

Universität
Konstanz



GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF DECISION SCIENCES



Annual Report 2013



A STRUCTURAL MEASURE

Interview with Professor Ulrich Rüdiger and Professor Leo Kaas

JUNIOR PROFESSORS

5 questions to our new junior professors

DOCTORAL STUDENTS

Self-introduction and research projects

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

What has happened and what will happen?

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DECISION SCIENCES (GSDS) is part of the University of Konstanz and funded by the Excellence Initiative of the German federal and state governments.

It is a social science graduate school, focusing on the three disciplines Economics, Political Science and Psychology and the three complementary disciplines Computer Science, Sociology and Statistics.

www.gsds.uni-konstanz.de

CONTENT

WELCOME!	4
A STRUCTURAL MEASURE	5
2 ND YEAR DOCTORAL STUDENTS	10
1 ST YEAR DOCTORAL STUDENTS	26
COMPLETION SCHOLARSHIPS IN 2013	32
JUNIOR PROFESSORS	34
SYMPOSIUM: ENTSCHEIDENDE DATEN	40
AS IN FOOTBALL. OR IN THE LAND OF HOBBITS.	42
“A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO GET TO KNOW NEW PEOPLE”	44
WORKSHOP: THE WOMEN’S DILEMMA	46
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS)	48
17–19 DECEMBER 2014: DO I LIKE WHAT I PREFER?	50
IMPRINT	51



WELCOME!

In late 2012 the University of Konstanz established the new Graduate School of Decision Sciences, which is funded by the Excellence Initiative of the German federal and state governments. The central research focus of the Graduate School is decision making as a cornerstone in the social sciences. Understanding how decisions are made at the individual level and knowing how they influence collective processes is a key to understanding human behaviour and the ensuing results within society. While each of the social science disciplines has its own perspective of human decision-making behaviour, we aim to bundle the different perspectives to create a stimulating interdisciplinary environment to address a variety of new research questions. To bundle the different activities, the Graduate School concentrates on the four research areas: Behavioural Decision Making, Intertemporal Choice and Markets, Political Decisions and Institutions, and Information Processing and Statistical Analysis. The School addresses excellently qualified graduates in the subjects of Politics, Psychology, Economics, Computer Science, Sociology and Statistics from around the world.

After by now 17 months, during which many new structural and organizational issues have been undertaken, it is a good time to look back and to give a first report of our activities. As of today, there are 30 students enrolled in this Graduate School. While 17 first-year students were admitted in October 2013, starting their course work and developing first research ideas, the more advanced doctoral students are actively working on their highly innovative and challenging dissertation projects, often co-supervised by faculty members from different disciplines. Several visiting professors have been invited to teach top-level seminars and courses and to interact with our doctoral students. Four new junior professors were hired last year to strengthen the different interdisciplinary areas within the Graduate School. To stimulate the exchange between students and faculty in different fields and to create an inspiring community for all members, several joint seminars and workshops have been organized thus far.

With this report, I would like to invite you to learn more about this new Graduate School and its various activities.

Professor Leo Kaas
Coordinator of the Graduate School

A STRUCTURAL MEASURE

The Rector of the University of Konstanz, Professor Dr. Ulrich Rüdiger, and the spokesman of the Graduate School of Decision Sciences, Professor Dr. Leo Kaas, on the current and future position of the institution that is funded by the German Excellence Initiative

Mr. Kaas, what were the reasons for the application for the Graduate School of Decision Sciences, and why is research on the topic Decision Sciences conducted multidisciplinarily at the University of Konstanz?

Prof. Dr. Leo Kaas: Decision behaviour is playing an increasingly major role in economics, social sciences as well as in political sciences. At the University of Konstanz, we have vast expertise in different areas that are essential for Decision Sciences. So it is only reasonable to work together across the disciplines. For example, we have had an excellent collaboration at the interface between behavioural economics and psychology for several years now. This is reflected, among other things, in the research unit "Psychoeconomics", which is funded by the German Research Foundation. In the Department of Economics, we offer a study programme with the opportunity of taking psychology as a specialisation area. Moreover, we have a strong quantitative focus in the social and economic sciences at the University of Konstanz, which is manifested in the Center for Quantitative Methods and Survey Research. Basically, the Graduate School of Decision Sciences comprises all focal points we have in this area in Konstanz.



Mr. Rüdiger, in what way does the Graduate School of Decision Sciences benefit the University of Konstanz academically?

Professor Dr. Ulrich Rüdiger: The Graduate School of Decision Sciences currently defines one of four profile areas in research at the University of Konstanz. In addition to Decision Sciences, these are Cultural Studies, Molecular Nano and Material Sciences as well as Life Sciences with Chemical Biology and Ecology, and the Graduate School Chemical Biology. With Decision Sciences as central research area, doctoral students deal with highly topical research questions. The Graduate School is also very important for the increasingly structured doctoral training, for which the School is funded by the German Excellence Initiative.

Different disciplines often speak different languages and have different research traditions and methods. Mr. Kaas, how satisfied are you with the interdisciplinarity in the Graduate School so far?

Kaas: The Graduate School has been in existence since November 2012. For such a short time, we have seen a fair bit of interdisciplinary exchanges. It has become completely natural, even though the doctoral students do not work in spatial proximity. That is yet to come. The numerous extremely interdisciplinary courses and joint events, such as the newly introduced Science Slam, have a visible effect. We will have more joint meetings outside the University in the future.

How can the University promote the structural development of the Graduate School of Decision Sciences?

Rüdiger: The University supports the Graduate School wherever it institutionally can. The focus area Decision Sciences is particularly taken into account in appointment procedures. The Graduate School of Decision Sciences is a structural measure for the University of Konstanz. Our university supports the School's further development in the best possible way, and we will do so even beyond 2017, when the funding period of the Excellence Initiative ends.

Kaas: The University gave the School optimum support from day one. We are particularly pleased that we can move into wonderful new rooms soon. In the end it turned out to be favourable that it took so long until the regulations of the Graduate School had passed the different University committees. We received a lot of feedback and suggestions for improvement, which we used to significantly improve the first draft. We also greatly benefit from the central institutions. We have excellent contact persons in the Division of Financial Affairs, the Division of Personnel Affairs, the Academic Staff Development, the Welcome Center, the Office for Equal Opportunity and so on. These institutions are very important for us.

The Graduate School received applications from 37 countries already in its first year, a quarter of the admitted doctoral students are international. Mr. Rüdiger, has multinationality and multidisciplinary become natural at the University of Konstanz?

Rüdiger: Yes, most certainly. Internationality is a prerequisite for toplevel research. Our international visibility has significantly increased with the Excellence Initiative. Let me give one



more example: 350 researchers from 50 countries applied for 28 Fellow positions at the Zukunftskolleg in one of the last application rounds. When filling the positions of junior professors in the area of the Graduate School, the appointment lists have a huge international proportion. We really like this development. Talking about interdisciplinarity: that is basically part of the founding idea of the University of Konstanz. The answers between the disciplines are essential to answering the big questions, and the projects need to have a certain size. Just with the two Departments of Economics and Psychology that are highly involved in the Graduate School of Decision Sciences we can generate a large number of researchers to tackle current and future social challenges.

Mr. Kaas, you have already mentioned that the Graduate School of Decision Sciences will move to its own premises in May 2014. What do you expect from this new situation? And how can you promote the simultaneous affiliation of the doctoral students both to the Departments and the Graduate School?

Kaas: The new rooms will significantly help to get the doctoral students talking to each other, also across disciplinary boundaries. We will have a common room, where opportunities to talk during the breaks will arise. The intended affiliation to a department will supplement the exchanges among the doctoral students. This affiliation is given anyway through the supervision and the involvement in the corresponding working groups as well as thematic colloquia and seminars.

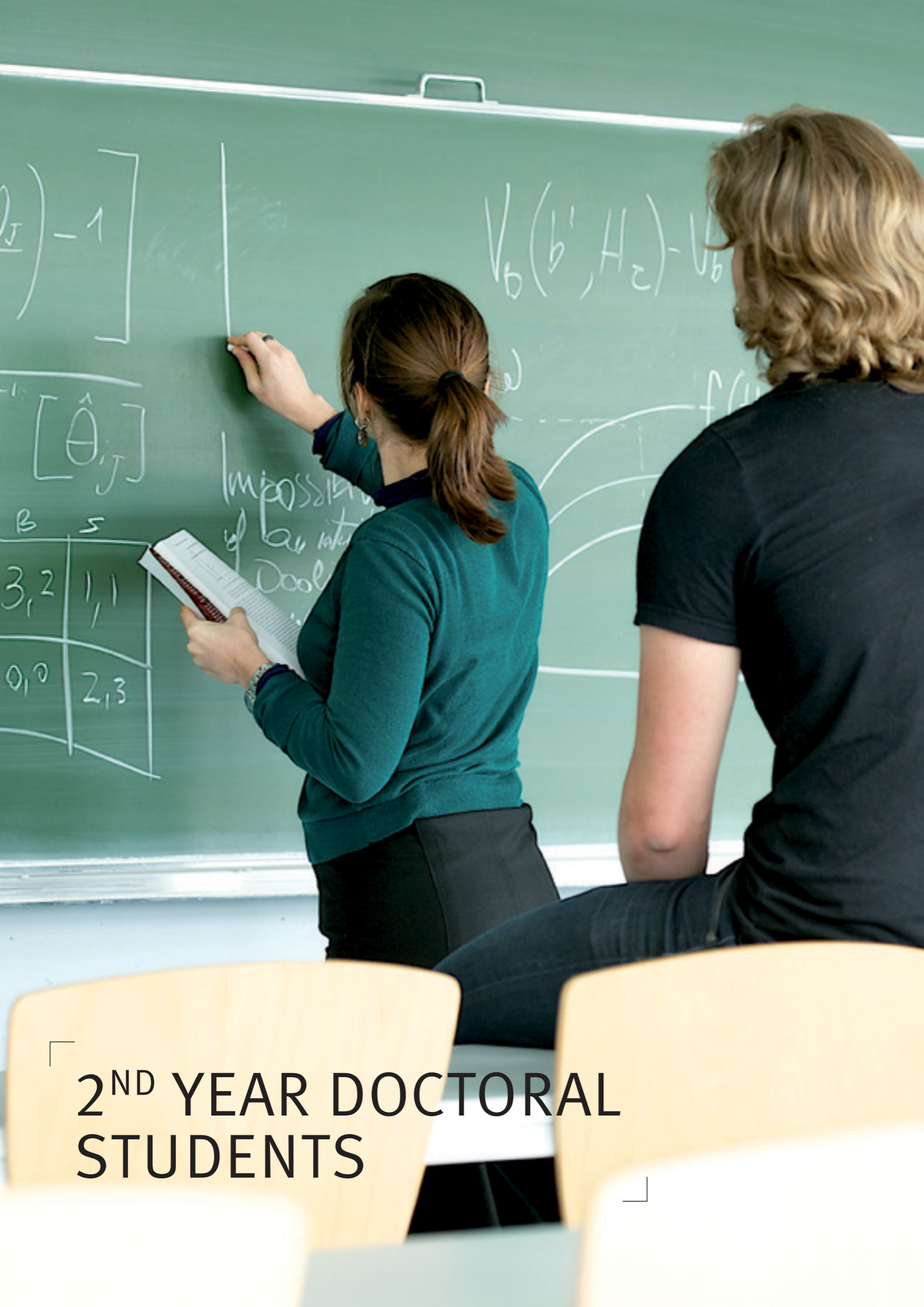
Rüdiger: A Graduate School is a smaller projection of the entire University of Konstanz. The University was built, metaphorically speaking, around a central coffee maker. With a Graduate School, it has to be the same.

