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Annual Report 2024

Department of Economics



Letter from the Director

It has been a privilege to serve as the head of the department for a year now. In my interview on pages 4 to 7 of this annual report, I share reflections on my experience, the challenges our department faces, and the changes I aspire to implement. In addition to the traditional "Research Bits," featuring the work of Profs. Benkert and Niepelt, and a summary of this year's best master's thesis, this annual report includes a compelling essay on the role of economists in society. The essay explores the gap between public expectations of our profession and the realities of what we do.

One of the major milestones for our department in 2024 was awarding an honorary doctorate to Prof. Edward Glaeser, one of the leading voices in urban and regional economics. Prof. Glaeser's public lecture, *Cities and Infrastructure*, delivered the day before the ceremony, attracted a large and engaged audience, underscoring the relevance of his research to contemporary urban challenges. You can find a recording on our website if you missed the lecture. Media outlets such as *Der Bund* and the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* covered the event extensively. For a deeper dive into Prof. Glaeser's contributions, I encourage you to read the thoughtful summary by Prof. von Ehrlich on pages 14 to 16 of this report.

Looking ahead to 2025, I am excited to see how economics will evolve in response to global and national developments. Will the Swiss government successfully adhere to the debt-brake rule amid growing defense and social insurance spending demands? How will Switzerland navigate the tension between its economic need for skilled labor and political pressures surrounding immigration? In the United States, Donald Trump's return to the presidency raises concerns about tariffs, a policy criticized by most economists since David Ricardo. These are just some of the fascinating issues awaiting analysis, ensuring that economics remains as relevant and captivating as ever.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to all department members for their work throughout 2024. I look forward to collaborating with you in 2025 as we tackle new challenges together.

Blaise Melly
December 2024

Impressum

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December 2024

Interview: Blaise Melly, New Head of the Economics Department

Blaise Melly has been a Professor in Econometrics at the Department of Economics since 2017. As of 2024, he has taken on the additional role of Head of the Department of Economics, succeeding Aymo Brunetti. We wish Blaise Melly all the best in his new position.



Interview with Blaise Melly

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Congratulations on your new role!
How has your experience been since taking on the additional role of department director? Have there been any challenges or surprises so far?*

Since taking on the role of department director, my experience has been simultaneously rewarding and challenging. Initially, the transition was smooth and aligned with my expectations. However, new challenges have emerged that demand significant energy and collaboration from the entire department.

One unexpected aspect has been the discrepancy between the priorities of individual professors and the university administration's priorities. Professors are primarily hired for their research output, and tenure decisions depend on publishing in top academic journals, which are often based in the United States and have little focus on Switzerland. A professor's career

prospects are largely determined by their publication record. In teaching, we emphasize high academic standards and mathematical rigor, ensuring that students understand the subject matter deeply.

In contrast, the department is evaluated by metrics such as student enrollment numbers, media visibility, and contributions to local policy advice for the economy and government. While these are valuable contributions, they do not always align with what is most important for a professor's career. As department head, I find it challenging to bridge this gap and align the interests and incentives of professors with the university's broader objectives.

Additionally, academic freedom remains a cornerstone of academia. As department head, my authority is intentionally limited, which is appropriate. My role is less about dictating actions and more about leading through persuasion and encouraging collaboration. Despite these challenges, I am confident that the shared commitment among professors to see the department thrive will allow us to move in the right direction.

What are your long-term goals for the Economics department?

According to the constitution, the university has three core objectives: research, teaching, and service. My long-term goals for the department align with these priorities, focusing on strengthening each area.

In terms of research, we are currently performing well. For instance, in one of the most widely used rankings of economics departments, we are ranked as the second-best department in Switzerland after Zurich (Source: [IDEAS/RePEc Ranking](#)). Globally, we are ranked 116th, which is respectable for our size but not entirely satisfying. We aim to continue improving our research output. One specific objective is to support our tenure-track faculty. At present, we have four assistant professors on the tenure track. My goal is to provide an environment where they can develop their research agendas and meet our high standards for tenure. Achieving this would demonstrate that we are not only able to attract talented researchers but also to nurture their development.

