

MAX DETER

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CURRENT POSITION

Post-Doctoral Researcher, Chair of Public Economics, Potsdam University, Germany since 10/2023

Guest Researcher, [Public Economics Department](#), DIW Berlin, Germany since 04/2023

PAST POSITIONS

Post-Doctoral Researcher, Chair of Public Economics, Magdeburg University, Germany 08/2022 - 10/2023

EDUCATION

Dr. rer. pol., Economics, Wuppertal University 03/2022

Master of Arts, Economics, University of Göttingen, Germany and University of Poitiers, France 05/2017

Bachelor of Arts, Economics and Political Science, University of Göttingen, Germany and Western Washington University, WA, USA 05/2014

INTENDED RESEARCH VISITS

University of California, Berkeley (invited by [Guo Xu](#)) 02-04/2024

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political Economy, Labor Economics, Regional Economics, Behavioral Economics

PUBLICATIONS

HOME SWEET HOME: WORKING FROM HOME AND EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN THE UK (joint with [Sumit Deole](#) and [Yue Huang](#)) *Labour Economics* (2023), 80, 102295

Abstract: In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic forced governments in many countries to ask employees to work from home (WFH) where possible. Using representative data of the employed respondents from the UK, we find that the pandemic-led increases in WFH frequency are associated with a higher self-perceived hourly productivity, notably among female employees working in occupations conducive to WFH. Interestingly, changes in WFH frequency are unrelated to the respondents' weekly working hours (and weekly wages) during the same period. We then perform effect heterogeneity analysis by separately focusing on males and females working in WFH feasible occupations. For males, we find that the WFH-productivity correlation is stronger among those who commuted larger distances (and spent longer commuting time) to the office before the pandemic. For females, while we observe a stronger WFH-productivity correlation among those with higher autonomy over work pace, a weaker correlation is found among mothers with school-age children, mainly due to increased homeschooling needs during the pandemic. Finally, looking at the future of WFH, we show that employees' recent WFH experience and subsequent hourly productivity are intimately associated with their desire to undertake WFH in the future.

ARE THE SUPPORTERS OF SOCIALISM THE LOSERS OF CAPITALISM? CONFORMISM IN EAST GERMANY AND TRANSITION SUCCESS (joint with [Martin Lange](#)) *European Journal of Political Economy* (2023), 102252

Abstract: The empirical literature is inconclusive about whether a country's democratization has a long-lasting impact on former supporters or opponents of the bygone regime. With newly available individual-level data of former residents of the socialist German Democratic Republic (GDR), we analyze how supporters and opponents of the socialist system performed within the market-based democracy after reunification. Protesters, those who helped to overthrow the socialist regime in the Peaceful Revolution show higher life satisfaction and better labor market outcomes in the new politico-economic system. Former members of the ruling socialist party and employees in state-supervised sectors become substantially less satisfied. These results do not seem to be driven by differential reactions in the post-transition period, but rather by the removal of discriminatory practices in the GDR. Additional results indicate that conformism in the GDR also explains political preferences over the almost three decades after the reunification of Germany.

SELECTION, SOCIALIZATION, AND RISK PREFERENCES IN THE FINANCE INDUSTRY: LONGITUDINAL EVIDENCE FOR GERMAN FINANCE PROFESSIONALS (joint with André van Hoorn) *Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics*

Abstract: The financial sector plays a crucial role in society. Consequently, prior research has examined the preferences of professionals working in finance. However, these studies have tended to be cross-sectional and have neglected the dynamic roles played by (self-)selection and socialization. This paper uses longitudinal data from Germany to examine how individuals' financial risk preferences affect their likelihood of starting and stopping work as a finance professional. Additionally, this work studies how socialization in the finance industry affects financial risk preferences. Our results indicate that individuals who are more risk tolerant are more likely to enter the finance industry, but their risk preferences do not affect their likelihood of exiting the industry. Furthermore, socialization in the finance industry does not appear to significantly strengthen finance professionals' financial risk preferences. We conclude that the average financial risk preferences of finance professionals are mostly shaped by individuals entering the industry. As such, policies aimed at changing risk preferences in the finance industry should be targeted at recruitment, at least in Germany. This study has important practical implications for the finance industry, as it suggests that recruitment policies can play a crucial role in shaping the risk preferences of finance professionals.

HARTZ AND MINDS: HAPPINESS EFFECTS OF REFORMING AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY, *Journal of Happiness Studies* (2020), 22(4), 1819 – 1838.

Abstract: Since the labor market reforms around 2005, known as the Hartz reforms, Germany has experienced declining unemployment rates. However, little is known about the reforms' effect on individual life satisfaction of unemployed workers. This study applies difference-in-difference estimations and finds a decrease in life satisfaction after the reforms that is more pronounced for male unemployed in west Germany. The effect is driven by income and income satisfaction, but not by the unemployment rate. Also unemployed persons who exogenously lost their jobs are affected by the reforms. In line with the structure of the reforms, the effect is stronger on long-term and involuntarily unemployed persons.