In the meantime, the Graduate School exists more than one year. Mr. Kaas, what are the most important tasks for the future?

Kaas: The success of a Graduate School is measured by the success of its graduates in the labour market as well as by the publications of the doctoral students in topquality journals. And, of course, by interdisciplinary collaboration. Concerning the labour market, we intend to raise the awareness of the doctoral students, and also of the supervisors, for the different career options at an early stage. I have to approach my doctoral programme differently depending on whether I intend to pursue an academic career or move into private sector jobs. However, it will take a few years until we have the first data to document the success of our concept. Actually, 2017, when the funding period of the Excellence Initiative ends, is too early.

Rüdiger: Five years are not enough to build up a Graduate School and demonstrate the successful implementation of the concept. We intend to anchor the Graduate School of Decision Sciences thematically and structurally on a sustainable basis in the University. When the last funding phase of the Excellence Initiative ends in 2017, it will not collapse like a badly prepared soufflé. On the contrary, we plan to continue the concept in the next decade. We want to build a brand, and that takes time. Currently it is being discussed in politics whether the projects that only started in 2012 – in the second phase of the Excellence Initiative – will receive further funding after 2017. That really would be the perfect solution for us.

Interview: Maria Schorpp



2ND YEAR DOCTORAL STUDENTS

Having studied psychology and economics, I joined the Graduate School of Decision Sciences to combine methods from both fields and to investigate the interplay between self-regulation, information processing, and decision making. In particular, I am interested in how self-regulation strategies influence the way in which we process information, and how this in turn shapes our decisions in a variety of contexts.

My research on the impact of self-regulation on information processing is joint work with cognitive psychologists. Together we examine how individuals can selectively attend and respond to goal-relevant information despite the presence of distracting information. Our results so far suggest that forming specific if-then plans (e.g. if information X appears, then

I will show response Y!) is associated with an improvement of earliest selective attention, making them a highly effective and efficient means for improved decision making. Following up these first results, we now start fitting our behavioural data to state-of-the-art cognitive models of decision making in order to obtain a better understanding of the processes underlying the effects of self-regulation on information processing.

My second line of research is joint work with behavioural economists and focuses on how information processing styles influence decision making. Here we use self-regulatory strategies to implement an information processing style (reflective versus intuitive) and subsequently analyse decision patterns. In an initial study, we have observed that

individuals act independent from their habitual social orientation when they make decisions in a reflective manner. For instance, more egoistic individuals apparently started taking the social aspects of a decision into account and made their decisions in a more unselfish manner. Our results, thus, suggest that information processing styles interact with personality traits in shaping decisions. In future research, we will test whether such interactions also emerge in different decision contexts, for instance, pertaining to risk and uncertainty or intertemporal trade-offs. This approach allows us to achieve a better understanding of how particular information processing styles influence decision making.

MAIK BIELEKE

EDUCATION: Fast Track Psychology and BSc in Economics, University of Konstanz

MAJOR AREA: (A) Behavioural Decision Making

MINOR AREA: (D) Information Processing and Statistical Analysis

FIRST SUPERVISOR: Prof. Dr. Peter Gollwitzer

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Self-Regulation
- Information Processing
- Preferences and Decision Making





FRANZISKA DEUTSCHMANN

EDUCATION: MSc in Business Mathematics,
Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg
MAJOR AREA: (D) Information Processing and
Statistical Analysis
MINOR AREA: (A) Behavioural Decision Making
FIRST SUPERVISOR:
Jun. Prof. Dr. Georgi Kocharkov
RESEARCH INTERESTS:
· Family Economics
· Fertility Decisions

I studied Mathematics-Economics at the Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg and the University of California at Santa Barbara. For my bachelor's degree, I was specializing in the theory of optimization problems. During my master's program my focus changed to statistics. At the Graduate School of Decision Sciences, I aim to combine the knowledge from different mathematical areas and apply it to the field of Family Economics, particularly to the theory of fertility decisions. I am supervised by Georgi Kocharkov who is a Junior Professor in Family Economics at the University of Konstanz.

The main interest of my research is modelling and interpretation of the fertility decisions in East and West Germany. From an economic perspective, the study of the fertility of East and

West German females allows to investigate the effects of distinct fertility driving factors as well as policy measures. The fall of the Berlin wall reunified two regions with basically the same cultural background but disparate economic realities. Remarkably, even after more than 20 years, the empirical analysis shows that the timing of motherhood and the number of children exhibit different patterns for East and West German female population. When the wall came down in 1989, East German women had on average more children than their West German peers. However, five years later, in 1994, the fertility in East Germany was at its historical minimum. If low fertility had persisted, an East German woman would have given birth to less than one child on average, whereas every second West German female had at least by

one child more. In the following years, the total fertility rate remained at the same level in the West but recovered in the East. Finally, since 2008 the total fertility rate has been higher in East rather than in West Germany.

The aim of the research project is to provide an explanation for these contrasting fertility patterns. This analysis may turn useful for predicting the impacts of future family policies.

PROJECT 1: A QUANTITATIVE MODEL OF SOVEREIGN DEBT, BAILOUTS AND CONDITIONALITY (joint work with Almuth Scholl)

International Financial Institutions provide temporary balance-of-payment support contingent on the implementation of specific macroeconomic policies. While several emerging markets repeatedly used conditional assistance, sovereign defaults occurred. This paper develops a dynamic stochastic model of a small open economy with endogenous default risk and endogenous participation rates in bailout programs. Conditionality enters as a constraint on fiscal policy. In a quantitative application to Argentina, the model mimics the empirical duration and frequency of bailout programs. In equilibrium, conditional bailouts generate high and

volatile interest spreads. A Laffer-curve in conditionality reflects the trade-off between fostering fiscal reform and creating incentives for non-compliance.

PROJECT 2: THE TRANSMISSION OF US FINANCIAL STRESS: EVIDENCE FOR EMERGING MARKET ECONOMIES (joint work with Yves Schuler)

We provide empirical evidence that US financial stress shocks (US-FSSs) are an important driver for economic dynamics and fluctuations in emerging market economies (EMEs). Applying a structural vector autoregression, we analyse the international transmission of US-FSSs to eight EMEs, using monthly data from 1999 to 2012. US-FSSs are identified as unexpected changes in the financial conditions index of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

Findings indicate that a typical EME experiences similar negative effects as the US economy in response to US-FSSs. Our results emphasize that the transmission through international financial interconnections is dominant, while contagion through trade is inessential. Further, with regard to fluctuations in real economic activity, US-FSSs are as important as all other external factors jointly. In general, US-FSSs represent a crucial driver for volatility in the emerging world; also at business cycle frequencies.

FABIAN FINK

EDUCATION: Degree in Economics
(Diplom-Volkswirt)
MAJOR AREA:
(B) Intertemporal Choice and Markets
MINOR AREA: (D) Information Processing and
Statistical Analysis
FIRST SUPERVISOR: Prof. Dr. Almuth Scholl
RESEARCH INTERESTS:
· Quantitative
Macroeconomics
· Applied Time Series
Econometrics





PETER HAFFKE

EDUCATION: Diploma in Psychology, University of Potsdam

MAJOR AREA: (A) Behavioural Decision Making

MINOR AREA: (D) Information Processing and Statistical Analysis

FIRST SUPERVISOR: Prof. Dr. Ronald Hübner

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Risky Decision Making and Gambling
- Experimental Psychology
- Cognitive Modelling
- Behavioural Addictions

We base our decisions on the available information. However, we do not give every piece of information the same weight or value, and we disregard some information depending on the type of decision and the circumstances. Applying modifications of classical monetary gambles, I investigate the information integration in fast and slow decisions on a global and individual level. Using cognitive modelling, I seek to understand and explain the underlying processes.

In choice experiments, researchers typically look at different choice strategies or rules and compare the proportions of how well they explain the choice behaviour of participants. But if you take a closer look at what happens over the course of time in single decisions, conclusions sometimes change: In the gambles I am using, participants have to

choose between two competing lotteries, of which one of them is designed to be the optimal choice. Participants strongly preferred the lotteries with a higher winning probability, as if they ignored potential rewards. However, distributional analyses of response times revealed that this preference was particularly strong for fast responses. With increasing response time, participants integrated both pieces of information (i.e. winning probability and potential reward), which did not lead to better choices. Examining the degree to which cognitive psychological models, neuroeconomic theories, or a combination of both can account for these variations in individual decision-making is the major part of my current research.

A second focus of my research is on risky decision-making in clinical and non-clinical populations. For this purpose,

I am using a mobile application of an established card-game program for the measurement of affect-based risky decision-making. In particular, patients of an addiction clinic are tested with respect to the changes in their risk-taking behaviour at the time of the admission to the clinic and at the time of their discharge.

