

<b>RESEARCH INTEREST</b>	<i>Political economy, development economics, public economics, economic geography</i>	
<b>CURRENT POSITION</b>	<i>Associate Professor, Department of Economics KU Leuven, Belgium</i>	Feb 2026 - Today
<b>PAST POSITIONS</b>	<i>SNSF Ambizione Fellow (Postdoc), Department of Economics University of St.Gallen, Switzerland</i>	Mar 2023 - Jan 2026
	<i>Postdoctoral Researcher, Wyss Academy for Nature University of Bern, Switzerland</i>	May 2022 - Feb 2023
	<i>Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Economics University of St.Gallen, Switzerland</i>	May 2019 - Apr 2022
	<i>Research Associate, Department of Economics Leibniz University of Hannover, Germany</i>	Apr 2015 - Apr 2019
<b>VISITING POSITIONS</b>	<i>Monash University, Melbourne, Australia Monash University, Melbourne, Australia Georgetown University, Washington DC, United States</i>	Aug 2025 - Nov 2025 Feb 2024 - Apr 2024 Sep 2016 - Nov 2016
<b>EDUCATION</b>	<i>Leibniz University Hannover Ph.D. in Economics, April 2019 (final grade: Summa cum laude) University of Heidelberg, Germany M.A. &amp; B.A., Political Science and Economics, 2010-2015</i>	
<b>WORKING PAPERS</b>	<p>Mining for peace (with Roland Hodler and Alberto Vesperoni). <i>Journal of the European Economic Association</i> <b>Conditionally Accepted</b>. <a href="#">Link to latest version</a>.</p> <p>Ethnofederalism and ethnic voting (with Richard Bluhm and Roland Hodler). <i>CESifo Working Paper No. 9314</i>. <a href="#">Link to latest version</a>.</p> <p>Local majorities: How administrative divisions shape comparative development (with Richard Bluhm and Roland Hodler). <i>University of St.Gallen Discussion Paper No. 2110</i>. <a href="#">Link to latest version</a>.</p>	
<b>PUBLICATIONS</b>	<p>Insuring peace: Index-based livestock insurance, droughts, and conflict (with Kai Gehring). <i>Quarterly Journal of Economics</i>, qjag005. <a href="#">Published version (gated)</a>.</p> <p>The political geography of cities (with Richard Bluhm and Christian Lessmann). <i>American Economic Journal: Applied Economics</i>, <b>Forthcoming</b>. <a href="#">Link to latest version</a>.</p> <p>Armed groups: Competition and political violence (with Martin Gassebner and</p>	

Melvin H. L. Wong). *Journal of Development Economics*, 2023, 162:103052. [Published version \(open access\)](#).

Fueling conflict? (De)Escalation and bilateral aid (with Richard Bluhm, Martin Gassebner and Sarah Langlotz). *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, 2021, 36:2, 244–261. [Published version \(gated\)](#).

First impressions: How leader changes affect bilateral aid (with Tobias Rommel). *Journal of Public Economics*, 2020, 185, 1-12. [Published version \(gated\)](#).

The effect of migration on terror - Made at home or imported from abroad? (with Axel Dreher and Martin Gassebner). *Canadian Journal of Economics*, 2020, 53:4, 1703-1744. [Published version \(open access\)](#).

**PAPERS IN PREPARATION** Cultural frictions, market access, and regional growth (with Roland Hodler and Michael Thuetting).

Pits and Smoke: Measuring industrial mining from space (with Kai Gehring and Michael Mommert).

Rocks and regulations: Assessing the economic and environmental impacts of industrial mining (with Kai Gehring and Dylan Phillippe).

**POLICY WRITINGS** “Policies for Sustainable Mining: When Geography Matters.” (with Roland Hodler and Alberto Vesperoni) In Downstream Diversification of Mineral-Rich Countries: Challenges and Opportunities to Add Value in Energy Transition Supply Chains, 2026 edited by Tom S.H. Moerenhout and Juan Carlos Jobet, 95–106. Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland. [Published version \(open access\)](#).

**GRANTS & PRIZES** Ambizione career grant, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), CHF 887,000

International Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of St.Gallen, CHF 260,000

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE** Refereeing: *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Economic Policy*, *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Empirical Economics*, *World Development*, *Review of International Organization*, *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, *African Development Review*, *European Journal of Political Economy*, *German Economic Review*, *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, *Social Science Quarterly*

Workshops Organization: Resources, conflict, and the environment Workshop (Zurich, Switzerland), Micro and macro perspectives on structural change Workshop (St.Gallen, Switzerland), 4th Conference of the Development Economics Network Switzerland (St.Gallen, Switzerland), Coordinator of Doctoral Workshop German Economic Association Research Group on Development Economics 2016 (Hannover, Germany)

**INVITED TALKS, CONFERENCES, SEMINARS** **2025:** ReCIPE Annual Conference (Paris, France), ifo-Workshop on the Economics of Adaptation to Climate Change (Munich, Germany), IOS Seminar Uni Regensburg (Regensburg, Germany), GDEC (Frankfurt, Germany).

