

Mira Fischer

Contact Information

Berlin Social Science Center
Market Behavior Research Unit
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Citizenship: Germany

Research Fields

Primary Fields: Economics of Education, Behavioral Economics
Secondary Fields: Behavioral Policy-Making, Organizational Economics

Employment

09/2018 – WZB Berlin Social Science Center, Postdoctoral Research Associate (6 years, fixed-term)
04/2012 – 08/2018 University of Cologne, Research and Teaching Assistant
09/2011 – 09/2012 Cologne Institute for Economic Research, Junior Economist

Education

04/2012 – 03/2018 Ph.D. in Economics (awarded summa cum laude), University of Cologne, thesis title: “Essays in Behavioral Economics of Education”, supervisor: Dirk Sliwka, committee: Bernd Irlenbusch, Matthias Heinz
10/2013 – 05/2014 Ph.D. Course Program in Economics of Education, University of Zurich
10/2008 – 03/2011 Master in International Economics, University of Konstanz, grade: 1.4, top <5%
09/2010 – 12/2010 Exchange Student, RGGU, Moscow
10/2005 – 07/2008 Bachelor in Philosophy (major) and Political Science (minor), University of Konstanz, grade: 1.3, top <5%
09/2002 – 06/2004 International Baccalaureate Diploma, International School Maastricht

Academic Visits

05/2019 Hanken School of Economics, Helsinki, host: Topi Miettinen
01/2019 Ifo Institute, Munich, host: Ludger Wössmann
12/2017 University of Chicago, host: John List
11/2017 University College London and NIESR, host: Alex Bryson
03 –04/2017 NHH Norwegian School of Economics, Bergen, hosts: Bertil Tungodden and Alexander Cappelen
09 –11/2014 University of Chicago, host: John List
11/2013 NIESR, London, host: Alex Bryson

Affiliations and Memberships

06/2020 –	Economic Science Association Mentoring Program, Mentee
10/2018 –	IAB-UCL Anglo-German Early Career Quantitative Education Researchers Network, Member
09/2018 –	Collaborative Research Center Transregio (Berlin and Munich) “Rationality and Competition”, Member
02/2018 –	IZA Institute of Labor Economics, Bonn, Research Affiliate
07/2015 – 08/2018	Cologne Center for Social and Economic Behavior, Member

Journal Articles

Fischer, M., Sliwka, D. (2018) Confidence in Knowledge or Confidence in the Ability to Learn: An Experiment on the Causal Effects of Beliefs on Motivation, **Games and Economic Behavior**, 111, 122-142

Fischer, M., Kauder, B., Potrafke, N., Ursprung, H.W. (2017) Support for Free-market Policies and Reforms: Does the Field of Study Influence Students’ Political Attitudes?, **European Journal of Political Economy**, 48, 180-197

Fischer, M., Kampkötter, P. (2017) Effects of German Universities’ Excellence Initiative on Ability Sorting of Students and perceptions of Educational Quality, **Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics**, 173(4), 662-687

Fischer, M., Lotz, S. (2014) Ist sanfter Paternalismus ethisch vertretbar? Eine differenzierende Betrachtung aus Sicht der Freiheit, **Sozialer Fortschritt/German Review of Social Policy**, 63(3), 52-58 -- English version -- : Is Soft Paternalism Ethically Legitimate? - The Relevance of Psychological Processes for the Assessment of Nudge-Based Policies, Cologne Graduate School Working Paper, 5(2), 2014

Handbook Articles

Fischer, M., Khadjavi, M. (2020) Präferenzen, In Heidbrink, L., Lorch, A., Rauen, V. (Eds.): **Springer Handbuch Praktische Wirtschaftsphilosophie** (1-13), Wiesbaden: Springer VS

Working Papers

Two Field Experiments on Self-Selection, Collaboration Intensity, and Team Performance, with Rainer Michael Rilke and Burcin Yurtoglu

The E-Word - On the Public Acceptance of Experiments (representative survey experiment), with Elisabeth Grewenig, Philipp Lergetporer and Katharina Werner

Effects of Timing and Reference Frame of Feedback: Evidence from a Field Experiment, with Valentin Wagner

Saliency of Ability Grouping and Biased Belief Formation (lab experiment)

Work in Progress

Investigating the Effect of Mindfulness Meditation on Academic Performance (field experiment), with Lea Cassar and Vanessa Valero

Does the Support for Behavioral Policies Depend on Why they Work? Representative Evidence on the Relevance of Psychological Mechanisms (representative survey experiment), with Elisabeth Grewenig, Philipp Lergetporer, Katharina Werner, and Ludger Wössmann

Understanding the Response to High-Stakes Incentives in Primary Education (secondary analysis of representative data), with Maximilian Bach

Invited Presentations and Seminars

- 2020 Economic Science Association Junior Faculty Webinar
- 2019 Ifo Institute, Hanken School of Economics, University of Trier
- 2018 Hanken School of Economics, IZA Institute of Labor Economics, WZB Berlin, Bristol
Workshop on Assessment and Feedback
- 2017 NHH Norwegian School of Economics, University of Maastricht, University of Chicago,
NIESR
- 2016 University of Düsseldorf
- 2014 University of Chicago