Some words about me: I studied psychology in Potsdam, focusing on clinical and cognitive psychology. After finishing my diploma thesis about the relationship of video game addiction and psychological well-being, I moved to Konstanz and worked in a one-year research project exploring how prosocial behaviour (e.g. donations) change the helpers' representation of the recipients of help. Since my admission to the GSDS, I've returned to my roots and have been focusing on cognitive aspects of human decision-making.

Modern democratic elections, as fierce competitions for power, money, and prestige, produce many winners. However, in most cases they produce even more losers. While the matter of identifying the winning party is frequently subject to some uncertainty, most losing parties can be identified with considerable certainty well before the election day.

Most political science literature recognizes power, money, or prestige as the main motivations for human action. Under this assumption, one has to fail to understand why candidates and parties without reasonable chances to win compete in elections in the first place. While such candidates and parties create choice as an essential element of democracy, existing literature cannot explain why, when and where

they compete in elections. This puzzle is relevant not only for the literature on party formation and party system change but also for the literature on choices in the absence of tangible benefits.

My research aim is to extend existing political science theories with concepts from psychology in order to develop a better understanding of party and candidate motivation. This is not only important for understanding the full range of party competition and party systems, it is also crucial when analysing intra-party politics. Here, different motivations can lead to different policy preferences and strategies in electoral campaigns.

My dissertation will draw on concepts from self-determination theory

in order to apply traditional rational-choice approaches to situations where distinct external benefits cannot be identified. The empirical validity of my dissertation's theoretical work will be scrutinized by testing hypotheses on the level of political parties and individual candidates. For the case of political parties, the dissertation will focus on German federal state and national elections. Here, the project seeks to explain the temporal variance in the number of competing parties as well as the variance over different electoral districts. For the case of individual candidates, a field experiment will be conducted before and after three different state elections.

NIKLAS HARDER

EDUCATION: MA in Political Science, University of Konstanz

MAJOR AREA:

(C) Political Decisions and Institutions

MINOR AREA: (D) Information Processing and Statistical Analysis

FIRST SUPERVISOR: Prof. Dr. Susumu Shikano

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Political Parties
- Political Behaviour
- Political Competition
- Conflict Research





JAN HAUSFELD

EDUCATION: MA in Economics,
McGill University Montreal
MAJOR AREA: (A) Behavioural Decision Making
MINOR AREA: (D) Information Processing and
Statistical Analysis
FIRST SUPERVISOR: Prof. Dr. Urs Fischbacher
RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Experimental and Behavioural Economics
- Game Theory
- Microeconomics
- Neuroeconomics

I am a doctoral student at Prof. Fischbacher's Chair of Applied Research in Economics. I started my PhD in October 2012 at the University of Konstanz as a member of the Graduate School of Decision Sciences. Before coming to Konstanz, I studied in North America where I received my bachelor's degree in Economics at the Virginia Polytechnic and State University in Blacksburg, United States. Afterwards, I earned the master's degree in Economics at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. My research interests are Behavioural Economics, Applied Microeconomics, and Neuroeconomics, while my research focuses on decision-making under pressure.

Being a student at Virginia Tech, I was on the university soccer team; this experience still affects a part of

my research. More specifically, in one project I investigate how penalty kicks (behaviour of the kicker and goalkeeper) differ when pressure arises. The latter may occur due to elapsing time, audience, or importance of the game. The investigation is two-fold. First, penalty kicks are nearly ideal for a game-theoretical analysis. Therefore, one part includes this analysis, as well as a comparison to the existing literature. Second, I use video data which allows for a more detailed visual examination of the penalty kicks. Using both approaches, I attempt to disentangle the effect of pressure on behaviour and success rate.

In another project, I investigate how time affects the decision-making process, and whether the latter differs if people are put under pressure. To this

end, the decision maker must perform a choice task under time pressure. This project is conducted in collaboration with cognitive psychologists. The study is very intriguing since it facilitates the analysis of both cognitive shortcuts and the trade-offs between speed and accuracy. The special focus also lies in the usage of heuristics, embedded both in a classical economic model and an evidence accumulation model.

I am a doctoral student at Prof. Fischbacher's Chair of Applied Research in Economics. I have started my PhD at the Graduate School of Decision Sciences and I am currently a member of the DFG Research Unit Psychoeconomics (located at the Universities of Konstanz and Cologne). In 2012, I received my master's degree in Quantitative Economics with distinction from the University of Konstanz. I was awarded the Dietrich H. Boesken prize for the University's best master's degree as well as the VEUK prize for the best thesis at the Department of Economics. My research interests lie in the fields of Experimental Economics, Behavioural Economics, and Neuroeconomics.

In one of my current projects (joint with Urs Fischbacher) I experimentally investigate the conditions under which

people are willing to inflict a punishment or give a reward to an otherwise unrelated third party. This research also sheds light on how such decisions are processed in the brain by measuring participants' response times. We find that people are more likely to punish a selfish decision the fewer people they expect to act selfishly in the same situation. This means that being selfish is considered to be worthy of punishment when selfishness is rare but not when everyone else is selfish as well. The equivalent holds for the case of rewards, i.e. people reward others for being nice only if that makes them special but not if making the nice decision is the social norm.

In a related project (joint with Urs Fischbacher and Irenaeus Wolff), I contribute to the research on the

comparison of the potential efficiency gains through punishments and rewards in public goods games. All previous studies on this matter suffer from the deficiency that rewards and punishments are implemented in such a way that they have different direct effects on efficiency. Our design circumvents this asymmetry and therefore allows us to make valid comparisons of the two mechanisms' true effects. First results indicate that punishments are the preferable mechanism to increase overall welfare.

KONSTANTIN V. HESLER

EDUCATION: MSc in Quantitative Economics,
University of Konstanz
MAJOR AREA: (A) Behavioural Decision Making
MINOR AREA: (D) Information Processing and
Statistical Analysis
FIRST SUPERVISOR: Prof. Dr. Urs Fischbacher
RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Experimental and Behavioural Economics
- Social Preferences
- Self-Control





VERENA MACK

EDUCATION: MA in Politics and Public Administration, University of Konstanz
MAJOR AREA: (D) Information Processing and Statistical Analysis
MINOR AREA:
(C) Political Decisions and Institutions
FIRST SUPERVISOR: Prof. Dr. Susumu Shikano

Free and fair elections are widely considered to be an important legitimacy of representative democracy. Their significance is reflected in a growing number of recent scientific studies concerning election fraud, in particular under the name of election forensic. These studies apply statistical methods to election data to detect election fraud or anomalies. In cases of blatant fraud, election fraud detection might not be a difficult task. For example, it is obvious in recent Russian Parliamentary and Presidential elections where there is 100% turnout and 100% votes for the winner party/candidate as it was the case in a number of polling stations. However, the detection of fraud is challenging in any other non-blattantly manipulated election.

The dissertation project tackles this uncertainty of how to detect election fraud through the close investigation of different statistical procedures which claim to be able to identify the manipulation of election data. More specifically, I will investigate two classes of statistical procedures: digit based and distributional tests. The digit based test focuses on the distribution of digits in vote counts which are supposed to follow particular distributions while artificial data manipulation will disrupt the process and therefore cause deviation of the distribution. In contrast, distributional approaches focus on unnatural patterns of the vote and turnout distribution itself. This is easy and obvious in cases of strong fraud when we can find bimodal turnout (and vote) distribution. However such patterns are difficult to identify and

quantify in cases of marginal fraud. The detection procedures are investigated in different electoral settings: election results without fraud, those with fraud proved through further indications as well as artificially generated results based on manipulation mechanisms. This facilitates to establish statistical traceable patterns in manipulated data and gives an understanding of the capability of the different detection procedures.

The rise of the service sector and technological changes combined with increases in female labour market participation are profoundly transforming our societies and the functioning of the labour markets. Whether different groups of women rather profit or lose in countries with different service sectors or whether underlying characteristics of political economies and family policies are more decisive in shaping their earning opportunities remains an open question to date. Particularly in coordinated market economies, labour market barriers and new welfare risks arise for low-skilled women. Thereby, preliminary results indicate that family policies are among the most important factors in shaping their labour market options and income prospects. However, we know little about what drives those low-skilled women's preferences for

family policies. To what degree do their individual preferences depend on their current household situation and existing family service structures? And are their preferences in their own long-term interest? Furthermore, do they express their preferences for family policy at the ballot box? Such a disaggregation of different target groups and interests is important for a better understanding of reform incentives as well as the degrees of policy representation.

My dissertation project addresses these research gaps by drawing on previous findings and theories of the gendered political economy literature, welfare state research as well as attitudes and voting behaviour studies. I furthermore test the derived hypotheses empirically. In a first project, I examine the link between gender, skills and labour

market outcomes as well as the role of labour market institutions and family policies in shaping income stratification in modern service economies. Here multilevel modelling is applied to compare determinants of within- and between-gender inequalities across OECD countries. In a second project, I analyse micro- and macro-level factors' impacts on the family policy preferences of economically disadvantaged women. The analysis is based on a cross-country comparison and complemented by longitudinal case studies. Finally, the research endeavour of the third project is to draw on the previous findings and to put them in relation to low-skilled women's voting behaviour and policy representation.

SUSANNE MÜNN

EDUCATION: MA in Political and Administrative Sciences, University of Konstanz (including two semesters at the Department of Political Science at the National University of Singapore)
MAJOR AREA:
(C) Political Decisions and Institutions
MINOR AREA: (D) Information Processing and Statistical Analysis
FIRST SUPERVISOR: Prof. Dr. Marius Busemeyer
RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Comparative Political Economy
- Welfare States
- Gender Inequality
- Individual Preferences for Social Policies





SABINE OTTO

EDUCATION: MA in Political Science,
Free University Berlin

MAJOR AREA:

(C) Political Decisions and Institutions

MINOR AREA: (D) Information Processing and
Statistical Analysis

FIRST SUPERVISOR: Prof. Dr. Nils Weidmann

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Peace and Conflict Studies
with a Particular Focus
on Civil War Dynamics
- One-sided Violence and Armed
Actors

I am a second year PhD student at the Graduate School of Decision Sciences and I am affiliated with the “Communication, Networks and Contention” Research Group at the Department of Politics and Public Administration, University of Konstanz.

