

Introduction

Welcome to the first issue of the Economics Newsletter (EconNews) of the Department of Economics at the University of Graz, Austria. The department consists of two institutes, the Institute of Economics and the Institute of Public Economics with about 20 professors (assistant, associate, and full) and around 10 PhD students teaching and researching at the department. Closely linked to the Department are the Graz Schumpeter Centre and the interdisciplinary Wegener Center for Climate and Global Change. EconNews provides personnel news as well as news about research related activities, such as research publications, externally financed research projects, key notes at international conferences, functions in editorial boards of international academic journals, and research prizes, among others. As this is the first EconNews, we include a list of academic publications of the year 2020, in order to inform about the main research fields at the department. EconNews is planned to appear two to three times a year. We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter! For comments, questions and suggestions please write to economics@uni-graz.at.

Hans Manner, Department chair

Editorial team: Irene Hye, Elshan Garashli, Hans Manner, Anna Viktoria Rohrer, Ronald Wendner

Personnel News

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Stefania P. S. Rossi

Stefania P. S. Rossi has been Professor of Economics at the Department of Economics at the University of Graz since September 2020. Previously, she was Professor of Economics at the Department of Economics, Business, Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Trieste. She obtained her PhD in Economics from the University of Rome Tor Vergata, she then served as a postdoctoral visiting researcher at Stanford University. She was appointed as Economist at the World Bank and as Professor at the University of Cagliari, the University of Vienna and the International Diplomatic Academy of Vienna. Her publications comprise many articles in the field of international monetary economics, financial markets and banking, gender bias issues published in international academic journals as well as in edited books.



Irene Hye

Irene Hye joined the secretarial team of the Institute of Economics in March 2021. She has already been at the University of Graz since 2014 and has previously worked at the Marketing Institute and the BANDAS-Center.



Jan-Henrik Steg

Jan-Henrik Steg joined the



Institute of Economics on April 1, 2021. He leads a research project funded by the Lise Meitner Program of the FWF. The project, entitled “Eliciting Multidimensional Private Information”, is in collaboration with Christoph Kuzmics and is scheduled to run for two years. The goal of the project is to investigate the role of information in economic interactions when this information is complex, multidimensional, and privately held by the actors involved in the interaction. After studying industrial engineering at the Universities of Karlsruhe and Lausanne, Jan-Henrik Steg completed his PhD at the Institute for Mathematical Economics at Bielefeld University. Most recently, April 2011 - March 2021, he was an Assistant Professor of Financial Economics at Bielefeld University. His research focuses on game theory and mechanism design with applications in financial markets and real options.

He has published his research in the Journal of Economic Theory, Games and Economic Behavior, and Finance and Stochastics, among others.

Valeriia Chukaeva

Valeriia Chukaeva started her PhD in February this year under the supervision of Prof. Michael Finus.



Valeriia is from Yekaterinburg, Russia. She obtained her degree in Applied Economics from the Ural Federal University, Russia. During her studies, she participated in the Erasmus + Program and went to the University of Cordoba, Spain. Moreover, she also participated in the course “Start! Ups? Try again!” organised by the Board of European Students of Technology in Kaunas, Lithuania. She was among the 100 best graduates of the year 2018. Later she obtained her Master degree in Economics from the University of Barcelona (with honours). Her majors during her Master studies were Games, Behavior and Incentives and Regional and Urban Economics. She also participated in the international exchange program with the Toulouse School of Economics during her Master studies. Her dissertation was related to the efficiency of groundwater management under cooperation, and was graded with honours. Valeriia plans to work in the area of behavioural economics, psychology and environmental economics for her PhD.