**2024:** NBER Political Economy Program Meeting (Boston, United States), BSE Summer Forum Political Economy Workshop (Barcelona, Spain), KIEL-CEPR African Economic Development Conference (Berlin, Germany), GDEC (Hannover, Germany),

*Economic Seminar (University of Goettingen, Germany), Applied Economics Seminar (Monash University, Australia), TrEnCE Seminar (Paris Dauphine University, France / virtual).*

**2023:** Econ Seminar (WU Vienna, Austria), DENS (Bern, Switzerland), ZEW-ifo Young Scholar Political Economy Workshop (Mannheim, Germany), GDEC (Dresden, Germany), European meeting UEA (Milan, Italy), EPICS (Hannover, Germany), ASSA (New Orleans, United States)

**2022:** UEA (DC, United State), EEA (Milan, Italy), German Development Economics Conference (Hohenheim, Germany), Conference of the European Public Choice Society (Braga, Portugal), CSAE, (Oxford, United Kingdom / virtual)

**2021:** Economics seminar (Université de Fribourg, Switzerland), HiCN (Goettingen, Germany / virtual), Beyond Basic Questions Workshop (Nuremberg, Germany), EEA-ESEM (Copenhagen, Denmark / virtual), 10th European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association (Copenhagen, Denmark / virtual), Conference of the European Public Choice Society (Lille, France / virtual)

**2020:** Economics seminar (University of Bergen, Norway), Cities and Development Workshop, Harvard University (virtual), 2020 Virtual Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, Swiss Workshop on Political Economy and Development (Weggis, Switzerland), Development Economics Network Switzerland (St.Gallen, Switzerland)

**2019:** GlaD seminar (University of Hannover, Germany), Development Economics Network Switzerland (Zurich, Switzerland), Beyond Basic Questions Workshop (Kiel, Germany), Annual International Conference of the German Economic Association Research Group on Development Economics (Berlin, Germany), Workshop on Geodata and Economics (Hamburg, Germany), Conference of the European Public Choice Society (Jerusalem, Israel)

**2018:** ISF Workshop - Domestic Political Changes and International Agreements, (Haifa, Israel), Beyond Basic Questions Workshop (Gengenbach, Germany), Annual International Conference of the German Economic Association Research Group on Development Economics (Zurich, Switzerland), Workshop on Geodata and Economics (Braunschweig, Germany), International Conference on Globalization and Development (Goettingen, Germany)

**2017:** Annual Conference on Immigration in OECD Countries (Paris, France), CESifo Workshop on Political Economy (Dresden, Germany), IPES (Austin, United States), EEA (Lisbon, Portugal), Annual International Conference of the German Economic Association Research Group on Development Economics (Goettingen, Germany), EPICS (Budapest, Hungary)

**2016:** CESifo Workshop on Political Economy (Dresden, Germany), VSB Department of Economics Seminar Series (Villanova University, United States), Silvaplana Workshop in Political Economy (Pontresina, Switzerland), Workshop on Geospatial Analysis of Disasters (Heidelberg, Germany), Beyond Basic Question Workshop (Salzburg, Austria), Annual International Conference of the German Economic Association Research Group on Development Economics (Heidelberg, Germany), EPICS (Freiburg, Germany), PEIO (Salt Lake City, United States)

**2015:** CESifo Workshop on Political Economy (Dresden, Germany), Doctoral Workshop German Economic Association Research Group on Development Economics

*(Zurich, Switzerland), Beyond Basic Questions Workshop (Hannover, Germany)*

<b>TEACHING EXPERIENCE/ SUPERVISION</b>	<b>University of St.Gallen, Switzerland</b>	
	<i>Lectures</i>	
	• <i>Public Economics (Bachelor)</i>	2024
	<i>Seminars</i>	
	• <i>Natural Resources and Conflict (Master)</i>	2025
	• <i>Political Economy of Natural Resources (Master)</i>	2024
	• <i>Ethnic Politics and Economic Development in Africa (Master)</i>	2020 - 2023
	• <i>Conflicts in Africa (Bachelor)</i>	2020 - 2022
	<b>Leibniz University Hannover, Germany</b>	
	<i>Lectures</i>	
	• <i>Introduction to Macroeconomics (Bachelor)</i>	2018
	<i>Seminars</i>	
	• <i>Current Topics in Macroeconomics (Bachelor)</i>	2016 - 2019
	• <i>Empirical Economics (Master)</i>	2018
	<i>Tutorials</i>	
	• <i>Introduction to Applied Economics in Macroeconomics (Bachelor)</i>	2018
	• <i>Introduction to Macroeconomics (Bachelor)</i>	2015 - 2018
	<b>University of Heidelberg, Germany</b>	
	<i>Tutorials</i>	
	• <i>Introduction to Stata (Bachelor)</i>	2012 - 2013
	• <i>Introduction to International Relations (Bachelor)</i>	2012 - 2013