In my PhD project “The Grass Is Always Greener – Collective Side Switching in Civil Wars” I investigate why armed organizations switch sides collectively in civil wars. This phenomenon manifests itself in armed groups’ changing from challenging the government to fighting on their behalf and vice versa, indicating that armed organizations switch purposefully during battlefield activities to the earlier contested side. For instance, the pro-Kashmir Muslim rebels fought the Indian government for the independence of the Kashmir

region, but they defected to the Indian security forces and became “counter-insurgents”. Sunnis in Iraq switched sides to the US forces. The Mujahideen groups and the Taliban in Afghanistan have been involved in a history of side switching. However, due to neat theoretical frames – conceptualizing civil wars as military interactions between two unitary and fixed actors – and data restrictions, the study of armed groups’ side switching is an underexplored phenomenon in civil war research.

Borrowing from organization theory armed actors can be conceptualized as organizations “producing” violence. In organization theory it is argued that adaptation is the key to both success and survival of organizations in times of changing environments. Translated to the civil war context, armed

organizations switch sides collectively in order to improve their performance or to ensure their survival. By focusing at the armed group level, and by setting up a new dataset on collective side switching – the History of Armed Actors Dataset – I aim to generate new insights under what circumstances armed groups switch sides and what are the consequences on conflict dynamics.

I am a member of the “Communication, Networks and Contention” Research Group at the Department of Politics and Public Administration, University of Konstanz. I am also employed as a researcher in affiliation with the projects “Conceptualization and Measurement of Democracy” and “Political Institutions and Armed Conflict” at the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO).

My dissertation – “Kindling and Quelling Collective Action: The Dynamics of Protest in Autocracies” – aims to contribute to our understanding of what triggers protest in autocracies. Moreover, once people have taken to the streets, what determines whether protests dwindle or escalate? In spite of a vast theoretical literature on collective action and the importance attributed to mass protest in the democratization literature,

systematic research is scarce. Indeed, the contention of Coppedge (2003, 125) that “the true impact of political [mass] mobilization remains an open question” is still valid 10 years later. Fundamentally, the dynamics of protest in autocracies remains a black box. Most research on autocracies focuses on elites and the choices made by actors inside the state apparatus, while comparatively little effort has been made to investigate on-the-ground dynamics and actor interactions.

THE PROJECT AIMS TO FILL THE GAPS IN THE LITERATURE BY:

- theoretically and empirically focusing on regime-citizen and local elite-citizen dynamics in autocracies. Specifically, by focusing on domestic structural conditions and the interaction between

political leaders, local entrepreneurs, and the masses, I develop a theory of top-down and bottom-up processes that facilitate episodes and escalation of mass mobilization. In short, I argue that the organization of goods provision, as well as the distribution of goods in society, is key to understanding protest in autocracies.

- assisting in the collection of sub-national event data on mass protest in authoritarian regimes: “The Mass Mobilization in Autocracies Database (MMAD)”.

- combining global studies with country-specific analyses. The global studies provide more general conclusions, while the country-specific analyses aim to exemplify and strengthen the evidence for the proposed mechanisms.

ESPEN GEELMUYDEN RØD

EDUCATION: MA in Political Science,
University of Oslo

MAJOR AREA:

(C) Political Decisions and Institutions

MINOR AREA: (D) Information Processing and
Statistical Analysis

FIRST SUPERVISOR: Prof. Dr. Nils Weidmann

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Dynamics of Authoritarian Regimes
- Political Institutions
- Collective Action
- Political Violence
- Democratization
- Coups
- Event Data





CONSTANTIN RUHE

EDUCATION: MA in Politics and Public Administration, University of Konstanz

MAJOR AREA:

(C) Political Decisions and Institutions

MINOR AREA: (D) Information Processing and Statistical Analysis

FIRST SUPERVISOR: Prof. Dr. Gerald Schneider

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Dynamics of Armed Conflicts
- Conflict Management
- Mediation in Intrastate Conflicts
- Forecasting Conflict
- Quantitative Methods and Research Design

I studied political and administrative science at the University of Konstanz and at the Institut d'Études Politiques de Grenoble. My research interests include armed conflict as well as quantitative methods and research design. I am particularly interested in the quantitative analysis of intrastate armed conflict dynamics, violence against civilians, and conflict management, especially third party mediation.

My PhD project investigates how third party mediation affects the intensity of intrastate armed conflicts. Third party assisted negotiations are the most common form of conflict management; nevertheless, the impact of this type of conflict management remains quite unclear and difficult to evaluate. The main reason for this stems from the fact that mediation requires

the consent of all conflict parties and, therefore, occurs only in very specific circumstances. As a result of this self-selection process, armed conflicts which experience mediation cannot be easily compared with conflicts that are not mediated.

In my project, I rely on extensive, quantitative data on intrastate armed conflicts in Africa during the past 25 years. Based on this data, I am able to highlight the self-selection into mediation. I show that the timing of early conflict mediation can be predicted quite accurately, since it correlates with shifts in a conflict's geographic location and spikes in violence. Despite these insights, the analysis of mediation remains challenging, as data on these variables is sparser for non-African countries and other time periods.

Consequently, analyses of these conflicts require alternative statistical tools to model the unobserved self-selection into mediation. Therefore, a second part of my project employs a theoretical model to create computer-simulated conflicts. The results from these simulations enable to assess whether statistical techniques adequately estimate the effect of mediation even when significant variables of the self-selection process are unobservable. Lastly, I evaluate whether the theoretically predicted effect of mediation corresponds to the empirical evolution of intrastate conflicts after third party mediated negotiations.

My PhD project is funded through scholarships of the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation as well as the State Graduate Scholarship Programme Baden-Württemberg.

“Networks are ubiquitous”: a catch phrase sounding pretentious, yet with an element of truth. Various disciplines, such as political science, finance, and biology, discovered the concept of networks for themselves and tried to incorporate network analytical methods in their respective field. Therefore, network science offers a prospect for fruitful collaboration among different fields with the outlook for new insights.

One of the key concepts in network analysis is measures of centrality. In short, an actor in a network is more central than others if she has better relationships, where the definition of a “better relationship” depends on the used measure. Although this concept dates back to the 1930s, there is still no general consensus what “being central in a network” actually means. This lack

of a common conceptual ground led to the emergence of an abundance of measures, with most of them not being derived from any substantial theory but instead being simple formalizations of plausible ideas. As L. Freeman puts it, “The several measures are often only vaguely related to the intuitive ideas they purport to index, and many are so complex that it is difficult or impossible to discover what, if anything, they are measuring.” Although his outstanding work contributed eminently to the conceptual clarification of centrality, researchers do not get tired of crafting new centrality indices every day.

“The time has come, it would seem, to stop, take stock and try to make some sense of the concept of centrality and the range and limits of its potential for application”. Inspired by this statement

of L. Freeman, my work focuses on the fundamental properties of centrality indices, i.e. what makes an actor more central than others, and which structural features of a network drive all measures of centrality? In ongoing work, it has been shown that a pronounced core-periphery structure leads to high correlation between all indices, no matter how distinct they are. Consequently, it is not necessarily the similarity in the definition of centralities that enforces high correlations but rather particular network structures. Even more important are the implications of the use of centrality as an explanatory variable for the performance of actors in networks. It is crucial to not prematurely attribute effects to a specific index, when in fact the network structure permits no other outcome.

DAVID SCHOCH

EDUCATION: Diploma in Business Mathematics, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology

MAJOR AREA: (D) Information Processing and Statistical Analysis

MINOR AREA:

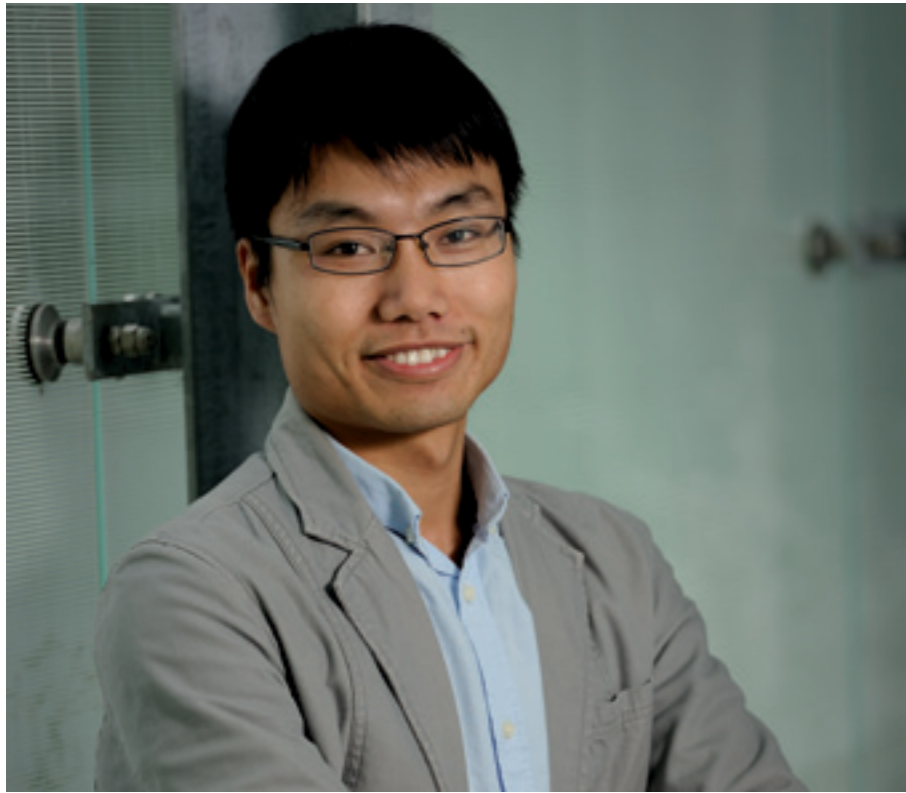
(C) Political Decisions and Institutions

FIRST SUPERVISOR: Prof. Dr. Ulrik Brandes

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Network Analysis
- Network Dynamics
- Network Modeling





KESHUN ZHANG

EDUCATION: MA in Developmental and Educational Psychology, Capital Normal University (China)

MAJOR AREA: (A) Behavioural Decision Making

MINOR AREA: (D) Information Processing and Statistical Analysis

FIRST SUPERVISOR: Prof. Dr. Thomas Götz

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Emotion and Trust Behaviour
- Risky Decision Making
- Experimental Psychology

In 2012, I started my PhD at the Graduate School of Decision Sciences at the University of Konstanz. I am currently a second year PhD student at the Chair of Empirical Educational Research at the Department of History and Sociology. Previously I received my MA in Developmental and Educational Psychology from the Capital Normal University in Beijing, China. My research deals with emotion and behavioural decision-making with a particular focus on emotion and trust behaviour. My dissertation programme is called “The Impact of Loss of Control on Trust: Investigating the Mediatonal Role of Emotion and the Moderating Role of Social Distance”.