In terms of teaching, increasing student enrollment is a key priority. The challenge is to strike the right balance between maintaining the rigor of our programs and making our courses more attractive. To address this, we plan to advertise our programs better by engaging more with high schools and improving our communication strategies. Enhancing our website, flyers, and social media presence will be critical steps in this direction. We have not invested enough effort in these areas in the past, and I want to see significant improvements.

Finally, in terms of service and outreach, we aim to strengthen our connection with the local economy. The international composition of our department, while a strength, has sometimes led to the perception that we are not sufficiently engaged with local media and businesses. We want to address this by increasing our visibility in Swiss media and making our research more accessible and valuable to the Swiss economy. By effectively transferring the knowledge generated through our cutting-edge research, we can ensure our work has a meaningful impact beyond academia.

Do you foresee any changes in the curriculum of our economics programs? Are there new courses or specializations you think should be introduced?

We recently evaluated our bachelor's major in economics, which included quantitative and qualitative analyses. This involved a poll completed by 124 students and in-depth discussions with a group of former students. The insights from this evaluation will guide the changes we implement moving forward. The evaluation revealed that former students are satisfied with our course offers. However, they expressed a desire for greater emphasis on empirical content and more thematic diversity. We plan to address these preferences and gradually enhance our curriculum in these areas over the coming years.

Interestingly, the primary concerns raised were not about the content of the courses but about the flow of information provided to students — particularly regarding the bachelor thesis. Improving how we communicate key aspects of the program to students will be a priority.

Additionally, the evaluation highlighted another challenge: while our economics alumni from Bern report strong professional outcomes — lower unemployment rates and higher salaries compared to other Swiss graduates — the reputation of our department does not reflect this level of success. Addressing this gap is essential. We need to improve how we present and promote our programs to prospective students and the wider community, ensuring that the strengths of our department are more widely recognized.

Blaise Melly, thank you very much for this interview.

Research Bit: Unveiling Economic Insights through Response Times

Jean-Michel Benkert – Traditional economic models focus solely on observed choices. However, in many situations — particularly online — we can enhance such data by including the time it took individuals to make these choices. In our paper, Shuo Liu, Nick Netzer, and I provide a systematic analysis of what response times reveal about unobservable variables such as willingness to pay, happiness, or preference intensity.

Our model is built on the “chronometric effect,” which suggests that faster decisions reflect stronger latent variables. For instance, when a person needs to declare which of two lights is brighter, the decision is made faster when the difference in brightness is larger. Similarly, when individuals choose between two product versions, the speed of their choice reveals the intensity of their preference, with faster choices indicating a larger difference in utility.

We leverage this relationship between response time and latent variables to show how response-time data can systematically detect the distributional properties of these unobservables. Depending on the application, the latent variable could represent individuals’ net willingness-to-pay, their expected utility difference between two products, happiness, political attitudes, and more. Our analysis shows that the properties detectable from response times depend on the prior knowledge we have about the chronometric func-

tion. In other words, the more we know about the shape of the chronometric function, the more we can infer about the latent variable’s distribution and, thus, its properties. For instance, it may be possible to determine whether a distribution is unimodal, more dispersed than another, or if one distribution first-order stochastically dominates another.

We apply our model to empirically test an important economic hypothesis: that marginal happiness decreases as income rises, a principle central to welfare economics and redistributive policies. Previous empirical work has faced challenges, such as difficulties with identification due to distributional assumptions or confounding factors in how happiness is reported. Our approach, based on response-time data, bypasses these issues and provides a robust test of whether individuals with higher incomes experience diminishing returns to happiness.

