

Curriculum Vitae

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Current Position

Professor for Business Economics and Public Policy, Department of Economics (SIAW), University of St. Gallen, since September 2015.

Previous Positions

Associate professor, Department of Economics, Tilburg University, 2014 – August 2015.

Tenured assistant professor, Department of Economics, Tilburg University, 2011 - 2014.

Tenure-track assistant professor, Department of Economics, Tilburg University, 2006 – 2011.

Postdoctoral Fellowship, European Network for the Advancement of Behavioural Economics (ENABLE) at IDEI, University of Toulouse, 2005 – 2006.

Assistant at the Chair for Public Finance and Macroeconomics (Head: Prof. Josef Falkinger), University of Zurich, 2000 - 2005.

Research Assistant at the Chair for Macroeconomics (Head: Prof. Josef Zweimüller), University of Zurich, 1998 - 1999.

Education

Doctoral Degree in Economics (PhD), *summa cum laude*, University of Zurich, June 2004.

Swiss Program for Beginning Doctoral Students in Economics, Study Center Gerzensee, 2001.

Master in Economics ("Lizenziat"), *summa cum laude*, University of Zurich, 2000.

Awards

Award for the Best Doctoral Thesis in Economics ("Jahrespreis 2004"), University of Zurich.

Selected for the final round of the "CESifo Prize in Public Economics," 2004.

Research Interests

Macroeconomics, uncertainty, machine learning, innovative approaches to teaching economics.

Publications

Refereed journals

“Does Everyone Use Probabilities? The Role of Cognitive Skills” *European Economic Review*, 98 (2017), 73-85.

“Disagreement and Learning about Reforms” (together with Manuel Oechslin), *Economic Journal*, 125 (2015), 853–886.

“Panel Conditioning in Difficult Questions” (together with Daniel Schunk and Vera Toepoel), *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 77 (2013), 783-797.

“Life Cycle Saving: Insights from the Perspective of Bounded Rationality,” *European Economic Review*, 56 (2012), 605-623.

“What is an Adequate Standard of Living during Retirement?” (together with Daniel Schunk), *Journal of Pension Economics and Finance*, 11 (2012), 203-222.

“How Real People make Long-Term Decisions: The Case of Retirement Preparation” (together with Katie Carman), *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 81 (2012), 39-60.

“Imperfect Information, Democracy, and Populism” (together with Jens Prüfer), *European Journal of Political Economy*, 28 (2012), 358-372.

“Dynamic Decision Making with Feasibility Goals: A Procedural-Rationality Approach,” *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 78 (2011), 219-228.

“Understanding the Heterogeneity of Savings and Asset Allocation: A Behavioral-Economics Perspective,” *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 76 (2010), 296-317.

“Risk Management of Pensions from the Perspective of Loss Aversion,” *Journal of Public Economics*, 91 (2007), 641-667.

Working Papers

“Economic Forces Shape Beliefs: A Model of Investment under Fundamental Uncertainty” (2019, together with Anja Garbely and Manuel Oechslin)

“The Spreading of Next-Big-Thing Beliefs in a Network” (2019, together with Max Christl)

“Uncertainty in Macroeconomics” (2018, together with Manuel Oechslin)

“Better Statistics, Better Economic Policies?” (2018, together with Manuel Oechslin)

“The Miracle of Compound Interest: Does our Intuition Fail?” (2012, together with Katie Carman).

“Are Economists Rational? On the Rationality of the ‘Rational Choice’ Paradigm” (2009).

“Towards Understanding Life Cycle Saving of Boundedly Rational Agents: A Model with Feasibility Goals” (2009).

Teaching-Related Projects

MacroViz web application; visualizes economic data and allows for interactive data-based research without any coding; prototype available at <http://macroviz.azurewebsites.net/index.html> (2018).

Teaching Experience

Executive Level

- “Ökonomie for Manager”, Executive MBA, University of St. Gallen, 2016, 2017, 2018.
- “Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence – Impact on Business” (together with Marc Schöni, Microsoft), MBA, University of St. Gallen, 2017, 2018.
- “Business Analytics & Artificial Intelligence” (together with Marc Schöni, Microsoft), Executive MBA, University of St. Gallen, 2018.
- «KI (Künstliche Intelligenz)-Projekte erfolgreich managen: Vom Datenrohstoff zur wertschöpfenden automatisierten Mustererkennung» (together with Marc Schöni, Microsoft), Open Enrollment program, University of St. Gallen, 2018
- «Economics for Lawyers», module of the HengelerMueller Akademie, University of St. Gallen, 2017, 2018.

Bachelor level

- “Workshop Data Science Fundamentals”, University of St. Gallen, 2017, 2018
- “Machine Learning und künstliche Intelligenz für Ökonomen“, University of St. Gallen, 2017.
- “Programmieren für praxisorientierte Datenanalysen“, University of St. Gallen, 2016, 2017.
- “Microeconomics 2”, Tilburg University, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014.
- “Public Sector Economics”, 2011, 2012.
- “Comparative Public Economics”, Tilburg University, 2009, 2010.
- Tutorial in “Money, Banking and Financial Markets,” Tilburg University, 2006, 2007.
- Seminar on Pension Finance, University of Zurich, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004.
- Seminar on “Public Wealth Management”, University of Zurich, 2002.
- Tutorials in “Public Economics,” University of Zurich, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004.
- Tutorials in “Introductory Macroeconomics,” University of Zurich, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003.

Graduate (PhD) level

- “Macroeconomics I”, CentER Graduate School, Tilburg University, Fall 2006, 2007.

Refereeing

Econometrica, Economic Journal, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control, European Economic Review, Journal of Pension Economics and Finance, International Tax and Public Finance, Economica, Journal of Socio-Economics, Journal of Macroeconomics, Journal of the Royal Statistical Society.

Professional Tasks

Director of Swiss Institute for International Economics and Applied Economic Research (SIAW), University of St. Gallen (since 2019)

Founding and directorship of certificate training program in “Data Science Fundamentals” (Bachelor level), University of St. Gallen (2017 - present)

Director of Bachelor study *Economics and Business Economics* (“Economie en Bedrijfseconomie”), Tilburg University, 2013 - 2015.

Management of Dutch Country Team of the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), 2011 - 2014.

Job market coaching for PhD students, CentER Graduate School, Tilburg University, 2008-2012.

Coordinator in Microeconomics for the CentER Graduate School, Tilburg University, 2009-2011 (supervision of the progress of graduate students, screening of application for the Research Master, redesigning the Research Master program, annual review talks with PhD students).

Member of the Educational Board for the Bachelor study International Economics and Finance, Tilburg University, 2007-2009.

Member of the Program Committee for Bachelor study Economics, Tilburg University, 2008-2010 (design of new curriculum and course contents).

Grants

Leader of “work package” of European FP7 Grant (“SHARE M4”) on implementing a European time use module within the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE).

Other Information

Languages: German (native), English (fluent), French (fluent), Dutch (fluent), Italian (basic), Spanish (basic).

Citizenship: Swiss.