



## Personnel



### Thomas Aronsson

Thomas Aronsson was appointed as a research Professor for the period of five years at the Institute of Economics. He took his PhD degree in 1990, became associate professor (docent) in 1992, and full professor of economics at Umeå University in 1998. His main research interests are public economics, welfare economics, and environmental economics. Aronsson's research on public economics focuses primarily on optimal redistributive taxation. Insights and modeling approaches in behavioral economics play an important role in this work, and can be exemplified by studies dealing with tax (and other) policy implications of conspicuous consumption, other-regarding preferences, as well as other forms of social interaction. Some of this work also touches upon

the optimal mix of public and private contributions to public goods in second-best economies. Other examples of Aronsson's research on public economics refer to tax and expenditure policies in economic federations with several levels of government as well as behavioral effects of public policy in different contexts.

Aronsson's work on welfare economics and environmental economics (and their intersection) can be exemplified by research on the theory of social accounting, where his work primarily focuses on the implications of market imperfections and tax distortions, respectively.

A key issue here is to develop second-best analogues to the "green net national product" and the genuine saving, respectively, as well as examine how these measures ought to be modified by market failures. Another example refers to environmental policy and, in particular, how environmental policy interacts with other aspects of economic policy.

Aronsson is an elected member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. He is also chair of the prize committee of the Erik Kempe Award in environmental and resource economics."

### In this issue:

- Personnel
- Projects
- Events
- Awards
- Editorial Assignments
- Media Mentions
- Publications

### Imprint:

Department of Economics  
University of Graz

### Address:

Universitaetsstraße 15/E4-F4  
8010 Graz, Austria

economics@uni-graz.at  
fachbereich-  
volkswirtschaftslehre.uni-  
graz.at/en/



### Sandro Lackner

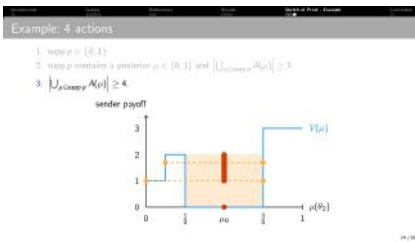
Sandro completed his undergraduate and graduate master's degree in Empirical and Political Economy (Economics) at the University of Graz. In January 2024, Sandro began his PhD at the Institute of Economics under the supervision of Michael Finus. His research interests are in game theory and environmental economics, which is the general topic of his first project with Michael Finus. Specifically, they are working on International Environmental Agreements for biodiversity conservation.



## Vivienne Edelsbrunner

In January 2024, Vivienne Edelsbrunner took up a prae-doc position at the Institute of Public Economics. She obtained her Bachelor's degree in Economics and a Master's degree in Political and Empirical Economics from the University of Graz. Alongside her PhD studies under the supervision of Prof. Maik T. Schneider, Vivienne is currently working on her Law degree. Vivienne's research interests span the areas of the Economics of AI, Industrial Organisation, and Game Theory. In this context, her research project examines questions such as: When is regulation of transformative technologies needed and how can we design it? How will regulation of AI affect competition and prices for consumers? Will regulation spur or delay innovations in AI?

## Projects



1. An artist's impression :-)

### Robust Strategic Communication

On October 1, 2023, the project "Robust strategic communication", sponsored by the ÖNB Anniversary Fund with € 149,000, was launched under the project management of Christoph Kuzmics. The project team, of which Jasimina Karabegovic is also a member and which will grow over the course of the year, aims to identify "robust communication". Communication is key to successful economic and social interaction. Communication allows individuals to share information and to coordinate their activities. Yet, people

also sometimes lie, or misrepresent the truth, for personal gain. We propose to explore the (theoretical) limits to (the value of) communication in general strategic environments such as can be found in many areas of economics, such as political lobbying, communication within a firm, or even the communication of a central bank. We are interested in identifying robust communication, that is communication that can arise in strategic situations somewhat independently of how much the two communicating parties know about the exact nature of each other's ultimate goals.