WORKING PAPERS

EAST-WEST MIGRATION, KNOWLEDGE, AND ECONOMIC GROWTH: EVIDENCE FROM THE IRON CURTAIN (joint with Antonin Bergeaud, Michael Wyrwich, and Maria Greve)

Abstract: We explore the effects of migration on economic prosperity in the destination country, using the specific example of inventor migration from autocratic East to democratic West Germany after World War II. We track individual inventors and their patents over time, identifying those who migrated to the West before the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961. Using patent records from East and West Germany, we estimate the share of incoming patentees on subsequent regional growth in West German destination counties. To establish a causal relationship, we instrument the location choice of East German inventors with a variable capturing the prevalence of the inventor's surname in West German destination counties.

THE CHURCH OF RESISTANCE: RELIGION AND PROTESTS IN AN AUTOCRACY (joint with Johannes Bugge, Martin Lange, and Arnim Seidlitz)

Abstract: Mass protests have long been recognized as effective political actions, particularly in autocratic regimes where they serve as a potent tool for opposition movements. This paper examines the case of East Germany, specifically the *Peaceful Revolution* of 1989, which stands out as a rare example where protests successfully contributed to the democratization of an autocracy. The study focuses on the role of the Protestant Church in East Germany and investigates whether it supported or hindered the occurrence of protests. Our analysis explores the relationship between church membership rates and the frequency of protests using a linear regression framework. Preliminary findings indicate a positive association between church membership rates and protests. This paper contributes to our understanding of the dynamics between religious institutions, social movements, and political change, shedding light on the factors that facilitate or impede successful opposition movements in autocratic contexts.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

THE EFFECTS OF PROTESTS ON REGIME SUPPORT - EVIDENCE FROM AN AUTOCRACY (joint with *Kalle Kappner*, and *Hans Lueders*)

CAPITAL CITIES AND LONG-RUN DEVELOPMENT IN COMMUNISM (joint with *Felix Rösel*)

AWARDS AND FUNDING

500 Euro for Joachim R. Frick Memorial Prize at the SOEP User Conference 2022 for best presented paper (*Are the Supporters of Socialism the Losers of Capitalism?*) 07/2022

15,000 Euro DAAD Funding for Studying Abroad at Western Washington University, USA 03/2012

NON-PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

ATTRACTED TO MONEY AND RISK - THE PERSONALITY OF FINANCE PROFESSIONS *LSE Business Review*

ARE THE SUPPORTERS OF SOCIALISM THE LOSERS OF CAPITALISM? *LSE Business Review*

KONFORMITÄT IN DER DDR UND LEBENSVERHÄLTNISSE NACH DER WENDE *ifo Dresden Berichtet*

MEDIA APPEARANCE

Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung, Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung

CONFERENCES AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

Verein für Socialpolitik, Regensburg; CGDE Workshop, Jena; BENA Workshop, Berlin 2023

AEA, Boston; SOEP Conference, Berlin; ZEW Workshop *The German Labor Market in a Globalized World*, EALE, Padova 2022

EEA, Copenhagen; RES, Belfast; EHS, Warwick; IZA Workshop *30 Years after the Iron Curtain* 2021
Canadian Economics Association, Vancouver; ifo Workshop on Political Economy; ifo Workshop on Labor Economics and Social Policy, Dresden; EACES; BeNA Summer Workshop, Berlin; IAB workshop "Perspectives on (Un-)Employment"

SABE, Moscow; IOS Regensburg; KVS New Paper Sessions, Leiden; SOEP Brown Bag Seminar, Berlin 2020

IAREP/SABE, Dublin 2019

SOEPcampus, Cologne; SOEP Conference, Berlin 2018

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

TA for Economic Policy (Bachelor) Summer 2023

TA for Microeconomics (Bachelor) Winter 2022, Summer 2023

TA for Employment Theories and Policies (Master) Winter 2018

TA for Economic Growth (Bachelor) Summer 2018, Winter 2019

Seminar in Unemployment and Social Security (Bachelor) Winter 2018

Seminar in Economic Psychology (Bachelor) Summer 2018

TA in Economic Policy (Bachelor) Winter 2017

REFERENCES

Prof. Antonin Bergeaud
CEPR, LSE, and HEC Paris
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Prof. Felix Rösel
TU Braunschweig and ifo Dresden
f.roesel@tu-braunschweig.de

Prof. Michael Kvasnicka
Magdeburg University, IZA, RWI
michael.kvasnicka@ovgu.de

Prof. André van Hoorn
Radboud University
andre.vanhoorn@ru.nl

EARLIER POSITIONS

Student Research Assistant at Chair of Financial Policy (Prof. Robert Schwager), University of Göttingen, Germany	08/2015 - 12/2016
Internship at <i>German Parliament</i> (Committee for Labor and Social Matters), Berlin, Germany	02/2015 - 03/2015
Internship at <i>German Embassy</i> , Accra, Ghana	10/2014 - 12/2014
Internship at <i>RBB Inforadio</i> , Economic Section, Berlin, Germany	08/2013 - 10/2013

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Buddy Program for Refugee Students at Göttingen University and Wuppertal University	01/2016 - 03/2020
Soccer Referee	01/2014 - 01/2016
Social Service at <i>Manzini Youth Care</i> , Swaziland	05/2009 - 09/2009

COMPUTER AND LANGUAGE SKILLS

Computer Skills: STATA, L^AT_EX, QGIS, Overleaf, Python
Languages: German (native), English (fluent), French (advanced)

Last updated: October 5, 2023