

ELIO BOLLIGER

PhD in Economics, Head of Federal Finances Analysis and Forecasting Team in Financial Statistics | Swiss Citizen
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

International Macro and Financial Stability (Expectation Formation, Monetary and Macroprudential Policy)
Applied Econometrics (Forecasting, Scenario Analysis, Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing)

EDUCATION

University of Lausanne - HEC , Department of Economics, Switzerland	09/2018 - 09/2023
<i>Ph.D. in Economics</i> - Thesis titled "Three Essays in Macroeconomics"	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Focus on Informational and Financial FrictionsMethods: Applied Econometrics, Time Series Analysis and Natural Language ProcessingAdvisors: Kenza Benhima and Adrian Bruhin	
Study Center Gerzensee , Switzerland	09/2018 - 08/2019
Swiss Program for Beginning Doctoral Students in Economics	
University of Lausanne - HEC , Switzerland	09/2016 - 07/2018
Master of Science in Economics	
University of Bern , Switzerland	09/2012 - 06/2015
Bachelor of Science in Economics	

WORK EXPERIENCE

Swiss Federal Finance Administration , Bern, Switzerland	
<i>Deputy Head of Financial Statistics Division</i>	01/2025 - Today
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Act as head of a 17-person division in the division head's absenceParticipate at the Federal Government Expert Group on Business Cycle	
<i>Head of the Public Finance Analysis and Forecasting Team</i> , Financial Statistics	05/2023 - Today
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Leading a team of 3 professionalsAnalysing/forecasting data for the general/central government and social security fundsDevelopment and bi-annual publication of policy indicators (e.g. fiscal impulse)	
Central Bank of Ireland , Dublin, Ireland	11/2022 - 04/2023
<i>Ph.D. Research Intern</i> , Macro Financial Division	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Expanding the usage of machine learning techniques to support policy analysisResearch Technical Paper "Distressed Mortgages: A Machine Learning Assessment"	
Institut d'économie appliquée (CREA) , Lausanne, Switzerland	02/2018 - 09/2023
<i>Economic Consultant</i> , Forecasting, Inflation Sentiment Indices	
Swiss National Bank , Bern, Switzerland	10/2019 - 10/2020
<i>Ph.D. Research Intern</i> , Financial Stability Division	
University of Lausanne , Switzerland	07/2017 - 08/2018
<i>Research Assistant</i> , for Jürgen Maurer, Johannes Buggle, José Mata	
Swiss National Bank , Bern, Switzerland	08/2015 - 07/2016
<i>Intern</i> , Financial Stability Division	

PUBLICATIONS

Do Local Forecasters Have Better Information?, with Kenza Benhima – forthcoming, Review of Economics and Statistics

Shortened Abstract: Local forecasters outperform foreign ones in forecasting macroeconomic fundamentals, driven by better information rather than behavioral biases. Analyzing GDP growth and inflation forecasts, we show local forecasters' greater accuracy stems from superior information precision. We also develop tests identifying differences in information frictions between local and foreign forecasters.

The Effect of Macroprudential Policies on Homeownership: Evidence from Switzerland, with Adrian Bruhin, Andreas Fuster and Maja Ganarin – Journal of Urban Economics, 2025

Shortened Abstract: We study how macroprudential policies in Switzerland's mortgage market influenced homeownership. Using detailed tax records, we show the annual share of renters transitioning to homeownership fell from 3.4% to 3.0% post-policy, especially among younger, less wealthy households. Borrowing constraints tightened, and intergenerational transfers became increasingly important for homebuying.