Most economic theories are cognitive in nature and view trust as a deliberate act based on a thorough assessment

of the size of the benefit people can potentially gain (value) as well as the probability that their trust will be reciprocated. However, from a psychological perspective trust is more complicated than mere cognitive calculations. In addition to value, experiences of control, emotion, and social distance are three important factors that impact trust. The aim of my programme is to investigate the effects of subjective loss of control, emotion (e.g. anger), and social distance on trust behaviour. Current studies assume that anger takes a mediational role in the relationship between subjective loss of control experiences and trust, while social distance plays a moderating role in the relationship between anger and trust.

Three studies are planned. Study 1 directly explores the mediational role

that anger plays between experiences of subjective loss of control and trust. Study 2 investigates the moderating role of social distance between anger and trust. This project also plans to explore the cross-cultural generalizability of the proposed associations between control experiences, anger, social distance and trust behaviour. Therefore, Study 3 investigates the impact of control experiences, anger and social distance on trust behaviour from the cross cultural perspective, comparing trust in individualistic and collectivistic cultures (e.g. Germany vs. China).



1ST YEAR DOCTORAL STUDENTS

DOMINIK BAUER

EDUCATION: MSc in Economics, University of Konstanz
 MAJOR AREA: (A) Behavioural Decision Making
 FIRST SUPERVISOR: Prof. Dr. Urs Fischbacher
 RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Experimental and Behavioural Economics
- Herding and Information Cascades
- Heuristics
- Decision and Game Theory



SEBASTIAN BAYER

EDUCATION: MSc in Economics, University of Konstanz
 MAJOR AREA: (D) Information Processing and Statistical Analysis
 MINOR AREA: (B) Intertemporal Choice and Markets
 FIRST SUPERVISOR: Prof. Dr. Winfried Pohlmeier
 RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Risk Measurement
- Financial Econometrics
- Shrinkage Estimation
- High-Frequency Finance



MARIA BREITWIESER

EDUCATION: Degree in Economics (Diplom-Volkswirtin), University of Konstanz
 MAJOR AREA: (B) Intertemporal Choice and Markets
 FIRST SUPERVISOR: Prof. Dr. Anja Schöttner
 RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Personnel Economics
- Experimental Economics



FABIAN DVORAK

EDUCATION: MSc in Clinical Psychology, Neuroscience and Rehabilitation Science, University of Freiburg
 MAJOR AREA: (A) Behavioural Decision Making
 MINOR AREA: (D) Information Processing and Statistical Analysis
 FIRST SUPERVISOR: Prof. Dr. Urs Fischbacher
 RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Experimental and Behavioural Economics
- Neuroeconomics
- Social Preferences



DANIELA BEYER

EDUCATION: MA in International Affairs, John Hopkins University, Bologna
 MAJOR AREA: (C) Political Decisions and Institutions
 MINOR AREA: (A) Behavioural Decision Making
 FIRST SUPERVISOR: Prof. Dr. Christian Breunig
 RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Decision-Making
- Agenda Setting and Institutional Design in a Comparative Perspective
- European Studies



DAVID DOHMEN

EDUCATION: Degree in Psychology (Diplom-Psychologe), University of Konstanz, BSc in Economics, University of Konstanz
 MAJOR AREA: (A) Behavioural Decision Making
 MINOR AREA: (D) Information Processing and Statistical Analysis
 FIRST SUPERVISOR: Prof. Dr. Urs Fischbacher
 RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Experimental and Behavioural Economics
- Strategic Cognition, Dual Process Theories
- Social Preferences, Theory-of-Mind
- Self-Regulation

FRIEDERIKE-LUISE KELLE

EDUCATION: Degree in Political Science (Diplom-Politologin), FU Berlin
MAJOR AREA: (C) Political Decisions and Institutions
MINOR AREA: (D) Information Processing and Statistical Analysis
FIRST SUPERVISOR: Prof. Dr. Gerald Schneider
RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Interstate Conflicts
- Identity and Ethnicity
- Territory
- Conflicts over Resources



ARPITA KHANNA

EDUCATION: MA in World Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University
MAJOR AREA: (C) Political Decisions and Institutions
MINOR AREA: (D) Information Processing and Statistical Analysis
FIRST SUPERVISOR: Prof. Dr. Gerald Schneider
RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Resource Curse
- Political Economy
- Public Economics
- Institutional Economics



BIHEMO KIMASA

EDUCATION: MSc in Quantitative Economics, University of Kiel
MAJOR AREA: (B) Intertemporal Choice and Markets
FIRST SUPERVISOR: Prof. Dr. Leo Kaas
RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Macroeconomics
- Firm Dynamics
- Labour Markets
- Financial Markets



CARL MAIER

EDUCATION: MSc in Economics, University of Konstanz
MAJOR AREA: (C) Political Decisions and Institutions
MINOR AREA: (B) Intertemporal Choice and Markets
FIRST SUPERVISOR: Prof. Dr. Friedrich Breyer
RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Institutional Economics
- Political Economy
- Algorithmic Game Theory



JANA MARECKOVA

EDUCATION: Master in Economics, Charles University of Prague
MAJOR AREA: (D) Information Processing and Statistical Analysis
MINOR AREA: (B) Intertemporal Choice and Markets
FIRST SUPERVISOR: Prof. Dr. Winfried Pohlmeier
RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Statistical Learning
- Shrinkage Estimation



MARCO MENNER

EDUCATION: MSc in Mathematical Finance, University of Konstanz
MAJOR AREA: (B) Intertemporal Choice and Markets
MINOR AREA: (D) Information Processing and Statistical Analysis
FIRST SUPERVISOR: Prof. Dr. Jens Jackwerth
RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Asset Pricing
- Numerical Methods in Finance
- Empirical Finance



SIMON MUNZERT

EDUCATION: MA in Politics and Public Administration, University of Konstanz
MAJOR AREA: (C) Political Decisions and Institutions
FIRST SUPERVISOR: Prof. Dr. Peter Selb
RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Measurement of Public Opinion
- Election Forecasting
- Electoral Geography
- Bayesian Modeling
- Survey Methods



ARASH NAGHAVI

EDUCATION: MA in Economics, University of Bologna
MAJOR AREA: (C) Political Decisions and Institutions
MINOR AREA: (D) Information Processing and Statistical Analysis
FIRST SUPERVISOR: Prof. Dr. Heinrich Ursprung
RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Political Economy
- Development Economics
- Economics of Institutions





CHRISTIAN NEUMEIER

EDUCATION: MSc in Economics, University of Konstanz
 MAJOR AREA: (D) Information Processing and Statistical Analysis
 MINOR AREA: (B) Intertemporal Choice and Markets
 FIRST SUPERVISOR: Jun. Prof. Zahide Eylem Gevrek
 RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Non-Parametric Econometrics
- Applied Econometrics
- Labour Economics

VALERIA PETKIEVA

EDUCATION: Specialist in Mathematics,
 Lomonosov Moscow State University
 MAJOR AREA: (D) Information Processing and Statistical Analysis
 MINOR AREA: (B) Intertemporal Choice and Markets
 FIRST SUPERVISOR: Prof. Dr. Jan Beran
 RESEARCH INTERESTS:

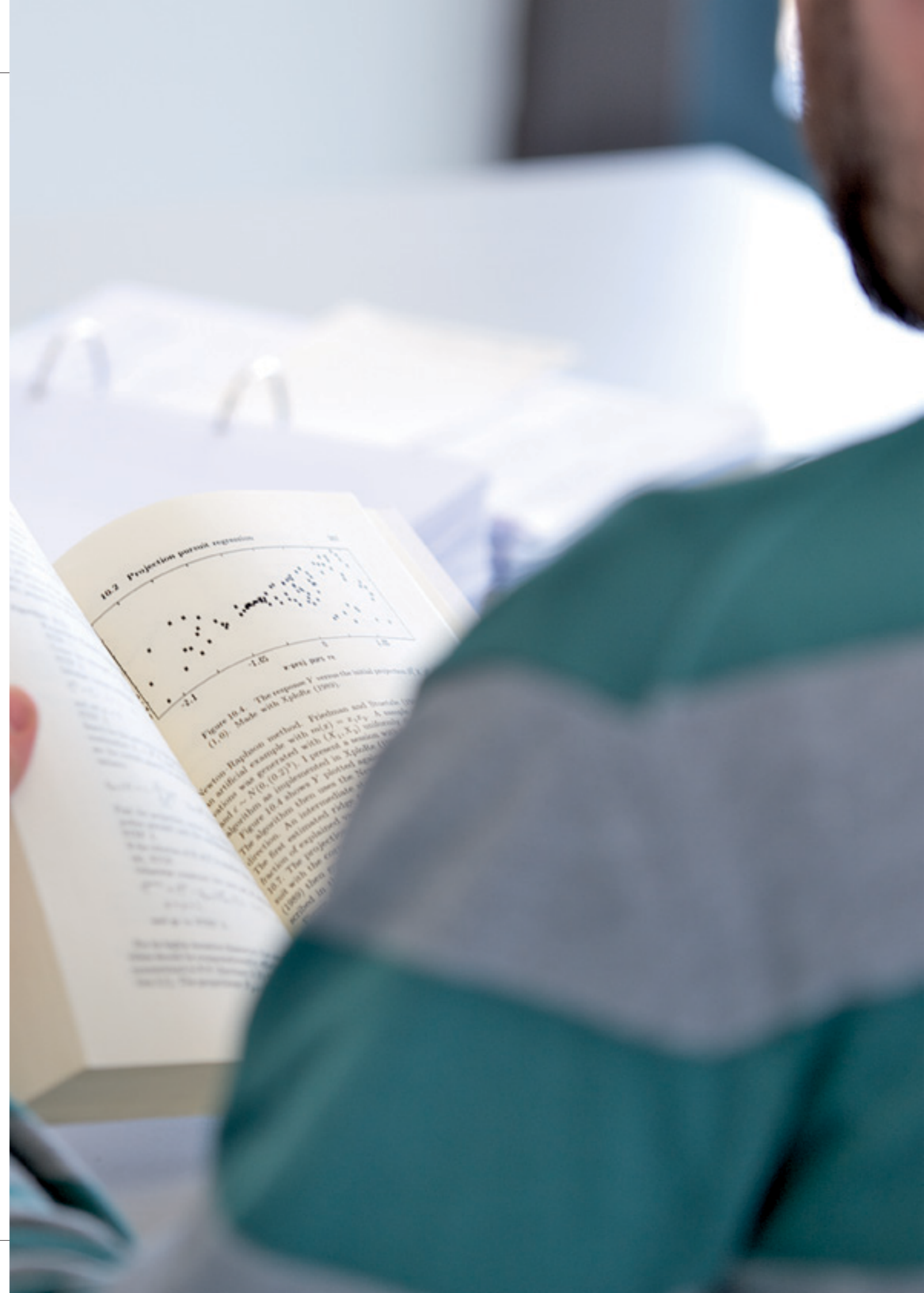
- Long-Memory Processes



ANJA WEIERGRÄBER

EDUCATION: MSc in Psychology, University of Konstanz
 MAJOR AREA: (A) Behavioural Decision Making
 MINOR AREA: (D) Information Processing and Statistical Analysis
 FIRST SUPERVISOR: Prof. Dr. Peter Gollwitzer
 RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Attitudes
- Implicit Cognition
- Addiction



COMPLETION SCHOLARSHIPS IN 2013



ANNA SLAVUTSKAYA

Department of Economics, Institute of Finance
ACADEMIC ADVISOR: Prof. Dr. Jens C. Jackwerth
RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Hedge Funds
- Financial Econometrics

“Volatility Ratios”, work in progress, with Jens C. Jackwerth
“Relative Alpha”, work in progress, with Jens C. Jackwerth

KLAUS HARNACK

Department of Psychology, Chair of Social Psychology and Motivation
ACADEMIC ADVISOR: Prof. Dr. Peter M. Gollwitzer
RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Grounded Cognition
- Social Cognition
- Collective Decision Making
- Negotiation and Mediation

THESIS TITLE: Grounded Cognition and Implementation intentions.
The thesis empirically investigates if pre-deciding a course of action can be implemented by means of grounded cognition.

CAROLIN SCHUSTER

Empirical Educational Research
ACADEMIC ADVISORS: Jun. Prof. Dr. Sarah Martiny,
Prof. Dr. Thomas Götz
RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Emotional and Behavioural Effects of Cognitions
- Effects of Stereotypes, Priming and Role Expectations
- Cognitive Strategies Behind Emotional Intelligence

THESIS TITLE: Cognitive and affective processes reducing performance and career motivation under stereotype threat

KARSTEN WASILUK

Department of Economics,
Chair of Economic Theory and Labour Economics
ACADEMIC ADVISORS: Prof. Dr. Leo Kaas,
Jun. Prof. Dr. Matthias S. Hertweck
RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Dynamic Macroeconomics
- Innovation and Technological Change
- Environmental & Natural Resource Economics

THESIS TITLE: Three Essays on the Economics of Technological Progress and Technology Adoption

TAHMINA SADAT HADJER

Department of Politics and Management,
Chair of International Politics
ACADEMIC ADVISORS: Prof. Dr. Gerald Schneider,
Prof. Dr. Dirk Leuffen, Prof. Dr. Christopher Kinsey,
King's College London (University of London)
THESIS TITLE: Spoiler or Stabilizer? Assessing the Role of Private Military and Security Companies in Armed Conflicts

FEDERICA GENOVESE

Department of Politics and Management,
Chair of International Politics
ACADEMIC ADVISOR: Prof. Dr. Gerald Schneider
RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- International Organizations
- International Political Economy
- Environmental Decision Making
- Economic Interdependence

THESIS TITLE: The Power of the Strong, the Perseverance of the Weak: Explaining Climate Change Negotiations.

CURRENT POSITION: Postdoctoral Researcher,
Department of Political Science, Stanford University

KATARINA ZIGOVA

Department of Economics, Chair of Political Economy
ACADEMIC ADVISOR: Prof. Dr. Heinrich W. Ursprung
RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Applied Microeconometrics
- Applied Spatial Econometrics
- Economics of Education and Science
- Social Interaction Analysis

THESIS TITLE: Essays on Competitive and Collaborative Research

JUNIOR PROFESSORS

MICHAEL VOGT is a junior professor for Computational Statistics and Econometrics. He studied at the University of Heidelberg and got his PhD from the University of Mannheim. Before moving to Konstanz, he worked as a postdoc at the University of Cambridge. In the GSDS, his research focuses on developing statistical estimation methods which can be applied in economics, finance, and related fields.

1) Why did you choose the University of Konstanz and the GSDS as the next place for continuing your academic career?

My work is located between mathematical statistics on the one hand and econometrics and economics on the other. Hence, I was looking for a position which is related to both fields. The GSDS with its interdisciplinary approach provides a very good environment for me where statisticians, economists, and people from several other interesting fields are involved.

2) In research I am currently most interested in...

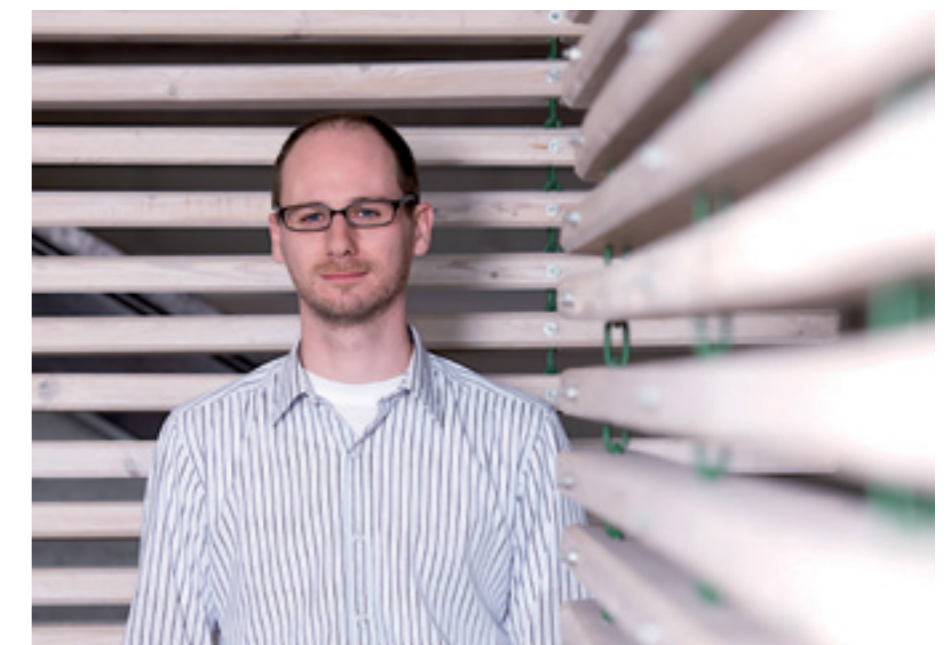
Broadly speaking, I am interested in semi- and nonparametric statistical estimation problems. Very often, I investigate these problems in a time series context where certain nonstationarities come into play. At the moment, I am mainly interested in two problems: (i) detecting and locating certain types of nonstationarities in time series with applications, e.g. in finance and macroeconomics and (ii) structured nonparametric density estimation

and forecasting with applications, e.g. in insurance.

3) The GSDS is an interdisciplinary Graduate School. How will your research benefit from such an integrated approach?

Even though my work is mostly theoretical, I am keen on investigating problems which have interesting applications in practice. So far, I have been mainly working on problems that are motivated by applications in economics and finance. I hope that the interdisciplinary focus of the Graduate School gives me the opportunity to learn more about interesting statistical problems in other fields, such as political science or psychology, and to work on these problems together with applied people from these fields.

4) What has influenced you the most in your academic career so far?



I guess this was my PhD time in Mannheim. There, I started to work on semi- and nonparametrics and on locally stationary time series which are now the main focus of my research.

5) From your personal experience: what advice can you give to the doctoral students of the Graduate School?

When I was stuck in a proof for a few weeks from time to time during my PhD, I wasn't too happy about that. But as I was told by my supervisor, a good problem is a hard problem. And being stuck is a sign that the problem is a hard one, I guess. So there is, after all, a bright side of being stuck! Maybe, that's a bit of comfort when this happens to you next time.



NAWID SIASSI is a junior professor for Dynamic Programming / Dynamic Choice. He studied at Humboldt University Berlin and earned his PhD at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. He had also worked for two years as a Robert Solow Postdoctoral Fellow at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid and visited New York University as a guest researcher.

At the GSDS, his research mainly focuses on Macroeconomics and Labour Economics.

1) Why did you choose the University of Konstanz and the GSDS as the next place for continuing your academic career?

After having spent a few years living and working abroad, I sympathized with the idea of returning to Germany, and, fortunately, I had the opportunity to do so. In my view, the Department of Economics at the University of

Konstanz offers a very active and dynamic research environment with many international ties. Moreover, the newly founded Graduate School of Decision Sciences provides the financial background that is necessary to carry out research at a high level.

2) In research I am currently most interested in...

My current research focuses on the determinants of income and wealth inequality as well as the role of the family as an institution that can provide insurance against different sources of risk. Moreover, I am interested in the interaction between public distributional policies and private decisions made by households not only on the consumption-saving margin but also with regard to labour supply behaviour and marital transitions. Finally, I am currently working on the optimal design of labour market policy in particular, how implementing better employment protection

legislation rules can have an impact on dual labour markets that are present in many European countries.

