### Johannes Benedikt Gessner

johannesgessner.github.io jgessner@mail.uni-mannheim.de

Fall 2021

#### **Contact Information**

Office Address Home Address

Department of Economics, University of Mannheim Treburer Strasse 21 L7, 3-5, Room 210 60528 Frankfurt am Main

68161 Mannheim, Germany

Tel.: +49 621 181 1772 Mobile.: +49 1575 2056497

Undergraduate Studies

Master of Science, Economics (Research Track), University of Mannheim 2021 2019

Bachelor of Science, Economics (Minor in Mathematics), University of Mannheim

Graduate Studies

University of Mannheim 2019 to present

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics

Thesis Title: Essays in Environmental Economics

Expected Completion Date: July 2025

University of Pennsylvania, The Wharton School Fall 2023

Visiting PhD Student, Invited by Arthur van Benthem

References

Professor Ulrich J. Wagner, PhD Professor Dr. Bernhard Ganglmair

Dept. of Economics, University of Mannheim Dept. of Economics, University of Mannheim

wagner@vwl.uni-mannheim.de ganglmair@uni-mannheim.de

+49 621 181-1420 +49 621 1235 304

Professor Arthur van Benthem, PhD Professor Laura Grigolon, PhD

Dept. of Business Economics and Public Policy Dept. of Economics, University of Mannheim

The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania lgrigolo@mail.uni-mannheim.de

arthurv@wharton.upenn.edu+49 621 181-1913

Research and Teaching Fields

Environmental Economics, Applied Microeconomics, Innovation Economics, Transportation

Relevant Professional Experience

Teaching Experience

+1 (215) 898-3013

E600 Mathematics (Preparatory Course, Master), Uni Mannheim, Instructor Fall 2024 E600 Mathematics (Preparatory Course, Master), Uni Mannheim, Instructor Fall 2023 E603 Advanced Econometrics (Master), Uni Mannheim, TA for Prof. Frölich Fall 2022

Principles in Economics (Bachelor), Uni Mannheim, TA for Dr. Habermalz

Fall 2017 Linear Algebra 1 (Bachelor), Uni Mannheim, TA for Prof. Boecherer

Research Experience

07/22 - 08/23RWI - Leibniz-Institute for Economic Research e.V., RA

Institute of Energy Economics gGmbH, University of Cologne, Intern 07/20 - 08/20

ZEW - Leibniz-Centre for European Economic Research GmbH, RA Spring 2019, Spring 2020

**Scholarships** 

Research Grant for Doctoral Students, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) 09/23 - 11/23Scholarship, Graduate School of Economic and Social Sciences, Uni Mannheim 09/20 - 08/21

### **Publications**

### Can Social Comparisons and Moral Appeals Encourage Low-Emission Transport Use?

(with Wolfgang Habla and Ulrich Wagner) Transportation Research Part D: Transport and Environment, Volume 133, 2024

### Research Papers

# Shifting Gears: Environmental Regulation in the Car Industry and Technological Change Among Suppliers (Job Market Paper)

Abstract: Decarbonizing industries to mitigate climate change requires technological change. Innovation by suppliers can play a crucial role for the technological transition, particularly when suppliers have expertise on zero-emission technologies. In this paper, I study the effect of environmental regulation in a downstream industry on the innovation outcomes of suppliers in the context of the European CO<sub>2</sub> emission standard for passenger cars. I construct a novel data set that links administrative data on car manufacturer compliance to supplier patent data using information on automotive supply chains. To identify causal effects of changes in the stringency of the emission standard, I leverage the heterogeneous exposure of automotive suppliers to changes in the composition of the European car market in the aftermath of the 2015 Volkswagen diesel scandal. I find that exposure to more stringent environmental regulation increases innovation for zero-emission vehicle technologies among existing suppliers. In addition, the likelihood that car manufacturers form new supply chain links to firms with prior knowledge on technologies to reduce vehicle emissions increases in response to more stringent environmental regulation. These results suggest that environmental regulation induces economically significant technology spillovers to the regulated industry.

# No Place Like Home: Charging Infrastructure and the Environmental Advantage of Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (with Benjamin Rübenacker, Wolfgang Habla and Ulrich Wagner)

Abstract: Many European companies operating company car fleets face the challenge of lowering  $CO_2$  emissions from their fleets. A particularly large lever in this regard exists for Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEVs), as those can be run on fuel or electricity and often exhibit low electric driving shares. This paper examines the effects of a large German company installing charging stations at their employees' homes. Leveraging quasi-experimental variation in the delivery and installation of home chargers, we quantify the impact of this technology on energy use and  $CO_2$  emissions of 856 PHEV company cars. As fuel and electricity expenditures for these cars are covered by the employer, home charging mainly changes the non-monetary costs to an employee. We find that access to home charging increases electricity consumption by 317.9 ( $\pm 23.3$ ) kWh per quarter and decreases fuel consumption by 97.97 ( $\pm 36.5$ ) liters, reducing  $CO_2$  emissions by 38 %. Moreover, access to home charging increases the employee's propensity to choose a Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV) upon renewal of the lease by 30 %-points. We use these estimates to compute private levelized abatement costs of home chargers for a range of scenarios characterizing the diffusion of BEVs. With current tax-inclusive energy prices, home chargers break even for the company within eight to 16 years.

### Work in Progress

## The Alignment Effect of Auditing: Evidence from Energy Efficiency Retrofits (with Andreas Gerster and Michael Kramm)

#### Presentations

- 2024 29th EAERE Annual Conference, AERE 2024 Summer Conference, 12th Mannheim Conference on Energy and the Environment, AURÖ Young Researchers Workshop, 13th CRC TR 224 Workshop for Young Researchers, University of Mannheim
- 2023 University of Pennsylvania, Yale School of the Environment, University of Mannheim
- 2022 27th EAERE Annual Conference, 10th Mannheim Conference on Energy and the Environment, University of Mannheim, University of Heidelberg

Citizenship: German Last updated: November 6, 2024