The survey data we analyze includes three income groups, and we observe whether individuals report being “rather happy” and how long they take to respond. To detect concavity in average happiness across the income groups, we must show that the mean happiness of the middle-income group is higher than the weighted average of the means for the high- and low-income groups. This requires comparing the means of two unobservable happiness distributions — a task we can achieve using response times. Applying our methods, and varying the assumptions we impose on the chronometric functions, we conduct a robust test of the hypothesis, which we cannot reject at any conventional level. Conversely, we can reject any test attempting to detect convexity in happiness with respect to income. In summary, we provide new evidence suggesting that marginal happiness indeed decreases with rising income.

Beyond this specific application, our model has broad implications across various fields of economics. Response times can be used to infer demand curves for pricing strategies or detect polarization in political attitudes from survey data. In all cases, response-time data uncovers deeper insights that would otherwise remain hidden when relying solely on choice data.

Benkert, Jean-Michel; Liu, Shou; Netzer, Nick (October 2024). Time is Knowledge: What Response Times Reveal (Discussion Papers 24-07). Department of Economics, University of Bern.

Research Bit: Money and Banking with Reserves and CBDC

Dirk Niepelt – The prospect of retail central bank digital currency (CBDC) rekindles interest in the architecture of the monetary system. In modern economies, this architecture exhibits two tiers: firms and households transact using bank deposits or claims on deposits (leaving cash aside), and banks settle payments with central-bank-issued reserves. New financial service providers build on the existing payment rails but do not undermine this basic architecture. CBDC, in contrast, subverts the two-tier system by offering the general public a digital, central-bank-issued payment instrument that directly competes with deposits.

Should CBDC be introduced, and if so how should it be remunerated? To answer these questions, I analyze how monetary architecture shapes the social costs of liquidity provision. I compare a two-tier payment system like the current one, a CBDC-based system, and a hybrid architecture in which reserves, deposits, and CBDC co-exist.

I find that a two-tier system generates lower direct costs of payments than a CBDC-based architecture that resembles narrow banking (reserves issued by the central bank equal deposits that firms and households use to make payments). Another downside of CBDC results from its crowding out of deposits: while the central bank can offset deposit outflows by lending to banks—effectively passing newly-raised CBDC funds on to banks—, this is costly due to agency or political-economy frictions.

CBDC gains in appeal, however, when the analysis accounts more fully for the social costs of the two-tier architecture.

I consider how information frictions, lack of commitment, and too-big-to-fail banks render the first-best in a two-tier architecture unattainable, strengthening the case for CBDC. I also show that, unlike in the single-tier system, optimal policy in the two-tier system with its distortions requires fiscal resources or regulation to correct them. Deadweight losses of taxation or regulation therefore add to the social costs of the two-tier, but not the single-tier, payment system.

Calibrations robustly indicate a cost advantage of CBDC under this broader perspective. Intuitively, the technological advantage of fractional reserve banking over narrow banking and the social costs of pass-through funding are minor compared to the excess burden of measures to address frictions in the banking sector. Optimally, this translates into a dominant share of CBDC in real balances. A small CBDC share results only if pass-through funding is necessary to stabilize bank lending and

very costly, and if deposits and CBDC are close substitutes.

I derive these results in the textbook growth and business cycle model augmented with liquidity demand by the general public, deposit taking banks, and multiple costly payment instruments. Households value the liquidity of deposits and CBDC. Banks exert deposit market power and extend loans to firms that invest; they also hold reserves to avoid costly liquidity shortages but do not fully internalize the benefits. The central bank issues CBDC and reserves and controls their price or quantity, and it may also subsidize deposits to counteract the consequences of bank market power.

Cash and government bonds play unimportant roles. They are a side issue since the key societal tradeoff concerns the provision of public vs. private money. The setup allows for arbitrary frictions in the context of banks' lending to firms but, again, this is a side issue because frictions connected to bank lending are (mostly) unrelated to the issue of whether bank liabilities serve as money.

Efficient liquidity provision requires the remuneration of CBDC and reserves to differ. Intuitively, the interest rates on each of the two central bank liabilities should reflect their distinct operating costs and externalities. Since the latter differ between CBDC and reserves, the interest rates should differ as well. Even

if CBDC does not circulate, the interest rate on a ready-to-launch CBDC may still be useful to check banks' price setting power.

