



Personnel



Cristiana Gomes Gião

Cristiana Gomes Gião joined the Department of Economics as a new predoc in October 2024. She completed her bachelor's and master's degrees in Economics at Braga University, Portugal. Her academic journey has been deeply rooted in empirical research. Her master's thesis focused on international markets, specifically testing the purchasing power parity rule using wavelets.

She began her Ph.D. at the University of Graz in October, driven by a strong interest in advancing her understanding of theoretical economics. Her research aims to enhance traditional economic models by incorporating behavioral factors, particularly the role of emotions in economic decision making. Although she is enthusiastic about exploring this new dimension, she is also aware of the challenges ahead, as it represents a shift from her prior empirical focus.

Cristiana looks forward to learning and contributing to the department and is eager to collaborate with everyone on this exciting journey. Cristiana is supervised by Ronald Wendner and Thomas Aronsson.

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Martin Schlesinger

Martin began his PhD at the Department of Economics in August 2024 under the supervision of Hans Manner and Ferdinand Rauch. He holds a Master's degree in Empirical Economics from the University of Graz, which included an exchange semester at KU Leuven. In addition, Martin studied history, specializing in modern times and economic history.

In his dissertation, he integrates these two academic fields to explore topics in urban and historical economics. His dissertation will examine the long-term economic development of Styria, with a focus on the impact of the "Südbahn" connecting Vienna and Trieste, as well as Styrian mining activities. To support this work, he is digitizing and analyzing an 1840 survey conducted by Georg Göth under the direction of Archduke Johann.

Events



Political Economy - Theory meets Empirics

On 23 and 24 September, the workshop series *Political Economy - Theory meets Empirics* took place for the 8th time and was organised for the first time in Graz by Christian Klamler and Maik T. Schneider, together with Niall Hughes (King's College London), and Sebastian Fehrer (University of Bremen). Previously, the workshops were held at renowned international universities such as ETH Zurich, King's College London, the University of Bath and the University of Konstanz. The goal of the workshop is to bring together a selection of excellent researchers in the field of Political Economy, working on theory or empirics, to share and discuss their latest research with each other as well as with the interested faculty and broader audience

at the University of Graz. At this year's workshop, a number of leading international scholars from the field of Political Economy, such as Jean-Francois Laslier, Paris School of Economics, and Antoine Loeper, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, or Antonio Nicolo, University of Padova, spoke about important and topical issues including to which extent political institutions are able to bring about socially desirable decisions in times of increasing political polarisation, how politically underrepresented social groups can become more involved in the political process or how democratic discourse can counter 'alternative' facts.

Save the date:

CEPET Workshop, Udine (Italy), June 26 - 27, 2025

Ronald Wendner co-organizes the yearly workshop of The Central European Program in Economic Theory (CEPET) in Udine, Italy. CEPET invites submissions for its next Workshop that will be held in Udine, Italy, June 26-27, 2025. It will take place at the Università degli Studi di Udine.

Program Committee: Stefano Barbieri (Tulane), Stefano Bosi (Evry); Walter Bossert (Montreal); Francesca Busetto (Udine); Giulio Codognato (Udine); Michel de Vroey (Louvain); Christopher Ellis (Oregon); Clara Graziano (Udine); Martin Gregor (Prague); Mark Johnson (Tulane); Ludovic Julien (Paris Nanterre); Gerald Pech (Almaty); Hans Peters (Maastricht); Flavio Pressacco (Udine); Simone Tonin (Udine); Anne van den Nouweland (Oregon); Xinyang Wang (ITAM, Mexico); Ronald Wendner (Graz).

The CEPET Workshop provides an opportunity to present research work at an early stage and receive feedback from experienced scholars with international reputations. Young researchers are especially welcome.

Abstracts (approximately 250 words) or full papers should be submitted by email to: ludovic.julien@parisnanterre.fr no later than: March 31, 2025. While preference is normally given to full papers, abstracts are sometimes accepted. Decisions on acceptance will be communicated no later than the end of April 2025.

For additional information on CEPET and the CEPET Working Paper Series, open to all participants, please visit our website at: <https://sites.google.com/site/cepweb/home>

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Approval of New Third-Party-Funded Research Projects

2 research projects under the lead of Birgit Bednar-Fiedl and one project under the lead of Tobias Eibinger and Riccarda Rosenball have been approved in December 2024.

