

# Mira Fischer

## Contact Information

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Market Behavior Research Unit  
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Citizenship: Germany

## Research Fields

Primary Fields: Behavioral Economics, Economics of Education  
Secondary Fields: Organizational Economics, Political Economy

## Employment and Affiliations

09/2018 –	WZB Berlin Social Science Center, Postdoctoral Research Associate (6 years, fixed-term)
02/2018 –	IZA Institute of Labor Economics, Research Affiliate
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
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, Minor in Political Science, University of Konstanz (grade: 1.3, top <5%)

## Academic Visits

05/2019	Hanken School of Economics, host: Topi Miettinen
01/2019	Ifo Institute, 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, hosts: Bertil Tungodden and Alexander Cappelen
09 –11/2014	University of Chicago, host: John List
11/2013	NIESR, host: Alex Bryson

## 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

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

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

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

Peer Selection and Academic Performance: Evidence from a Field Experiment, with Rainer Michael Rilke and Burcin Yurtoglu

## Work in Progress

Meditation and 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

Ability Tracking Incentives and Human Capital Acquisition in German Schools (secondary analysis of representative data), with Maximilian Bach

## Invited Presentations and Seminars

- 2019 Ifo Institute, Hanken School of Economics, Behaviour Change Science & Policy Symposium Helsinki, University of Trier
- 2018 Hanken School of Economics, IZA, WZB Berlin, Bristol Workshop on Assessment and Feedback, Berlin Design Week: Nudging & Persuasive Design
- 2017 NHH Norwegian School of Economics, University of Maastricht, University of Chicago, NIESR
- 2016 University of Düsseldorf
- 2014 University of Chicago

## Conference Presentations

- 2019 IAB-UCL Anglo German Early Career Quantitative Education Researchers Meeting, Nuremberg
- 2018 EEA 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 ESA 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 IEA, 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; ESA 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

Shared sponsorship by University of Chicago (Becker Friedman Institute) 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

Sponsorship by Techniker Krankenkasse health insurance for field experiment on meditation and academic performance (~ 10,000 euros, primary applicant), 2019

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

Management Science, European Economic Review, Labour Economics, Education Economics

## **Teaching** (all at the University of Cologne)

### - *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 excellent 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**

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