### Mining, railways and local economic development

The FWF project is funded with € 168.000 and led by Hans Manner. Former master student Martin Schlesinger will be hired as a PhD student to work on the project.

Why are some countries rich and others poor? This has been a key question in economics for centuries. The project will add to this debate over the next three years by studying development in Styria, a region that experienced rapid growth in the 20th century. In the short period between the mid-19th and the mid-20th century, the state of Styria developed from an agricultural, remote and poor region to an industrial economic powerhouse. This research project will develop a new dataset of historic Styria to describe and quantify this process. A mid-19th century social survey conducted by Georg Goeth under Archduke Johann that gives a rich and disaggregated picture of the economic situation in this part of the world will be digitized. The project will study the

role of the railway and of mining in this process, using the rich variation in both provided in this setting of 19th century Styria. While the economic literature has emphasized that both transport infrastructure and mining help economic development, it appears reasonable to believe that the presence of both leads to particularly successful industrialization. The setting of the economic

development of Styria provides useful geographic variation that enables us to test this hypothesis. Furthermore, the historic documents that are planned to be digitized have not yet been studied economically, and thus the data digitization part of this project will provide new information that has not been studied in detail. The datasets and scans will be made public, and they may find much interdisciplinary, academic interest, from historians, political scientists or sociologists.



### **The making of the incredibly differentiated labor market in Austria**

The project team of the FWF funded project consists of Jörn Klei- nert (project leader), Wiltrud Mölzer, Clara Venglarova and two student project assistants. The project documents market evolution from 1850 to 1950 through the analysis of newspaper job adver- tisements using advanced NLP techniques. Its aim is to trace the

dynamics of employment relations and understand how factors such as regional outreach, sector focus, qualifications requirements, and employment characteristics have changed over time. Wil- trud Mölzer is pleased to present the team’s research on the historical Austrian labor market at the 5th International Data Power Conference in Graz (September 4-6, 2024). The presentation entitled “The Emergence of a Differentiated Labor Market in Austria” will particularly focus on the role of private job agencies as early data brokers in the 19th century. They will closely examine these agents who, for a fee, connected job seekers with employers, thus gaining a significant position in the labor market. Drawing from over a million pages of historical newspapers from the Austrian National Library archives, we extract information that illustrates the agencies’ operations and explains their impact on the labor market. We will discuss their once-dominant role, the increasing criticism of their unfair practices, and the societal pressure to establish public job agencies to address market failures. Hence, the analysis offers a historical viewpoint on the beginnings of data trade within labor markets and the effects of regulatory interventions on job mediation.

### **Bridging Inequality in Distance and Gender: Commuting and Child-Penalty in the Austrian Labor Market**

The research project aims to investigate the effects of the commuting behaviour of women and men after the birth of their first child on the gender pay gap in Austria. It is emphasised that the gender pay gap increases significantly, especially after the birth of the first child, as women often move to jobs closer to home in order to better fulfil family responsibilities. These changes in job choice and the associated reduced flexibility can contribute to an increase in pay inequality between the sexes. It is planned to carry out detailed analyses using microdata from the employment statistics and register census of Statistics Austria in order to investigate gender-specific differences in commuting behaviour and their influence on the gender pay gap. The importance of the topic for Styria is particularly emphasised, as Graz, as a major central city, has a large volume of commuter traffic, which is fed by both urban and rural areas. The project is funded by the Province of Styria with € 8100 and an additional amount of money has been provided by the Faculty. It is headed by Tobias Eibinger and Riccarda Rosenball (University of Graz). International cooperation is planned with Andrea Weber from CEU Vienna and Jos van Ommeren from VU Amsterdam. The research period is from August 2024 to August 2026.

## Events



### 27th Annual ESHET Conference

Organized by the Graz Schumpeter Centre and the Graz Schumpeter Society, the 27th Annual ESHET Conference has taken place at the University of Graz, Austria, from May 9 - 11, 2024. The theme of the conference was: Economics and Policy-Making: From Art and Craft to Welfare Optimization and Evidence Based Policies. The conference was attended by 180 scholars from Europe, Asia, Australia, and America. The scientific programme included 150 paper presentations in parallel sessions, and plenary lectures by Prof. Mary Morgan (London School of Economics), Prof. Isabella Weber (University of Massachusetts at Amherst), Ivo Maes (National Bank of Belgium), and the Presidential Address by Richard Sturn. Nobelist Prof. Joseph Stiglitz made a Zoom contribution to a Round-table on Robert Solow.