NBS4Drought: Demonstrating Wetlands as Nature-Based Solutions on Resilience Development to Extreme Drought Across European Cities and Landscapes.

Funding Agency: Horizon Europe, Innovation Action, Call HORIZON-CL6-2024-BIODIV-02

Role of Uni Graz: Birgit Bednar-Friedl will lead Work Package 4 Monitoring and Assessment. The specific tasks are (i) to develop methods and tools for the cost effectiveness analysis of wetland Nature Based Solutions, (ii) to derive methods for and conduct valuation of non-market goods such as ecosystem services (carbon storage, recreational values); and (iii) to design market solutions for the financing of such nature based solutions.

Abstract: Climate change is exacerbating the frequency, intensity, and duration of droughts worldwide. Despite this pressing reality, there exists a widespread underestimation of drought risk among the European population. In this critical context, wetlands emerge as a promising solution for enhancing water management and mitigating the impact of severe droughts. Despite the increasing recognition of wetlands as nature-based solution (NBS), there remains a lack of comprehensive quantitative evidence and understanding regarding their cost-effectiveness under different European conditions. The objective of the NBS4Drought initiative is to systematically demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of NBS in sustainable water management, particularly in alleviating the impacts of extreme droughts. The outcomes will underscore the efficiency, replicability, and sustainability of NBS across diverse regions, furnishing stakeholders with compelling technical, economic, and social evidence to include NBS in climate change adaptation strategies.

Scientific Partners: Aarhus University (lead, DK), TU Eindhoven (NL), Helmholtz Zentrum (DE), Brandenburg Technical University (DE), Politechnical University Milan (IT), ICLEI (DE), National Research Council of Italy (IT), Polytechnical University Catalunya (ES), Uni Lublin (PL), Warsaw University of Life Sciences (PL).

Total project volume: € 7,981,955

Share Uni Graz: € 429,750; this grant will fund 1 PhD position (full time) and a part time Post Doc position.

Project duration: 2025-2028

Cost of Inaction 2.0: Societal costs of inaction

Funding Agencies: Austrian Climate Fund, Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection; Chamber of Labor

Role of Uni Graz: Birgit Bednar-Friedl will lead the project. Specific tasks include the overall methodological framework, including scenario development, costing methods, storyline approaches; macroeconomic and distributional assessment of the cost of climate change with and without adaptation.

Abstract: Ten years after the release of the first assessment of the economic cost of climate change for Austria, this project will provide an update on the so-called cost of inaction. Building on the most recent climatic and socio-economic scenarios of the latest Assessment of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), substantially updated sectoral impact assessment models in the fields of agriculture, forestry, water supply, settlements and infrastructure, energy,

tourism, ecosystems will be used to assess both the direct and compound risks of climate change for Austria today, 2050 and 2080. The project will contribute three key innovations: (i) consistent adaptation scenarios, comprising different types, intensities and scopes of implementation, will be developed and assessed within the project; (ii) a storyline approach will be used to assess low likelihood but high impact events; (iii) distributional consequences of both climate change impacts and adaptation will be assessed, considering differences in income (influencing the adaptive capacity), age and gender (influencing vulnerability) and location (influencing exposure).

Partners: University of Life Sciences Vienna, International Institute of Applied System Analysis, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT), University of Technology Vienna, Joanneum Research, Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO), Environmental Agency, TRAFFIX, Climate Change Center Austria.

Total Project volume: € 994,977

Share Uni Graz: € 246,741; this grant will fund 1 Post Doc position (part-time) and co-fund 1 PhD position.

Project duration: 2025-2026

BRidging Inequality in Distance and GEndEr: Commuting and Child-Penalty in the Austrian Labor Market Funding Agency: Austrian Academy of Sciences, Call Data:Research:Austria

Abstract: The child penalty – the reduction in earnings and career progression that women experience following childbirth – is a persistent issue contributing to gender inequality. A key yet underexplored channel is the gender commuting gap. After childbirth, women often shorten commutes due to childcare responsibilities, necessitating career adjustments that limit long-term earnings potential. We examine Austria’s gender commuting gap using difference-in-differences techniques to analyze post-childbirth commuting decisions, gendered career adjustments, and the impact of childcare availability. We hypothesize that mothers disproportionately choose lower-paying, flexible jobs closer to home, intensifying wage gaps. Our findings aim to inform policies to reduce commuting constraints.

