

## Professional Service

### Finanzweisenrat



Michael Steiner becomes part of the honorary expert panel of the “Finanzweisenrat” of the city of Graz. The successor committee of the former Grazer city debt council is to accompany the municipal budget fate “over a multi-year period” in an advisory capacity, as Finance City Councillor Günter Riegler announced in a statement on Tuesday.

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## Events

### 4th Social Policy Research Conference – ESPAnet Austria in memoriam Margareta Kreimer



From 27-28 September, ESPAnet Austria in memoriam Margareta Kreimer took place at the University of Graz. It was organised by the Graz Schumpeter Centre and the Department of Economics and headed by Daniel Reiter and Richard Sturn. ESPAnet

(The European Network for Social Policy Analysis) is a network of European researchers in the field of social policy research. The network was established in 2002 to promote the development of research and teaching in social policy analysis and to foster interdisciplinary exchange and cooperation between researchers. This time, about 40 researchers met in Graz to discuss their findings on social policy issues from a regional, national or comparative perspective as well as in an European or global context. The research discussed dealt with a broad range of topics from different disciplines using different theoretical and methodological perspectives. The conference, which was entirely dedicated to Margareta Kreimer, was a complete success in terms of the research conference’s goal of deepening scientific discourse and enhancing exchange across disciplinary, theoretical and methodological differences.

## Events continued

### European Association of Environmental and Resource Economics: Summer School 2021 in Seggau



The 2021 EAERE Summer School on “Design and evaluation of instrument packages for carbon-neutral development pathways” was hosted by the University of Graz (Dept of Economics and Wegener Center) at Seggau Castle from Sept 26th - Oct 2nd. Mutually interlinked lectures by Sabine Fuss (MCC Berlin), Reyer Gerlagh (Tilburg), Cameron Hepburn (Oxford), Herman Vollebergh (PBL&Tilburg, scientific coordinator) and Antoine Dechezlepretre (LSE&OECD) inspired 23 students from Europe, Asia and America. Student papers got ample in-depth feedback by fellow students, Uni Graz and summer school faculty. For many it turned to be the

first in person presentation during their whole PhD programme! Rows also closed in the social programme (hike, Buschenschank, vineyard tour vine tasting, farewell dancing event organized by students) and in a fireside talk with the climate regulator of the Austrian National Bank Josef Meichenitsch. Detailed info on the programme and venue: [Eare Summer School 2021](#).

Note that the EAERE Summer School 2022 will take place July 3rd-9th at Seggau Castle, focusing on behavioral economics.

### Save the dates: Graz Schumpeter Lectures 2022

- 25. bis 27. April 2022: Mariana Mazzucato
- 7. bis 9. November 2022: Nancy Cartwright

## Personnel News

### Obituary Margareta Kreimer



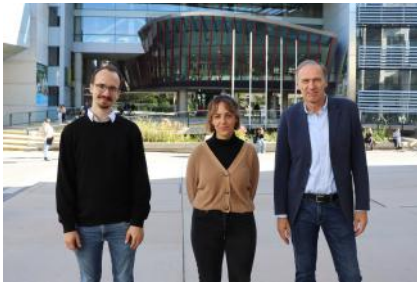
With great sadness we announce that ao. Univ.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Margareta Kreimer passed away on July 7, 2021.

Margareta Kreimer was associated with the faculty and the scientific branch of economics since her studies of economics. Her tireless efforts were devoted to teaching and research on issues of the labor market, gender equality, care work, and social policy. As a coordinating representative in the Working Group for Equal Opportunity Issues, she promoted equal opportunity issues in the university sector with energy and prudence. In the context of scientific work and research projects, she has accompanied numerous students on their academic path. With her dissertation, her habilitation and her commitment as spokesperson of the Social Policy and Distribution Cluster in the Heterogeneity and Cohesion Research Network as well as in national and international networks such as ESPAnet (European Network for Social Policy Analysis), she became a pioneer of empirically working feminist economics in Austria and far beyond. As a result, she received recognition that was expressed in honors such as the Käthe-Leichter State Prize for Women’s and Gender Studies.

Her passing leaves a gap that is difficult to fill. We are losing a highly esteemed colleague whose professional dedication and humanity is an example to us all. We will always honor her memory.

## Projects

### Agent-based Economic Epidemiology



The project is funded by the FWF within the framework of the so-called SARS-CoV2 acute funding and is carried out at the Graz Schumpeter Centre. The project team consists of Christian Gehrke (project leader), Helene Hinterreither and Patrick Mellacher.

Agent-based models (ABMs) have proven to be a particularly useful method for studying complex contemporary phenomena. Epidemiological ABMs are playing an important role in explaining and predicting infection dynamics in the current Covid 19 crisis. However, ABMs have only been used sporadically in economic

epidemiology, which considers health and economic outcomes simultaneously. One such model was developed by Patrick Mellacher. The project team will extend this model to apply it to new questions: How does more complex epidemiological modeling affect policy recommendations? What dynamics are associated with "corona skepticism"? What socioeconomic consequences does a pandemic cause, particularly for the status of women?

## Awards



### EAEPE-Simon Young Scholar Prize 2021

Patrick Mellacher was awarded the 2021 EAEPE Simon Young Scholar Prize for his paper titled "COVID-Town: An Integrated Economic-Epidemiological Agent-Based Model".

"COVID-Town" is an agent-based model to explore the economic and public health impact of the Covid-19 crisis under varying policy scenarios. The model consists of an artificial economy, which is populated by agents who differ with regard to their social class, employment, family status, leisure preferences and connections in a social network. These agents work, consume, rest and spend their leisure time according to routines that depend on the time and day of the week. This agent heterogeneity is empirically micro-founded using many sources such as time use data, demography, employment statistics etc.

A characteristic feature of the model is that it explores relationships and trade-offs that are largely ignored by other models. For instance, in the model, if schools are closed, this greatly helps to curb the transmission of the virus, but it also affects families with little children, as family members have to stand in as care givers. Thus, closing schools also has economic effects which are unevenly distributed among the population.

While simpler models also have their merits, the paper shows that such a more complex agent-based approach can make a difference with regard to the results, and the author hopes to further improve and deepen his work on this topic in the near future.

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## Awards continued



### Yu Chen Memorial Publication Prize

Katja Kalkschmied and Stefan Borsky are the winners of the Yu Chen Memorial Publication Prize 2020. They were honoured for their paper entitled "Corruption in Space: A Closer Look at the World's Subnations", *European Journal of Political Economy* **59** (2019), 400 – 422.

## Publications

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