Curriculum Vitae

MANUEL OECHSLIN

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University of Lucerne
Department of Economics
6002 Lucerne
Switzerland

+41 41 229 58 40
manuel.oechslin@unilu.ch
LinkedIn

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:

War Risk and Subnational Foreign Direct Investment (2026, with Julia Fischer; formerly titled "Borders at Risk: The Impact of Russian Aggression on FDI").
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/1v8FlfMjWX7dlfhQlaoo3eem4bTWTUATY/view?usp=sharing

The Economics of Beliefs under Fundamental Uncertainty (2023, with Johannes Binswanger).
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wYZq_PBITE3gmJJFyfg5KFXnGESjlIsX/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:

Russland verliert an internationalem Gewicht. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, 2026.

Nach den USA droht auch Europa der industrielle Kahlschlag. *Tages-Anzeiger*, 2026.

Wie kommt Venezuela aus der Schuldenfalle? *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 Wegscheide. *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)
03/2007	Young Economist Award, Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics
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:

2026: 18th FIW-Research Conference in International Economics (Vienna)

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 2026, 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 2026, 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 2026, 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 2026, 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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