Scientific Partners: Jos van Ommeren at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (advisory role), Andrea Weber at Central European University Vienna (advisory role).

Total project volume: EUR 298.380,55

Share Uni Graz: EUR 298.380,55, this grant will fund one Post Doc position and extend one PhD position.

Project management: Tobias Eibinger and Riccarda Rosenball

Project duration: 2025-2027

New Editorial Assignments and other Functions

Hans Manner

- Member of FWF Kuratorium since October 2023
- AStA Advances in Statistical Analysis - Associate Editor since July 2024

Michael Steiner

- Member of the jury for the Primus (Economy) of Kleine Zeitung

Media Mentions

Michael Steiner - Selection

- 09.08.2024 Radio Arabella: „Wirtschaftskrise – Auswirkungen auf EPU“
- 11.09.2024 Die Presse: „Wahrheit in Zeiten von Wahlen“, Debattenbeitrag
- 25.09.2024 Kleine Zeitung: „Als Graz aufs Gas trat“, Kommentar zur Entwicklung von Graz zur Mobilitätsstadt
- 09.10.2024 ORF Radio Steiermark: „Wirtschaftliche Auswirkungen der Bombendrohungen“

Publications

Published or Forthcoming Refereed Research Articles 2024

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- item Mathieu-Bolh, N., R. Wendner (2024), Conspicuous Leisure, Time Allocation, and Obesity Kuznets Curves, *Macroeconomic Dynamics* **28**, 1594 – 1634.
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- 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>
- 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.
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- 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.
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- 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>
- 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.
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- André, F.J., M. Finus (2024), Endogenous Learning in International Environmental Agreements: The Impact of Research Spillovers and the Degree of Cooperation, *Oxford Economic Papers* **76**(3), 877–900.
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- Gehrke, C. (2024), George Grote’s Manuscript Essay on “Foreign Trade”, *The European Journal of the History of Economic Thought*, forthcoming.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/09672567.2024.23.5755>
- Aronsson, T., O. Johansson-Stenman, R. Wendner (2024), Optimal Redistributive Charity, *Scandinavian Journal of Economics* **126**, forthcoming.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/sjoe.12573>
- Borissov, K., M. Pakhnin, R. Wendner (2024), General Equilibrium and Dynamic Inconsistency, *Journal of Mathematical Economics* **114**, 103024.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmateco.2024.103024>
- Finus, M., Furini, F. (2024), On the Credibility of Threats to Avoid the Deployment of Solar Geoengineering, *Environmental Economics and Policy Studies* **26**, forthcoming.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10018-024-00407-2>
- Aronsson, T., O. Johansson-Stenman (2024), Charity, Status, and Optimal Taxation: Welfarist and Non-Welfarist Approaches, *Journal of Political Economy Microeconomics* **2**(4), 747 – 785.
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- Borissov, K., M. Pakhnin, R. Wendner (2024), Cooperating with Yourself, *Games and Economic Behavior* **148**, 398 – 414.
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- Sturn, R. (2024), “The Greatest and Noblest of all Characters”: Knowledge, Improvements, and Smith’s “Science of the Legislator”, *Journal of Contextual Economics*, forthcoming.
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- Elboghhdady, N.N., M. Finus (2024), Enforcing Climate Agreements: The Role of Escalating Border Carbon Adjustments, *Strategic Behavior and the Environment* **10**, 79 – 128.
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- Lackner, T., L. Fierro, P. Mellacher (2025), Opinion Dynamics Meet Agent-Based Climate Economics: An Integrated Analysis of Carbon Taxation, *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* **229**, 106816.
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- Chukaeva, V., J. de Frutos Cachorro, J. Marin-Solano (2024), Groundwater Extraction for Irrigation Purposes: The Case of Asymmetric Players, *Water Economics and Policy*, **10**, 2450004.
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- Koten, J.W., H. Manner, C. Pernet, A. Schüppen, D. Szücs, G. Wood, J.P.A. Ioannidis (2024), When most fMRI connectivity cannot be detected: Insights from time course reliability, *PLOS ONE*, **19**(12), e0299753.
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