3) The GSDS is an interdisciplinary Graduate School. How will your research benefit from such an integrated approach?

The GSDS brings together researchers from different fields in an effort to encourage the exchange of ideas and enhance cooperation. Since part of my research revolves around the design of public policy, I have an interest in the politico-economic processes that lead to the implementation of new rules. An intellectual discourse with colleagues from other areas, in particular, on the frontier between economics and political sciences, can, hopefully, be fruitful, and perhaps even lead to the initiation of joint research projects.

4) What has influenced you the most in your academic career so far?

My scientific career has been characterized by the opportunity to work internationally in a variety of countries and excellent academic environments. I have always appreciated these opportunities and hope to be able to transmit part of my experiences to the GSDS.

5) From your personal experience: what advice can you give to the doctoral students of the Graduate School?

Discuss your work with others early and often.

MICHAEL BECHER is a junior professor for Political Economy. He studied Political Science and Economics at the University of Mannheim and obtained his PhD from Princeton University (Department of Politics) in 2013. During 2012, he was a visiting scholar at Oxford's Nuffield College. At the GSDS, his research is mostly located in area (C) Political Decisions and Institutions.

1) Why did you choose the University of Konstanz and the GSDS as the next place for continuing your academic career?

The university offers an excellent research environment. I wanted to come back to Europe after several years in the US, and the position here was a match.

2) In research I am currently most interested in...

A large part of my current research focuses on how democratic constitutions influence fiscal policy and representation. For example, one paper elaborates and tests a game-theoretic model of how electoral rules shape partisan conflict over income redistribution. I have also started a collaborative project on how the weakening of labour unions affects political participation and the representation of economic interests in politics.

3) The GSDS is an interdisciplinary Graduate School. How will your research benefit from such an integrated approach?

The field of political economy analyses the interaction of politics and economics. This is a truly interdisciplinary endeavor with a high potential for positive spillovers and complementarities from working with students and colleagues across different disciplines, especially political science and economics but increasingly also psychology. My experience so far has been that teaching can be effective in promoting fruitful discussions that bridge disciplinary boundaries and may spark new ideas.

4) What has influenced you the most in your academic career so far?

I certainly have benefited a lot from my PhD education. One great thing was the training; another was the network of colleagues that has provided a fertile ground for discussion and a pool of excellent collaborators. The university has also fostered a multi-disciplinary perspective on political economy



issues. For example, the economics department and the politics department organize joint seminars on the issue.

5) From your personal experience: what advice can you give to the doctoral students of the Graduate School?

Take demanding courses that are likely to help you get new skills or develop research ideas and don't worry too much about grades.



PETER N.C. MOHR is a junior professor for Information Processing and Economic Decision Making. He studied Business Administration at the University of Münster and did his PhD in Psychology at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development and FU Berlin. Before coming to the University of Konstanz, he worked as a postdoc at the FU Berlin and the University of Basel.

Within the GSDS, his research focuses on the psychological underpinnings of economic decision making.

1) Why did you choose the University of Konstanz and the GSDS as the next place for continuing your academic career?

So far, my research focused on the neural basis of risk processing and economic decision making under risk (e.g. investment decisions). The GSDS combines expertise in (economic) decision making from several different

disciplines. Furthermore, there is a strong focus on risk processing and risk perception (e.g. health domain) in the Department of Psychology at the University of Konstanz. The University of Konstanz, therefore, offers an optimal location to conduct my research and to cooperate with leading scientists in the relevant fields.

2) In research I am currently most interested in ...

Actually, I am especially interested in age-related changes in economic decision making. The brain structures which are relevant for economic decision making develop and decrease with different speeds during childhood and old age and, therefore, change the “machinery” behind economic decision making.

3) The GSDS is an interdisciplinary Graduate School. How will your research benefit from such an integrated approach?

My research is already very interdisciplinary and combines ideas from economics, psychology, and neuroscience. I have already learned that integrating different perspectives can be very fruitful for research, as one has to jump out of the typical disciplinary borders. I think integrating even more ideas can have an additional positive impact on my research.

4) What has influenced you the most in your academic career so far?

As stated above, my research is highly interdisciplinary, and I had to discuss my work with researchers from all three fields. Explaining my work to them was hard, as each discipline has a focus on different details and often questions what is widely accepted in the other field(s). But this forced me to reflect each detail of my work.

5) From your personal experience: what advice can you give to the doctoral students of the Graduate School?

In my experience, a key determinant of success in science is output-orientation. If you start with science, there are so many “nice-to-knows” and interesting topics out there that it is hard to focus. But in the end you will be judged for your publications and not for the sum of your knowledge.

8. und 9. Mai 2014
Neues Schloss Meersburg

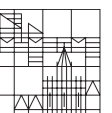
Tagung

Entscheidende Daten:
Die Vermessung
der Gesellschaft

Informationen & Anmeldung

www.uni-konstanz.de/wissenschaftsforum

Universität Konstanz | Konstanzer Wissenschaftsforum
Fon +49 (0)75 31/88-2470
Fax +49 (0)75 31/88-5284
wissenschaftsforum@uni-konstanz.de

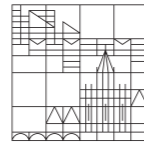


SYMPOSIUM ENTSCHEIDENDE DATEN

Die Vermessung der Gesellschaft



Universität
Konstanz



GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF DECISION SCIENCES



On 8 and 9 May 2014 the Konstanz Science Forum and the Graduate School of Decision Sciences host a conference on “Entscheidende Daten: Die Vermessung der Gesellschaft” at Neues Schloss Meersburg. The Symposium will be the first in a series of events dealing with “transformation processes” from different disciplinary perspectives in the coming years. To realise those events, the Konstanz Science Forum will work with various partners within the university. The series starts on 8 and 9 May with the symposium focusing on “socio-technical transformations”, planned by the Konstanz Science Forum together with Prof. Dr. Ulrik Brandes, Professor of Algorithmics and member of the Graduate School of Decision Sciences.

The focus of the conference is on the immense progress of information and communication technologies that is changing our society not only gradually, but profoundly. The digitalisation of virtually all life and production areas leads to an unprecedented availability of data, which influences and changes economic, cultural, social and political actions. Between personalisation and socially informed algorithms, self metering and external monitoring, free access to information and political mobilisation, options and dependencies are rediscovered and renegotiated. Compared to transformation processes triggered by other technologies such as genetics or nuclear power, the boundaries between promotion and opposition are not quite as expected: the new services are extremely attractive and thus

broadly accepted in society, while at the same time fears are stoked of technological dependence and comprehensive monitoring. What is really happening, and what impact does all of this have on our living together?

In lectures, short statements by panelists, and an ensuing panel discussion technical-methodological, economic and socio-political perspectives are discussed interdisciplinarily.

SPEAKERS ON 8 AND 9 MAY:

Peter A. Gloor (MIT Center for Collective Intelligence),
Andreas Geissler (Teradata GmbH),
Malte Spitz
(BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN),
Bettina Heintz (Soziologisches Seminar Universität Luzern),
Friedemann Mattern (ETH Zürich),
Dirk Baecker (Zeppelin Universität Friedrichshafen),
Nils Weidmann (Universität Konstanz)
und Renate Mayntz (Max-Planck-Institut für Gesellschaftsforschung).

PANEL DISCUSSION “FREIWILD DIGITALES ICH” ON 9 MAY:

Thomas Hofman (ETH Zürich),
Frank Rieger (Chaos Computer Club),
Judith Simon (IT University Copenhagen/Universität Wien),
Dirk Steffen (TNS Infratest GmbH)
Phil Winters (CIAgenda).
Presenter: Gábor Paál
(SWR2 Wissen/SWR2 Forum).

Detailed information: www.uni-konstanz.de/wissenschaftsforum



AS IN FOOTBALL. OR IN THE LAND OF HOBBITS.

The Graduate School of Decision Sciences finds an unusual approach of explaining science with the Science Slam.

Sometimes, science is a football match. Just as in the World Cup final 1994, Italy against Brazil. The attention of the whole world was fixed on Italy's Roberto Baggio, preparing for the decisive penalty kick, the most important kick of his career. He kicked – and blasted the ball over the bar, Brazil won the World Cup. One of the world's best players misses the goal in the penalty shoot-out – how is that possible?

AND WHAT DOES ALL OF THAT
HAVE TO DO WITH SCIENCE?

Quite simple: the tragic penalty kick is the example which Jan Hausfeld, doctoral student of the Graduate School of Decision Sciences, uses to explain his research topic. He investigates decision behaviour under great pressure – such pressure as back then, when all eyes were on Baggio, and the football player had to decide quickly which corner of the goal he wanted to aim the ball at.

However, we are not at the World Cup 1994, but at the Science Slam of the Graduate School of Decision Sciences in December 2013. Probably Jan Hausfeld himself was the one to be under stress then, as he had only seven minutes to explain his research topic to the audience of the Science Slam. A portrait of science while the sand is running out of the hourglass – that

actually requires some sleights of hand. You cannot use technical language here, but catchy analogies will do the trick. For example, football. Or Hobbits. These small, hairy-footed inhabitants of Tolkiens fantasy world are not only popular with the audience. Their adventures in Middle-earth are highly suitable to explain political conflicts with a wink, but also very vividly, as the doctoral student Sabine Otto demonstrates. She investigates the dynamics between a state and rebels in civil wars. At the Science Slam she declares, without further ado, the Hobbits to be the rebels and the sinister Sauron to be the dictator. Who betrays the Hobbits, who supports them, and how do they win other political participants over to their side? Science can be that simple. At least, if it is about Hobbits.

And while the Hobbits embark on adventures and Baggio misses the goal, the audience of the Science Slams realises more and more that serious research is behind these witty examples. The Science Slam is not only a good exercise for doctoral students of the Graduate School of Decision Sciences in explaining complex research in a simple way – “as you would explain it to your grandma”, laughs Sabine Otto. Above all, the Science Slam provides an excellent overview for the doctoral students from various departments who is doing research on which topic in the Graduate School, and where there might be exchange opportunities for future research cooperation projects. That time, without Hobbits.

Jürgen Graf





“A GREAT OPPORTUNITY
TO GET TO KNOW
NEW PEOPLE”

Talking with the first alumna of the Graduate School: Federica Genovese on her memories of Konstanz and her plans after studying Decision Sciences.

