Student</b> Georgetown University, invited by Anna Maria Mayda	Washington DC, US 2023
<b>Research Student Assistant</b> University of Göttingen – Chair of Development Economics, Prof. Klasen, PhD	Göttingen, DE 2016–2017
<b>Intern</b> German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin) – Department: Development and Security	Berlin, DE Summer 2016
<b>Intern</b> Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development – Department: Special Unit Climate	Bonn, DE Spring 2015
<b>Student Assistant</b> University of Bayreuth – Chair of Economics V (Institutional Economics), Prof. Dr. Leschke	Bayreuth, DE 2013–2014

## TEACHING

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• <b>Teaching Assistant</b> at Heidelberg University <i>Macroeconomics I</i>	Winter 2022/23
• <b>Teaching Assistant</b> at Heidelberg University <i>Macroeconomics I</i>	Winter 2021/22
• <b>Teaching Assistant</b> at Heidelberg University <i>Macroeconomics I</i>	Winter 2020/21
• <b>Teaching Assistant</b> at Heidelberg University <i>Macroeconomics I</i>	Winter 2019/20
• <b>Co-Supervision</b> at Heidelberg University <i>Development Research Seminar, Bachelor Thesis, Master Thesis</i>	2018 - Current

## SKILLS

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- **Statistical Software:**  
Stata (general), R (spatial analysis, geocoding, web-scraping, text analysis), Python (webscraping, text analysis)
- **Twitter & Facebook API:** Intermediate

## LANGUAGES

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- **German:** native
- **English:** fluent
- **French:** basic
- **Russian:** basic

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND FUNDING

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- German Science Foundation (DFG) 2021–2023  
“Coming to America: Political Impact of Refugees”, lead writer with Sarah Langlotz, EUR 150,000
- Konrad Adenauer Foundation 2014–2018
- PROMOS (travel grant) 2017
- Ersamus+ (travel grant) 2014

## OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

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- Refereeing  
*African Development Review, BMJ: Global Health, German Economic Review, Journal of International Development, Review of Economics, Review of International Organizations, South African Journal of Economics*
- Conference and Workshop Organization  
*3rd International Conference on Globalization and Development, GLAD-DENEb Workshop*

## CONFERENCES AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

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- Conferences  
*2023: World Development Report Seminar (Washington DC), European Public Choice Society (Hanover), PhD Workshop (Engelberg)*  
*2022: Research Conference on Forced Displacement (Washington DC/Copenhagen), Ifo Junior Economist Workshop on Migration Research (Munich), Conference on Immigration in OECD Countries (Paris), ZEW Immigration, Integration, and Attitudes Workshop (Mannheim), FHM+ Workshop (Heidelberg), Beyond Basic Questions (Bern)*  
*2021: European Public Choice Society (Lille), Migration & Politics Workshop (London), Spring Meeting of Young Economists (Bologna), 3rd International Conference on Globalization and Development (Göttingen), Beyond Basic Questions (Nürnberg)*  
*2020: CeMig Colloquium (Göttingen), International Political Economy Society (Ohio), European Public Choice Society (Lucerne), CSAE: Economic Development in Africa (Oxford), CSAE: China's Economic Engagement with the African Continent (Oxford)*  
*2019: Beyond Basic Questions (Kiel)*  
*2018: Beyond Basic Questions (Gengenbach)*
- Public Speaking  
*2018: Seminar „Vielfältige Strukturen – umstrittene Wirkungen, Entwicklungszusammenarbeit heute aus geographischer Sicht“ (Fridtjof-Nansen-Akademie, Ingelheim)*

## REFERENCES

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### **Prof. Dr. Axel Dreher**

Heidelberg University

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### **Prof. Christopher Parson, PhD**

University of Western Australia

Email: [christopher.parsons@uwa.edu.au](mailto:christopher.parsons@uwa.edu.au)

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