Daniel Reiter

Dr. Daniel Reiter BA MA studied



Economics at the University of Graz and at the University of Antwerp. Already during his studies, Daniel worked as a teaching and research assistant at the Institute of Economics at the University of Graz. Later on, he obtained a prae-doc position at the Institute of Public Economics through the university-wide research network “Heterogeneity and Cohesion” at the University of Graz. There he completed his doctorate with honours, with a thesis about labour market integration of migrants. Before he rejoined the Institute of Economics, Daniel also worked as a post-doctoral researcher at the Graz Schumpeter Centre, where he was involved in different projects around the topic “Impacts of Digitalization Processes on Vocational Competence Developments”. Back at the Institute of Economics, Daniel will be strengthening his expertise in data-based economic and social policy research, and he will also be entrusted with teaching in the areas of Macroeconomics and Economic Policy.

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Professional Service

Michael Scholz

Michael Scholz recently joined the “Task Team on Scanner Data of the UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics”. Scanner and Web Scraped Data are new Big Data sources that are used more and more in national statistical systems for the calculation of price indices. The objectives of the Task Team on Scanner Data are: (i) Update the toolbox of price index methods and their documentation available on the UN Global Platform for Big Data; (ii) Give guidance on the process for classifying Scanner Data to produce data ready for price index compilation; (iii) Provide training material and certified training courses on using these data in consumer price statistics. More information is available at <https://unstats.un.org/bigdata/task-teams/scanner/index.cshtml>.

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Events

PhD Summer School of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists in 2021-2025

Birgit Bednar Friedl, Stefan Borsky, Michael Finus and Karl Steininger are organizing and hosting the “PhD Summer School of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists in 2021-2025”. This year, Karl is the local organizer. For further details, including this year’s programme, see: <https://eaere-summer-school.uni-graz.at/en/>

Workshop: How Smart Technologies Will Revolutionize the World

From 16-18 June 2021 the workshop “How Smart Technologies Will Revolutionize the World” will take place via Webex. It was organized on the occasion of the forthcoming “Handbook of Smart Technologies: An Economic and Social Perspective” edited by Heinz D. Kurz, Marlies Schütz, Rita Strohmaier and Stella Zilian (Graz Schumpeter Centre, School of Business, Economics and Social Sciences, University of Graz, Austria). For further information see: <https://schumpeter-centre.uni-graz.at> or <https://smart.uni-graz.at> or write to smart@uni-graz.at.

Wirtschaftspolitisches Forum: Schumpeter Modern Monetary Theory (MMT): Diskussionsanstoß oder Patent-rezept für die Post-Corona-Welt

The event, organized by the Graz Schumpeter Centre, will take place online via Webex on Wednesday, 26 May 2021 and will start at 5 p.m. You will receive the link after registering via email to schumpeter.centre@uni-graz.at.

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Media Mentions

Book presentation by Michael Steiner



Styria’s economy has undergone a remarkable transformation in the last 75 years. It has changed from an “old industrial area” to a highly industrialised technology region, from a “country on the border” to an open economic area. This transformation process has made Styria a highly respected example both for economic and political practice as well as for academic research.

“WIRTSCHAFT.STEIERMARK Zwischen Utopie und Realität” traces this development and presents the process of change of a province that has overcome the vicissitudes of economic crises and is now one of the prosperous regions of Europe. An important element for this change was an attitude of mind, which is described as utopian realism in the volume: it is the will to shape the future despite adverse circumstances.

The book was presented to a broad public on 9 December 2020 online from the Landhaus Graz with comments by Landesrätin Eibinger-Miedl and Landesrat Christopher Drexler, as well as on 10 March 2021 from the Parliament under the chairmanship of the President of the Bundesrat Christian Buchmann.

Richard Sturn

- Staatsaufgaben in der Großen Transformation. In: Makronom - Online Magazin für Wirtschaftspolitik. März. 2021. Online
- Interview: Ist das Budget in Schieflage? In: Kleine Zeitung 25.2.2021

Awards

Yu Chen Prize



Sofie Walzl is the first winner of the Yu Chen memorial publication prize. She was honoured for her paper entitled “Estimating quantile-specific rental yields for residential housing in Sydney”, in: *Regional Science and Urban Economics* 68, 204–225.

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Publications

2020

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