Conference Presentations

- 2020 Workshop on Contracts and Incentives, Tokyo (scheduled)
- 2019 IAB-UCL Anglo-German Early Career Quantitative Education Researchers Meeting,
Nuremberg
- 2018 European Economic Association Annual Congress, Cologne; Advances with Field
Experiments, Boston University; Lisbon Meeting on Economics and Political Science
- 2017 Workshop on Equity in Education, University of Leuven; Advances with Field Experiments,
University of Chicago; IZA Workshop on the Economics of Education; Maastricht
Behavioral and Experimental Economics Symposium
- 2016 Economic Science Association World Meeting, Jerusalem; Incentives and Behavior Change
Conference, Tel Aviv University; Cologne Social Cognition Meeting; Workshop on
Education, Skills and Labor Market Outcomes, University of Trondheim; TIER Workshop
on Education Economics, University of Maastricht; Ifo Workshop on Labor Economics and
Social Policy, Dresden
- 2015 Mini-School by the Research Center for Rationality in the Light of Experimental Economics,
Düsseldorf; Colloquium on Personnel Economics, Vienna; LEER Workshop on Education
Economics, University of Leuven; Maastricht Behavioral and Experimental Economics
Symposium; TIBER Symposium on Psychology and Economics, University of Tilburg;
Workshop on the Economics of Education and Self-Regulation, University of Mainz
- 2014 World Congress of the International Economic Association, Dead Sea, Jordan; Workshop on
Applied Economics of Education, Catanzaro
- 2013 Workshop on University Management, University of Duisburg; Colloquium on Personnel
Economics, Tübingen
- 2012 TIBER Symposium on Psychology and Economics, University of Tilburg; Economic Science
Association European Conference, Cologne

Summer Schools

- 2016 HCEO Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality, University of Bonn
- 2015 Summer School in Economics of Education and Self-Regulation, University of Mainz
- 2012 Cologne Summer School in Philosophy

Refereeing

Management Science, European Economic Review, Labour Economics, Education Economics, Journal
of Economic Behavior and Organization, Educational Researcher

Awards, Scholarships and Grants

Nominated for Participation in the 70th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting (postponed to 2021)
Sponsorship by Techniker Krankenkasse health insurance for field experiment on meditation and academic performance (~ 10,000 euros, primary applicant), 2019
Shared sponsorship by University of Chicago (Prof. John List) and Cologne Center for Social and Economic Behavior for research stay at University of Chicago, 2017
Sponsorship by Nuffield Foundation for research stay at University College London and NIESR, 2017
Travel grant from Cologne Center for Social and Economic Behavior for research stay at NHH Norwegian School of Economics, 2017
Best paper award (with Patrick Kampkötter) for “Effects of German Universities' Excellence Initiative on Ability Sorting of Students and perceptions of Educational Quality” from the German Academic Association for Business Research, 2013
Travel grant from German Academic Exchange Service for exchange semester in Moscow, 2010
Tuition fee waivers for being among the top 5% of graduates of my Bachelor's program in Philosophy in 2008 and my Master's program in International Economics in 2011

Teaching (all at the University of Cologne, much in collaboration with colleagues)

- *Master level classes*

Moral and Social Norms (Seminar): winter 16/17, winter 17/18
Advanced Business Ethics (Course): summer 16, summer 17
Business Ethics and Continental Philosophy (Tutorial): winter 15/16, winter 16/17, winter 17/18, summer 18
Economics of Incentives in Organizations (Tutorial): summer 15
Empirical Studies in Human Resource Management (Seminar): summer 13
Strategic Human Resource Management (Tutorial): winter 12/13, winter 13/14, winter 14/15

- *Bachelor level classes*

Experimental Studies in Personnel Economics (Seminar): winter 14/15
Experimental Studies in Personnel and Education Economics (Seminar): winter 13/14
Human Resource Management (Tutorial): summer 13, summer 14

Theses Supervision

- At University of Cologne
16 Master's and 29 Bachelor's theses in personnel, labor, education and behavioral economics, and ethics
- In Berlin
1 Master's thesis in education economics and 1 Bachelor's thesis in behavioral economics

Media Coverage (selected)

WirtschaftsWoche, August 15, 2019: “Warum der Abschluss einer Exzellenzuni keine Karrieregarantie ist“ [“Why a degree from an excellence university is not a guarantee for a career“]

Times Higher Education, April 24, 2018: “Research prestige boosts students' satisfaction, study finds“

Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung, August 21, 2016: “Du bist, was du studierst”[“You are what you study“]

Public Speaking

Presentation on “Policy Experiments and Behaviorally-informed Policies: Some Clarifications” at 1st Behaviour Change Science & Policy Symposium, Helsinki, May 15, 2019

Panelist for discussion on “Nudging and Persuasive Design” at Berlin Design Week, September 20, 2018

Panelist for expert talks on “Corporate Behavior and Human Rights” at German Institute for Human Rights, Berlin, November 8, 2018

Contributions to Education Policy (in German)

Fischer, M., Geis, W. (2013) Bestimmungsgrößen der Bildungsmobilität in Deutschland [Determinants of Educational Mobility in Germany], IW-Trends, 1/13

Anger, C., Fischer, M., Geis, W., Lotz, S., Plünnecke, A., Schmidt, J. (2012) Gesamtwirtschaftliche Effekte einer Ganztagsbetreuung von Kindern von Alleinerziehenden [Macroeconomic Effects of Day Care for Children of Single Parents] (with), Report for the Federal Ministry for Families, Senior Citizens, Women, and Youth (BMFSFJ) and the German Red Cross

Anger, C., Fischer, M., Esselmann, I., Plünnecke, A. (2012) Bildungsmonitor 2012. Infrastruktur verbessern – Teilhabe sichern – Wachstumskräfte stärken [Education Monitor 2012. Improving the infrastructure – securing participation – strengthening growth], Report by the Cologne Institute for Economic Research