Niepelt, Dirk (2024), Money and Banking with Reserves and CBDC. *The Journal of Finance* (79): 2505-2552.

Essay: What is Economics?

Dirk Niepelt – From time to time, it is valuable to take a step back and reflect on the foundations of what we do as economists. This is especially important in light of requests we get from interest groups and journalists who demand that we take a stance and communicate less cautiously. The following text, which is taken from the department homepage, sketches the role of academic economists and their interaction with policy makers and journalists.

What is Economics?

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Economics interprets human behavior as purposeful action. It sees economic and social developments as the outcome of interactions among many actors, each pursuing their individual goals within their means. Accordingly, economic analysis emphasizes the role of incentives, budget constraints, and scarce resources.

Economists use mathematical models to develop theories and statistical methods to conduct empirical research. Models provide a framework for drawing clear, logical conclusions from fundamental assumptions. Statistical methods are then employed to compare these conclusions with real-world data in order to assess the accuracy and relevance of the models.

Economic analysis generates practical recommendations, but these come with two important caveats: they are contingent on the models and assumptions underpinning them, and they can vary depending on the specific goals being pursued. Efficiency—avoiding waste—

is the central economic objective, but it isn't everything. Conflicts with other goals, such as fairness, often create trade-offs that ultimately require value judgements to resolve.

Politics

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Economists are neither activists nor proponents of specific political agendas. Their primary goal is to understand and explain the effects of policies—how they work and why they matter. In pursuing this, they emphasize rigor and transparency. This entails critically examining the key assumptions behind policy recommendations and assessing whether the proposed policies are not only appropriate but also preferable to alternative options.

Critics do not like this. They express dissatisfaction with the focus on analytical rigor in economics, arguing that it leads to conclusions that lack ambition or visionary thinking. They also contend that economists should use their expertise to support "good causes" and

advocate for concrete action. However, they overlook the fact that nearly all recommendations are grounded in some value judgements. Other critics view economists as detached realists—or even cynics—who are perceived as overly skeptical, particularly when they highlight the scarcity of resources or challenge idealistic motives. These critics forget what economics is about.

Media

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Media coverage of economic research is often quite partial and distorted. From some news outlets, one might get the impression that economics is primarily about forecasting stock prices or exchange rates, yet most academic economists would regard such forecasts as speculative and theoretically unfounded.

Commentaries from "chief economists" and other "specialists" frequently bear little resemblance to rigorous economic analysis. A good indicator of the quality of such commentary is its logical coherence and transparency regarding the underlying assumptions. Unqualified, sweeping policy recommendations rarely constitute sound economic advice.

The University of Bern is awarding Edward Glaeser the Honorary Doctorate

Maximilian v. Ehrlich – Edward (Ed) Glaeser, one of the most well-known researchers in the fields of urban, regional and political economics, receives the Honorary Doctorate for his seminal work. At the center of his research is the city. Glaeser argues that cities are fundamentally about the exchange of ideas and quotes Thucydides who said “A city is its men, not its walls or empty ships”. Urban centers are hubs of human interaction, where diverse individuals come together, leading to increased creativity and innovation. This exchange is critical for economic growth and helps cities adapt to changing circumstances. In times of crises — whether economic, social, or environmental — cities with strong networks of collaboration and knowledge-sharing are better able to find solutions and innovate in response to new challenges.

Glaeser earned his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Chicago in 1992 before joining Harvard’s Department of Economics where he is the Fred and Eleanor Glimp Professor of Economics. Raised in New York City during the 1970s, Glaeser experienced the challenges of a metropolis under social and economic pressure, an experience that influenced his research. He has written extensively on the economic dynamics of cities, particularly focusing on the factors that make cities resilient and help them prosper, both in times of crises and in periods of growth. His work emphasizes the role of cities as drivers of growth and innovation, and analyzes questions on urban development, scarcity of housing, social capital, inequality and environmental issues. He has shaped and influenced generations of economists as one of the most-cited economists of his field and as editor of

the *Quarterly Journal of Economics* and the *Journal of Urban Economics*.