### Wage negotiations in action: insights from the ÖGB's chief economist

On 11 December 2023, the Economics Club Graz held an exciting event as part of the Ökonom:innentag. Dr. Helene Schubert, Head of the ÖGB's Economics Department, gave an informative presentation entitled "Wage negotiations in action: insights from the ÖGB's chief economist". Dr. Schubert, who previously worked as head of the department for the analysis of economic development at the OeNB and as an economic policy advisor to the Federal Chancellor, shed light on the then current wage negotiations against the backdrop of high inflation. The well-founded presentation of the ÖGB perspective and the lively discussion, which was stimulated by numerous questions from the audience, were particularly impressive. The event clearly demonstrated the broad interest of the students in this controversial topic. Afterwards there was a social get-together with a pizza buffet, which rounded off the evening successfully. The Economics Club Graz would like to thank Dr. Helene Schubert and all participants for an inspiring and insightful evening.



### Graz Schumpeter Winter School 2024: Agent-based Economics (15.1.-19.1.2024)

The Schumpeter Centre hosted a highly successful winter school on "Agent-based Economics" in the tradition of the Graz Schumpeter Summer School which was hosted in Graz six times from 2007 until the Covid-19 crisis. In the winter school, four keynote speakers who are top experts in the field (Prof. Herbert Dawid, Prof. Andrea Roventini, Prof. Tiziana Assenza and Prof. Domenico Delli Gatti) shared their insights with seventeen junior fellows from European and Asian institutions. Furthermore, almost all junior fellows presented their work, which covered a wide array of topics ranging from modelling social dynamics to macroeconomic questions related to the current inflation crisis. A copy of the full program can be found here: [https://static.uni-graz.at/fileadmin/sowi-zentren/Schumpeter-Centre/Winter\\_School\\_2024/Program\\_GWS\\_2024\\_seitel.pdf](https://static.uni-graz.at/fileadmin/sowi-zentren/Schumpeter-Centre/Winter_School_2024/Program_GWS_2024_seitel.pdf)



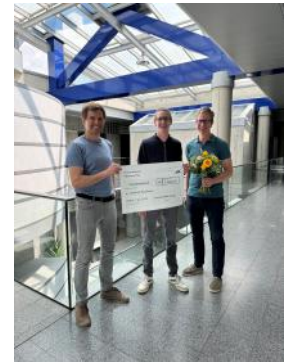
**EAERE Summer School in Resource and Environmental Economics** The Institute of Economics (Birgit Bednar-Friedl and Michael Finus) and the Wegener Center for Climate and Global Change (Birgit Bednar-Friedl, Stefan Borsky and Karl Steininger) are organizing the Summer School of the European Association for Environmental and Resource Economics (EAERE) for the fourth time in a row this year. Stefan Borsky is the local organizer in 2024. This year's EAERE Summer School focuses on the increasing use of data science and new statistical methods in environmental

economic research. This includes the use of machine learning, spatial statistics and data analysis, remote sensing, the use of 'alternative data' and big data applications. The international 6-member faculty of the Summer School is made up of renowned researchers in this field. The Summer School will take place from 22 June 2024 to 28 June 2024 and will welcome 24 students from Europe, USA, Asia and Africa.

## Awards

### Yu Chen Memorial Publication Prize

Gabriel Bachner is the the winner of the Yu Chen Memorial Publication Prize 2022. He was honoured for his paper titled "The macroeconomic effects of adapting to high-end sea-level rise via protection and migration", *Nat Commun* 13, 5705 (2022), which he co-authored with Daniel Lincke and Jochen Hinkel.



