

Mira Fischer

Contact Information

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Research Fields

Economics of education, organizational economics, political preferences

Research Methods

Applied econometrics (esp. causal inference with administrative and survey data), design of randomized controlled trials, lab and representative survey experiments

Employment

- 09/2018 – WZB Berlin Social Science Center, Postdoctoral Research Associate (6-years fixed-term position)
- 04/2012 – 08/2018 University of Cologne, Chairs of Personnel Economics and Business Ethics, Research and Teaching Assistant
- 09/2011 – 09/2012 Cologne Institute for Economic Research, Education, Migration and Innovation Research Unit, Junior Economist (policy advice)

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, Switzerland
- 10/2008 – 03/2011 Master in International Economics, University of Konstanz, grade: 1.4, top <5%, thesis title: “Subjects Studied and Students’ Political Ideology”
- 09/2010 – 12/2010 Exchange Semester, Russian State University for the Humanities (RGGU), Moscow, Russia: courses in political science and Russian language
- 10/2005 – 07/2008 Bachelor in Philosophy (major) and Political Science (minor), University of Konstanz, grade: 1.3, top <5%, thesis title: “Political Liberalism from the Perspective of Richard Rorty’s Pragmatist Philosophy”
- 10/2004 – 06/2005 Two semesters of intensive Polish language course, Wroclaw University of Science and Technology, Poland
- 09/2002 – 06/2004 International Baccalaureate Diploma (in English), International School Maastricht, The Netherlands

Academic Visits

10–12/2021	UC San Diego, host: Sally Sadoff
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 Female 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

Internships

03 – 04/2010	German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), Center for Central and Eastern Europe, Berlin, Intern
04/2006	Kölnische Rundschau (newspaper), Cologne, Intern

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

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

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

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 Lorgetporer and Katharina Werner

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

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

Work in Progress

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 Lorgetporer, Katharina Werner, and Ludger Wössmann

Decomposing the Variance in Pupil Attainment in England (analysis of administrative school data), with Alex Bryson, Lucy Stokes and David Wilkinson

How do people trade off between monetary and non-monetary job attributes? (analysis of representative linked employer-employee data), with Stephan Meier

Invited Presentations and Research Seminars

- 2021 University of Stavanger (online), UC San Diego
- 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

- 2021 International Workshop on Applied Economics of Education; XXIX Meeting of the Economics of Education Association, European Association of Labour Economists Annual Conference; German Economic Association Annual Conference (all online)
- 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

Awards, Scholarships and Grants

Nominated for Participation in the 70th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting

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

Refereeing

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

Other Service

- 08/2020 – Member of research ethics board, WZB Berlin Social Science Center
- 06/2020 – Co-organizer of Berlin Behavioral Economics Research Seminar Series
- 04/2019 –05/2021 Member of academic council, WZB Berlin Social Science Center

Teaching

- Master level classes

(at the Hertie School of Governance, Berlin)

Field Experiments and Policy Evaluation in Education: spring 22 (expected)

(at the University of Cologne)

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

(at the University of Cologne)

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

- in Berlin

1 Master's thesis in education economics and 1 Bachelor's thesis in behavioral economics

- at University of Cologne

16 Master's and 29 Bachelor's theses in personnel, labor, education and behavioral economics, and ethics

Media Coverage (selected)

Süddeutsche Zeitung, July 1, 2021: "Mehr Kompetenz, aber auch mehr Stress" ["More skills but also more stress"]

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

Introduction of Ernst Fehr's WZB Distinguished Lecture in Social Sciences, online, October 29, 2020

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

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

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

Non-peer-reviewed Publications

Bach, M., Fischer, M. (2021) Mit verbindlichen Grundschulempfehlungen erreichen Grundschüler/innen bessere Leistungen, empfinden aber auch mehr Stress [When primary school recommendations are binding, primary school students achieve better performance but also experience more stress], ZEW Policy Brief Nr. 21-01

Fischer, M. (2020) Delayed policy responses to COVID-19: The role of the WHO's structural problem, Coronavirus and its Societal Impact - Highlights from WZB Research, WZB Berlin Social Science Center

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