JAKOB SCHMIDHÄUSER

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Jakob Schmidhäuser

Research Fields

Public Economics, Labor Economics, Economics of Science

Education

University of Mannheim, CDSE - PhD in Economics since 09/2020

University of Mannheim - M.Sc. in Economics 2019

University of Heidelberg - B.Sc. in Economics 2017

Research

Foreign Troops, Local Economies: The Economic Effects of US Withdrawals from Germany (JMP)
with Johannes Kochems [Discussion Paper]

This paper analyzes the local economic impacts of troop deployments. We exploit variation from the historic large-scale US troop withdrawal from Germany triggered by the end of the Cold War, to estimate the effect on local labor markets and public finances. We use administrative data provided by the US Department of Defense to quantify the size of the troop withdrawal at the municipal level. Using a synthetic difference-in-differences estimator, we find negative effects on local labor markets: for each withdrawn US soldier, the number of local jobs decreases by 0.53. The decrease in economic activity results in a reduction of revenues which municipalities balance by lowering their expenditures, while increasing business and property tax multipliers. In individual-level analyses, we document that workers displaced by the closure of a US military base have persistently lower employment rates. Moreover, their daily wages remain around 9.2 percent lower fifteen years after the layoff. The negative impact on labor outcomes is particularly pronounced for women, older workers, and those employed in regions with more unfavorable initial labor market conditions.

Media Germany: Handelsblatt (1), (2), (3), DIE ZEIT, Süddeutsche Zeitung, DER SPIEGEL, Frankfurter Allgemeine, DIE WELT, Focus, Stern, ntv, Staatsanzeiger BW

Media International: Bloomberg, The Telegraph, IlSole24Ore

Podcast: ZEW Wirklich Wirtschaft: Spotify, Apple Podcasts

Inequality as a Constraint on (Repugnant) Markets
with Paul Hild [Draft]

Repugnant markets, such as organ sales, are often restricted even when they could raise efficiency. We study whether income inequality between transacting parties shapes public repugnance toward such exchanges. We implement vignette experiments in US and European samples. Across both samples, inequality between parties is a powerful predictor of repugnance: transactions are viewed as most objectionable when a low-income individual sells to a medium-income individual and least objectionable when both parties are medium-income. Between the two samples, we find clear differences in baseline attitudes. Europeans show stronger repugnance overall: they are more likely to judge kidney sales and surrogate motherhood as unacceptable, while they do not view prostitution as objectionable to the same degree as Americans, consistent with prevailing social norms. These results provide new evidence on how cultural norms and the direction of inequality shape acceptance of contested markets and can inform debates on the design of market regulation.

Greek Labor Markets
with Efi Adamopoulou and Alexandre Gnaedinger

Statistical Significance
with Abel Brodeur and Michaela Slotwinski

Academic Experience

Researcher (full position) ZEW Mannheim, Inequality and Public Policy since 09/2021
Head: Until 05/2022 Prof. Sebastian Siegloch; since 05/2022 Prof. Holger Stichnoth

Teaching Assistant Chair of Public Economics, U Mannheim — since 09/2021
Prof. Eckhard Janeba
Substitute lecturing, thesis corrections, seminar supervision

Teaching Assistant Chair of Econometrics, U Mannheim — 01/2024 - 06/2024
Prof. Carsten Trenkler
TA Econometrics (BA)

Research Assistant ZEW Mannheim, Inequality and Public Policy — 10/2017 - 09/2019
Prof. Sebastian Siegloch

Intern ZEW Mannheim, International Distributional Analyses — 05/2017 - 07/2017
Prof. Andreas Peichl

Research Stays

University of Ottawa (Prof. Abel Brodeur, 03/2025, 1 month) — 2025
University of Cologne (Prof. Sebastian Siegloch, 08/2025, 1 week)

University of Cologne (Prof. Sebastian Siegloch, 10/2024, 1 week) — 2024
University of Basel (Prof. Kurt Schmidheiny, 08/2024, 1 day)
LMU Munich (Prof. Andreas Peichl, 06/2024, 1 week)

University of Cologne (Prof. Sebastian Siegloch, 08/2023, 1 week) — 2023

Seminars, Conferences, Workshops

ENGAGE.EU Young Researchers' Workshop (U Mannheim), EEA (Dublin), IIPF (Lisbon), Hanns-Martin-Schleyer Workshop (Berlin, scheduled) — 2026

Internal Seminar (U Ottawa), Applied Lunch Seminar (U Cologne) — 2025

Experimental Seminar (U Mannheim), Bonn-Frankfurt-Mannheim PhD Conference (U Bonn), EU Horizon Workshop (IBS Warsaw), Public Finance Conference (ZEW), IIPF (Prague), Public PhD Workshop (LMU Munich), CRC TR 224 Workshop on Labor Markets IV (U Mannheim), HeiKaMaxY (U Mannheim) — 2024

MannheimTaxation Conference (ZEW), GESS Research Day (U MA), Public Seminar (U MA), Mannheim-Taxation Workshop (ZEW) — 2023

Academic Service

Organizer: ZEW Summer Workshop 2025 — 2025

Funds

€31,799 research grant MannheimTaxation (with Tobias Kreuz) — 2026

€40,420 research grant Leibniz ScienceCampus MannheimTaxation (with Michaela Slotwinski) — 2022

€20,000 PhD scholarship (16 months) — 2020-2021

€5,000 European Exchange Program Scholarship (5 months) — 2015-2016

Policy Consulting

Retirement Planning Using the Digital Pension Overview – An Empirical Evaluation — ongoing
with Tabea Bucher-Koenen, Matthias Dolls, Holger Stichnoth and Silke Übelmesser
Website

Micro-simulating VAT and Energy Taxes in ZEW-EviSTA Using the EVS — ongoing
with Michael Hebsaker and Holger Stichnoth
Website

Horizon Europe, WeLaR: New Forms of Work and Workers' Demand for Security and Stability — 2025
with Zuzanna Kowalik, Piotr Lewandowski, Fabrizio Pompei, Wojciech Szymczak and Laurène Thil
Report; press release

Quantification of a Basic Child Allowance — 2023
with Maximilian Blömer, Holger Bonin, Hans-Martin von Gaudecker, Michael Hebsaker, Tobias Kreuz, Andreas Peichl, Tamara Ritter, Holger Stichnoth and Christian Zimpelmann
Website; media (selected): DIE ZEIT, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, DER SPIEGEL, Focus, Berliner Zeitung

Scientific Analyses of Bavarian Family Policies — 2022
with Tobias Kreuz, Michael Hebsaker, Lukas Riedel and Holger Stichnoth
Report; media coverage: Süddeutsche Zeitung; press releases: Green Party, ZEW

Other Publications

Buhlmann, F., Hebsaker, M., Kreuz, T., Schmidhäuser, J., Siegloch, S., & Stichnoth, H. (2022). ZEW-EviSTA: A microsimulation model of the German tax and transfer system. ZEW-Centre for European Economic Research Discussion Paper, (22-026).

Supervisors & Reference

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University of Mannheim

Prof. Sebastian Siegloch
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Prof. Abel Brodeur
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University of Ottawa