### Großes Ehrenzeichen des Landes Steiermark

On 5 December 2023, Governor Christopher Drexler, in the presence of Deputy Governor Anton Lang, awarded Michael Steiner the "Große Ehrenzeichen des Landes Steiermark" in the auditorium of the old university. In his speech, the Governor emphasised the great achievements of the recipient in research with a focus on economic policy and regional economics in an international context.

## Editorial Assignments New

- **Birgit Bednar Friedl, Stefan Borsky, Michael Finus and Karl Steininger:** Editors of Special Issue "Transboundary and Global Environmental and Resource Problems" in *Journal of Environmental and Resource Economics* to be finally released 2024

[Back to Contents](#)

## Media Mentions

### Patrick Mellacher

- Ars Boni 401 "Covid Skeptizismus - Covid Populismus"
- Unizeit 3/2023: "Ungleich besser"

### Michael Steiner - Auszug

- 05.01.2024 SPECTRUM/DiePresse: "Wie ungleich darf eine Gesellschaft sein?"
- 16.05.2024 Kleine Zeitung: „AT&S, Magna, AVL: Die neuen Leiden der steirischen Leitbetriebe“
- 21.11.2024 ORF Steiermark heute, ORF 2, ORF Radio Steiermark: "Metallerstreik"
- 09.11.2023 Kleine Zeitung und Radio Arabella: „Lohnverhandlungen“, Interview

## Publications

- Finus, M., F. Furini, A.V. Rohrer (2024), The Stackelberg vs. Nash-Cournot Folk-Theorem in International Environmental Agreements, *Economics Letters* **234**, 111481.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.econlet.2023.111481>  
EF = 90 ; JIF = 2; SJR = 0.68
- Mathieu-Bolh, N., R. Wendner (2024), Conspicuous Leisure, Time Allocation, and Obesity Kuznets Curves, *Macroeconomic Dynamics* **28**, forthcoming.  
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S1365100523000585>  
EF = 58 ; JIF = 0.9; SJR = 0.67
- Marbler, A. (2024), Water Scarcity and Local Economic Activity: Spatial Spillovers and the Role of Irrigation, *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management* **124**, 102931.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jeem.2024.102931> EF = 81 ; JIF = 4.6; SJR = 2.52
- Eibinger, T., B. Deixelberger, H. Manner (2024), Panel Data in Environmental Economics: Econometric Issues and Applications to IPAT Models, *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management* **125**, 102941.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jeem.2024.102941>  
EF = 81 ; JIF = 4.6; SJR = 2.52
- Steininger, K.W., A. Posch, A. Thaller, C. Romirer, R. Maier, E. Fleiß, G. Jäger, S. Nabernegg, S. Plakolb, H. Heinfellner, O. Thaller, E. Schulev-Steindl (2024), Knowledge Integration in Policy Development and Assessment for Sustainable Passenger Transport Transformation, *Transportation Research Part D: Transport and Environment* **128**, 104081.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.trd.2024.104081>  
EF = 70 ; JIF = 7.6; SJR = 2.02
- Aiello, F., G. Bonanno, A. Puggioni, SPS. Rossi (2024), Family Firms, Finance for Innovation, and Exports. Evidence from European Micro and Small Firms. *Economics of Innovation and New Technology*, forthcoming.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10438599.2024.2329263>  
CiteScore = 6.4 ; JIF = 3.3; SJR = 0.78
- Guerrier, S., C. Kuzmics, M-P. Victoria-Feser (2024), Assessing COVID-19 Prevalence in Austria with Infection Surveys and Case Count Data as Auxiliary Information, *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, forthcoming.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/01621459.2024.2313790>  
EF = 95 ; JIF = 3.7; SJR = 3.40
- Aronsson, T., O. Johansson-Stenman, R. Wendner (2024), Charity, Status, and Optimal Taxation: Welfarist and Non-Welfarist Approaches, *Journal of Political Economy Microeconomics* **2** forthcoming.
- T. Aronsson, O. Johansson-Stenman, R. Wendner (2024), Optimal Redistributive Charity, *Scandinavian Journal of Economics* **126**, forthcoming.