A central theme in Glaeser’s work is the importance of human capital as a driving force behind a city’s prosperity. In his landmark book *Triumph of the City*, Glaeser emphasizes that urban density is crucial for fostering economic activity. Higher density enables more interactions, which in turn stimulate innovation, learning, and productivity. Glaeser highlights that prosperity is not just about economic growth but also about making sure that growth is inclusive. Cities that offer opportunities for all residents, regardless of background tend to be more resilient.

Ed Glaeser has made significant contributions to a wide range of topics beyond urban and regional economics, including political economy, economic

growth, and social capital. Some of his most influential papers have utilized cities as a framework to test the new growth theories that emerged in the early 1990s, analyzed the impact of land-use restrictions on economic outcomes, and introduced the concept of the “consumer city” to the academic literature.

The idea of the “consumer city” marks a notable shift in urban economics. While the field traditionally emphasized agglomeration economies—where cities thrive due to productivity gains from dense networks of businesses and workers—Glaeser’s work highlights the increasing importance of cities as centers of consumption. This perspective suggests that a city’s success is increasingly driven by its ability to provide amenities that attract residents. His insights spurred a new line of research on endogenous consumer amenities and their role in shaping spatial equilibrium, fundamentally broadening the understanding of urban dynamics.

Glaeser’s research has significant implications for policy, particularly in the areas of regional development and infrastructure investment. He has critically examined place-based policies, arguing that transfers that are place-based rather than individual-based can significantly affect the spatial equilibrium of firms and households. Such interventions, he argues, often fail to

achieve their intended outcomes. As Glaeser and Gottlieb note, “Subsidies to poor places will be offset by higher prices, and the primary real effect will be to move people into economically unproductive areas.” However, non-liabilities resulting from agglomeration economies can still provide a justification for place-based policies. In many countries, these policies aim to foster clusters of economic activity in specific regions. For such strategies to succeed, Glaeser emphasizes the need for a deeper understanding of agglomeration economies. Policymakers must identify locations where the elasticity of productivity with respect to agglomeration is particularly high, allowing for targeted and effective interventions that maximize economic potential.

Ed Glaeser stands out for his ability to blend highly creative and often interdisciplinary ideas with rigorous economic theory. Well before digital transformation became a mainstream research topic, Glaeser highlighted that new communication technologies could complement economic density in cities rather than reduce their benefits due to the decline in distance costs. He argued that the impact of communication technologies on the spatial distribution of economic activity is far from straightforward, noting that “[...] the role that cities play in eliminating the distance between people seems to me likely to increase in importance.” In his political

economy research, Glaeser and his co-authors developed a model to explain why, in systems where voter turnout varies significantly and mobilization is critical, vote-maximizing politicians may adopt extreme positions rather than moving toward the median voter. This framework offers a compelling explanation for the pronounced partisan divides on religious issues in the United States.

More recent research of Ed Glaeser looks at fast-growing cities in the Global South which have largely been disregarded by the both by the researchers in urban economics focusing on developed cities as well as the development economists focusing on rural areas until now. These cities are growing fast and they offer opportunities and according to Ed Gleaser urbanization is a path to prosperity for the developing countries.

In his Distinguished Lecture, Glaeser looks at what empowers urbanities throughout the globe: a question that goes well beyond human capital into discussions around housing and infrastructure provision, as human capital still depends on the built environment. Urban infrastructure—such as transportation networks, energy, and housing — also plays a critical role in urban development. Cities that invest in flexible, sustainable, and

adaptive infrastructure are better able to cope with environmental changes, population shifts, and technological disruptions. Glaeser focuses on three great challenges facing cities today: the high cost of urban housing, the under-maintenance of roads and water systems and paying for infrastructure.

Recognizing the significant contributions to economic research as well as his impact on topical policy questions, the University of Bern is awarding Ed Glaeser the Honorary Doctorate.