Memories of the University of Konstanz – what is the first memory that comes to your mind when you hear the words “University of Konstanz”?

Federica Genovese: Several professional and social recollections come to mind, but perhaps two images are most prominent: the breathtaking lake view from the Mensa (canteen) and the panorama of the Alps from the D3 offices. Probably not what you were expecting, but strong memories indeed!

Your doctoral thesis was nearly finished when you applied for the Graduate School of Decision Sciences (GSDS). Why did you decide to join the Graduate School so close to your PhD?

It was a great opportunity to get to know new people not only in the department but also across faculties. Also, the School offered new financial opportunities that were otherwise unavailable to stipend-holding students like myself at the time.

What advantages did the Graduate School offer you, aside the financial support? Were there some benefits you wouldn't have expected?

The School offered all the benefits I was expecting: occasions to mingle with people interested in broad questions in social science research and in discussing each other's project ideas. I learnt as much from the professors as from the students at the GSDS. I really liked the idea of an interdisciplinary workshop – this did not happen in the one year I belonged to the School, but I hear it finally took place in the fall.

Was there a language barrier at the Graduate School?

Not at all, if you mean language barrier to non-German native speakers. Perhaps the “bias” was in the other direction: at times it was too easy to switch from German to English when I tried to communicate in the former. But frankly, I did not try too hard...

“I LEARNT AS MUCH FROM
THE PROFESSORS AS FROM
THE STUDENTS AT THE GSDS”

After your experience in Konstanz, you were recruited to work in the US. On this note, congratulations on your postdoc position at Stanford! What exactly are you currently working on?

Thanks! Beside my own research on climate negotiations, at Stanford I am involved in two projects. The first one is a large effort of data collection of income tax rates across OECD countries since 1850 onwards, in collaboration with Kenneth Scheve and David Stasavage (NYU). The second one is a project on public opinion on climate change cooperation that draws mainly on recent work by Kenneth Scheve and Michael Bechtel (St. Gallen). Both projects lie in the discipline of international political economy.

Interview: Jürgen Graf

WORKSHOP: THE WOMEN'S DILEMMA

How to Build a Family AND an Academic Career

The good news is that women are better educated than ever before. The bad news is that well educated women – especially those working in academia – have on average fewer children. The desire to have children is often counteracted by the challenge of combining work and family life. The dilemma is not restricted to women in Germany, the same pattern emerges in many other developed countries. For instance, in the recently published article “Why Women Still Can’t Have It All”, Prof. Anne-Marie Slaughter (Princeton University) argues that in the US, it is still impossible for women to combine professional success with a fulfilled family life.

The first GSDS workshop picked up on this important topic and offered a forum to discuss the dilemma between professional and private obligations in academic environments in the USA and in Germany.

The GSDS invited three participants – Prof. Kathleen Cunningham (University of Maryland), Prof. Nathalie Behnke (University of Konstanz), and Prof. Gerald Schneider (University of Konstanz) – to share their experiences with junior researchers. The participants discussed the main hurdles in combining work and family life, why the situation has not improved much in recent years, and what steps can be taken to help female (and male) academics balance family and career.

The panel discussion highlighted two main paths to combining career and family. First, discipline and coordination can compensate barriers such as the lack of childcare or temporary working contracts. Second, women and partners able to plan their careers together stand better chances of successfully meeting professional challenges and a healthy family life.

The workshop was held on May 28, 2013 at the University of Konstanz and was chaired by GSDS doctoral student Sabine Otto.

PARTICIPANTS

Kathleen Cunningham is an Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland in the Department of Government and

Politics, where she is affiliated with the Center for International Development and Conflict Management. Additionally, she is a Senior Researcher at Peace Research Institute Oslo and a former Fulbright Scholar. Her work centers on bargaining, conflict, self-determination and strategies of dissent, and has been published in several top political science journals, including the American Political Science Review, the American Journal of Political Science, and Perspectives on Politics.



Nathalie Behnke is Professor of Public Administration at the University of Konstanz. Her research is focused on executive governance in multi-level systems, combining insights and theoretical developments from federalism and public administration research. In recent research projects she deals in particular with fiscal federalism (normative, legal and fiscal analysis as well as simulation studies), with territorial and non-territorial accommodation policies in multinational societies (comparative case studies explaining territorial dynamics), and with executive coordination networks (social network analysis underpinning and developing



the theory of multilevel governance). She has published several textbooks on empirical research methods, articles in leading federalism journals, such as Publius and Regional & Federal Studies, as well as in political science journals, such as the European Journal of Political Research and Politische Vierteljahresschrift. She serves as an expert for the reform of fiscal federalism in Germany, and as judge at the constitutional court of the Land Baden-Wurttemberg.

Gerald Schneider is Professor of International Politics and Vice Coordinator of the Graduate School of Decision Sciences. He is the author and co-author of more than 150 articles and chapters; recent publications have appeared in Civil Wars, Journal of Common Market Studies, Journal of Peace Research, International Interactions and the Japanese Journal of Political Science. Schneider is President of the European Political Science Association (2013-2015), Executive Editor of European Union Politics and Co-Editor of International Interactions. His main areas of research are European Union decision making, the causes and consequences of armed violence, the international political economy of financial markets, bargaining and conflict management.

Gerald Schneider is Professor of International Politics and Vice Coordinator

of the Graduate School of Decision Sciences. He is the author and co-author of more than 150 articles and chapters; recent

publications have appeared in Civil Wars, Journal of Common Market Studies, Journal of Peace Research, International Interactions and the Japanese Journal of Political Science. Schneider is President of the European Political Science Association (2013-2015), Executive Editor of European Union Politics and Co-Editor of International Interactions. His main areas of research are European Union decision making, the causes and consequences of armed violence, the international political economy of financial markets, bargaining and conflict management.

Sabine Otto

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS)

Guest Lecturer Course 2013

Theoretical accounts in the social sciences often emphasize how territorial and geographic features impact individual and collective decision making. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) allow researchers to incorporate spatial considerations into their models. Moreover, GIS are inherently interdisciplinary and can enrich various sub-fields

of social science. The flexibility to present, analyse, manipulate, and interact with geographically referenced data allows researchers to address a large variety of questions. Space, in form of distance or geographical features, has been modelled using GIS in many disciplines, including economics, political science, and psychology.

WHAT IS A GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM?

GIS allow storing and manipulating geographical information electronically. It allows researchers to manage, visualize, and analyse geo-referenced data. Useful applications range from mapping information in terms of quantity, density, or distance to estimating models in order to inspect spatial relationships.

WHY LEARN GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS?

Theoretical accounts often emphasize the importance of spatial elements, such as local topography, demography, or proximity, but due to feasibility issues, these are rarely taken into account. Examples include travel distance, property prices, or wealth distribution. Moreover, researchers are often forced to make unreasonable assumptions about the homogeneity of their highly aggregated units of analysis. For instance, in analysing the relationship of economic development and conflict outbreak, researchers must be sensitive to whether the average national GDP is a valid predictor for civil war onset, or whether regional level of development



determines violent conflict in only certain areas of the country.

GIS allow addressing these challenges. The two main advantages of GIS are disaggregation of data and acquisition of spatially relevant information (Gleditsch and Weidmann, Annual Review of Political Science 15(1), 2012). The former refers to generating data on geographically smaller units of observation, for instance federal regions or cities as opposed to countries, while the latter refers to the computation of geographic quantities of interest, such as distance or area. Both the disaggregation of data and the computation of spatial quantities intend to solve theoretical and methodological issues.

Thus, GIS allow researchers to investigate relationships impeded by data availability when applying conventional (non-spatial) methods and provide

a new lens through which researchers can view established "truths".

Guest Lecturer

Associate Professor Jan Ketil Rød, Department of Geography, NTNU, has wide experience in the use of GIS. He has applied GIS for a variety of topics, including the study of civil armed conflicts, environmental hazards and vulnerability mapping, urban and land use planning, road traffic accidents, and educational geography.

Espen Geelmuyden Rød



17–19 DECEMBER 2014: DO I LIKE WHAT I PREFER?

Integrating research on attitudes and preferences

We are very pleased to announce our symposium “Do I like what I prefer? Integrating research on attitudes and preferences”, to be held from 17 to 19 December 2014 at the University of Konstanz.

AIM

The aim of the symposium is to bring together interdisciplinary measurement approaches for attitudes and preferences in order to equip researchers from various fields (e.g. psychology, economics, and political science) with a more diverse set of methods. This will not only facilitate the theoretical integration among social sciences but might also eventually evolve into a more comprehensive understanding of decision making.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Beyond keynote review sessions, a panel discussion, and a series of workshops on specific methods from various fields (e.g. psychology, economics, and political science), the symposium will feature 20-minute presentations as well as two poster sessions. Submissions for the presentations and poster sessions are invited on research that

uses methods from attitude and preference research to answer integrative research questions or illustrates topics in which such integration is promising. The participation fee is 100 Euro.

Authors may submit an extended abstract or a paper (PDF format) via the symposium webpage. In addition, an abstract of max 500 words is required that should (1) summarize the research and (2) outline how the research can contribute to the symposium.

CONTACT & FURTHER INFORMATION
www.gsds.uni-konstanz.de/symposium-2014
gsds.attpref2014@uni-konstanz.de

OPENING SESSION SPEAKERS

Peter M. Gollwitzer
Urs Fischbacher

REVIEW SPEAKERS

Bertram Gawronski
Armin Falk
Ryan O. Murphy

SYMPOSIUM ORGANIZATION TEAM

Maik Bieleke
David Dohmen
Anja Weiergräber

DATES

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
31 July 2014



IMPRINT

PUBLISHED BY:

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Ulrich Rüdiger
Rector of the University of Konstanz

Graduate School of Decision Sciences
University of Konstanz
www.gsds.uni-konstanz.de

LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY:

Prof. Dr. Leo Kaas
Coordinator of the
Graduate School of Decision Sciences

EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY:

Jutta Obenland
Graduate School of Decision Sciences

LAYOUT

naturblau+++
www.naturblau.de

PHOTOS:

Inka Reiter Fotodesign
www.inkareiter.de