WORKING PAPERS

Inflation Expectations, Perceptions and News Media: Regional Differences in Switzerland – submitted

Shortened Abstract: This paper examines inflation reporting in Swiss newspapers and its effects on inflation expectations and perceptions. Using quantitative and sentiment-based measures for French and German newspapers, we find no evidence of a negativity bias, but both measures significantly influence expectations and perceptions. Language-region differences reveal socio-demographic variations in the impact of inflation news.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Granular Expectation Shocks and Financial Contagion, with Kenza Benhima and Margaret Davenport

Distressed Mortgages: A Machine Learning Assessment, with P. Lyons, S. Shaikh and F. Yao

POLICY WORK

Analysis of the Structural Deficits and Fiscal Impulses in Switzerland - Spring 2025

Swiss public finances, main publication of financial statistics (2023, 2024)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Lausanne - HEC, Department of Economics, Switzerland

Économie politique II, Bachelor, Teaching Assistant

02/2019 - 06/2023

Statistique et économétrique I, Bachelor, Teaching Assistant

09/2022 - 06/2023

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Bayesian Methods for Empirical Macroeconomics

09/2022

by Gary Koop | Study Center Gerzensee Advanced Courses in Economics

Macroeconomics with Financial Frictions: Monetary and Macroprudential Policies

09/2021

by Javier Bianchi | Study Center Gerzensee Advanced Courses in Economics

Advances in Financial Time Series Modelling

09/2021

by Siem Jan Koopman | Study Center Gerzensee Advanced Courses in Economics

HANK Made Easy: Macro Fluctuations and Policies in THANK

07/2021

by Florin O. Bilbiie | University of Bonn (virtual)

Winter School in Data Analytics and Machine Learning

02/2021

by Martin Huber and Helge Liebert | University of Fribourg (virtual)

A Gentle Introduction to Deep Learning with Python and R
by Centre d'Enseignement de l'Informatique | University of Lausanne (virtual)

01/2021

The Identification of Structural Shocks in Dynamic Models
by Kenza Benhima and Jean-Paul Renne | University of Lausanne

06/2019

CONFERENCES AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics, <i>Switzerland</i> , 14th ifo Conference on Macro and Survey Data, <i>Germany</i>	2024
Seminar Day, Central Bank of Ireland, <i>Ireland</i> , Research Seminar, Central Bank of Ireland, <i>Ireland</i> , Deutsche Bundesbank, Brown Bag Seminar, <i>Germany</i> , Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics, <i>Switzerland</i> , EEA-ESEM, <i>Spain</i>	2023
Journal of Monetary Economics: Young Economist Poster Session, <i>Switzerland</i> , Young Swiss Economists Meeting: KOF & ETH Zurich, <i>Switzerland</i> , Conference on Recent Developments in Economics, Econometrics, and Finance, <i>virtual</i> , Theories and Methods in Macroeconomics, <i>United Kingdom</i> , Econ GSW Webinar series for graduate students, <i>virtual</i> , SFI Research Days, <i>Switzerland</i> , Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics, <i>Switzerland</i> , Research Days, University of Lausanne, <i>Switzerland</i>	2022
Research Days, University of Lausanne, <i>Switzerland</i> , Gerzensee Alumni Conference, <i>Switzerland</i>	2021
Swiss National Bank, <i>Switzerland</i> , Research Days, University of Lausanne, <i>Switzerland</i>	2020

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Student representative, Ph.D. in Economics , University of Lausanne	09/2021 - 08/2022
Student Think Tank Uthink , University of Lausanne <i>Member of the Data Science Team</i>	09/2017– 09/2021

SKILLS

Programming & Data Tools	Python, R (incl. package development, Shiny, flexdashboard), Matlab, Stata, SQL, Excel VBA, Groovy
Version Control & Typesetting	Git, L ^A T _E X
Machine Learning & NLP	BERT, sentiment and text analysis, web scraping
Data Providers	Bloomberg, Refinitiv Eikon, Datastream, Compustat
Languages	German (<i>native</i>), English (<i>fluent</i>), French (<i>fluent</i>), Spanish (<i>intermediate</i>), Italian (<i>beginner</i>), Portuguese (<i>beginner</i>)

REFERENCES

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Swiss Finance Institute and EPFL
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Dr. Robert Bichsel
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