First Welcome Apéro for Master's Students in Economics

On October 1st, the Economics Department held its first inaugural Welcome Apéro, bringing together Master's students and members of the department to connect in an informal setting. Elisabeth Gisler and Dominic Voll of the Economics Students Association share an overview of the event.

For the first time, the Economics Department hosted a Welcome Apéro for its Master's students, with nearly 60 students of all semesters attending. This event was a collaborative effort between the department and the Economics Students Association, FSWW, that recognized the students' desire to connect not only with fellow first-semester students but also with those in advanced semesters. Networking events like the Apéro provide new students — especially those joining from other Swiss universities or from abroad — with a chance to make friends and gain valuable insights from experienced students on topics such as planning the Master's thesis or choosing complementary courses.

Faculty members and academic advisors were also invited, creating an informal setting for students to learn more about pursuing a PhD at the University of Bern or elsewhere. Here, too, an informal chat can help to open doors, especially for first-generation students – something the University of Bern and the Department of economics are keen to provide.



The Apéro also exemplifies the strong, long-standing collaboration between the Department of Economics and the FSWW, which actively participates in several departmental committees. Overall, the event was a resounding success, benefitting both students and organizers. The FSWW looks forward to organizing and hosting it again next year.

VWG-Prize 2024: Master's Thesis "On the effects of CBDC remuneration on transmission of monetary policy"

Bartosz Białas was awarded the VWG-Prize 2024 for his excellent Master's thesis "On the effects of CBDC remuneration on transmission of monetary policy" that he wrote under the supervision of Prof. Pierpaolo Benigno. In what follows, Bartosz Białas gives a short summary of his prizewinning Master's thesis.

Motivation and Contribution

For several years, central banks have been investigating the potential benefits and risks of making their digital reserves available to the general public, or in other words, creating a central bank digital currency (CBDC). As a form of digital reserve, a CBDC could theoretically function as an interest-bearing instrument and thereby serve as an additional tool of monetary policy. Because a CBDC would be held by the public, adjustments to its remuneration rate could directly impact consumers and improve the transmission of monetary policy.

In my master's thesis, I further propose that a CBDC, as a secondary monetary policy tool, could enhance the flexibility of monetary policy. In settings with diverse agents or regions with varying policy needs—such as a monetary union—a secondary tool like a CBDC could allow the central bank to tailor its responses more closely to the specific needs of different agents, thereby potentially improving the effectiveness of its policy.

Methods

To explore this proposition, I extend the DSGE model of Gertler and Karadi (2011), which uses a standard New Keynesian framework enhanced with financial intermediaries and credit market frictions. The model includes six types of agents: households, wholesale firms, retail firms, capital producers, financial intermediaries (banks), and a central bank. Including financial intermediaries is particularly important, as it allows the model to account for potential capital outflows from the banking system that could result from the introduction of a CBDC.

To incorporate money into the model, I introduce a money-in-utility function, and to study the effects of a CBDC within a monetary union, I extend the model by adding a second, smaller economy. Because of its size, the central bank responds less strongly to shocks affecting this second economy. I also incorporate a policy rule that inversely relates the interest rate on the CBDC to the deviation of inflation from its target.

I then analyse the effects of monetary policy under two scenarios: (1) where countries in the currency union use cash as the payment instrument, and (2) where they use a remunerated CBDC. To demonstrate that active management of CBDC remuneration could improve monetary policy flexibility, I simulate a negative one percent shock to the quality of capital in the large economy. The shock is functionally similar to a financial crisis, but since banks in the model hold only domestic assets, the shock leaves the second economy relatively unharmed. I also allow for active CBDC remuneration policy only in the large economy. In this way, monetary policy can be partially transmitted through the CBDC channel.

Results and Motivation

In both scenarios, the shock results in a sharp decline in the value of assets held by banks in the large economy, leading to reductions in investment, capital, and output. In response, the central bank lowers the interest rate to stimulate the large economy. However, due to the large economy's size, its needs dominate the central bank's policy function, which makes the response of the central bank excessive from the perspective of the small economy. The central bank's response causes and

increase in the small economy's investment, capital, and output.

Active CBDC remuneration policy can moderate these fluctuations, at least partially. When the central bank can adjust the CBDC interest rate in the large economy, it does not need to reduce the main policy rate as drastically as in the scenario with cash. As a result, fluctuations in key economic variables in the small economy are reduced, while the impulse responses in the large economy remain largely unchanged.

There is one caveat: in practice, the effectiveness of CBDC remuneration policy will depend heavily on the extent to which consumers choose to hold CBDC relative to other payment instruments. Although this may mean that active CBDC remuneration management may be less effective than in my model, I believe my thesis still demonstrates its potential to enhance the flexibility of monetary policy.

Białas, Bartosz (2024). On the effects of CBDC remuneration on transmission of monetary policy.

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Publications (3)

Newspaper Articles and other Publications

Blattner, C., **Winkler, R.** et. al (22 April 2024). Ein Urteil geht um die Welt. *Republik*

Brunetti, A. (2024): Für eine effizienzsteigernde Steuerreform. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*

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Some Working Papers

Arcidiacono, C. (2024). Dangerous Liaisons? Debt Supply and Convenience Yield Spillovers in the Euro Area. *ESM Working Paper*

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Publications (4)

Kluser, F. & Pons, M. (2024). The Apple Does Not Fall Far From the Tree: Intergenerational Persistence of Dietary Habits.

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Töngi-Lötscher, F., Schmid, C. P., & Gerfin, M. (2024). The effect of higher out-of-pocket payments on drug prices and demand.

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v. Ehrlich, M. (2024). Enhancing Objectivity and Decision Relevance: A Better Framework for Evaluating Cohesion Policies.

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Wolter, S. C., Goller, D., & Chiara Graf. (2024). The virtues of going virtual. *Leading House Working Paper No. 224*.

Grants & Awards

Wolter, S. C., Gschwendt, C., & Cattaneo, M. (2024). How Scary is the Risk of Automation? Evidence from a Large Survey Experiment. *IZA Discussion Paper No. 17097*.

Wolter, S. C & Zoellner, T. (2024). Are parents an obstacle to gender-atypical occupational choices? *IZA Discussion Paper No. 16955*.

Grants

Burya, Anastasia & Tschopp, Jeanne: Swiss National Foundation Grant "Comparing Bargaining Structures"

Hauck, Lukas, & Stalder, Nicola: Grant from the Uni Bern Promotion Fund for the Organization of the CRED-MIT Workshop

Schilter, Claudio: IMG Foundation Project Funding

v. Ehrlich, Maximilian: Wirtschaftsraum Bern - Wirtschaftsmonitoring

Awards and Honors

Białas, Bartosz: VWG-Prize for Economics 2024 awarded by the *Volkswirtschaftliche Gesellschaft des Kantons Bern*

Brunetti, Aymo: Member of the Group of Experts *Aufgaben- und Subventionsüberprüfung* of the Swiss Government

Niepelt, Dirk: Member of CBDC Academic Advisory Group, Bank of England and HM Treasury

Niepelt, Dirk: Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences

Department News

Appointments and Promotions

Enzo Brox has been appointed Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Centre for Research in Economics of Education

Sinje Grenzdörffer has been appointed Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Economic Geography.

My Hedlin has been appointed Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Macroeconomics.

Doctoral Theses

Brunner, Philipp: "New Insights for Regulation in Competition Policy", Doctoral Committee: Igor Letina, Alexander Rasch (University of Düsseldorf)

Hjalmarsson, Linn: "Three Essays in Health Economics", Doctoral Committee: Michael Gerfin, Stefan Boes (University of Lucerne).

Janzen, Benedikt: "Three Empirical Essays in Environmental and Energy Economics", Doctoral Committee: Doina Radulescu, Matthew Neidell (Columbia University)

Troxler, Pascal: "The Demand, Supply and Regional Economic Development of Swiss Ski Areas", Doctoral Committee: Michael Gerfin, Ulrich Gunter (Modul University Vienna)