Johannes Benedikt Gessner
Ph.D. Student

Department of Economics
University of Mannheim
L7, 3-5, Room 210
68161 Mannheim, Germany

☎ +49 621 181 1772
✉ jgessner@mail.uni-mannheim.de
🌐 johannesgessner.github.io

Research Interests

Environmental Economics, Transportation Economics, Energy Efficiency, Behavioral Economics

Education

University of Mannheim   since 09/2021
Ph.D. Student in Economics

University of Mannheim   09/2019 – 10/2021
Master of Science in Economics

University of Mannheim   09/2016 – 08/2019
Bachelor of Science in Economics

San Diego State University   08 2018 – 12 2018
Semester Abroad, USA, California

Justus Liebig University Giessen   10/2015 – 08/2016
B.Sc. Student in Economics and Business Administration

Working Papers

Can social comparisons and moral suasion increase public transport ridership and decrease car use? (with Ulrich Wagner and Wolfgang Habla) *ZEW Discussion Paper* No.23-003, 2023

Abstract: Under pressure to reduce corporate CO_2 emissions, companies are beginning to replace subsidized company car schemes with so-called mobility budgets that employees can spend on leisure and commuting trips, using a broad range of transport modes. Given their novelty, little is known about how mobility budgets should be designed to encourage sustainable choices. Since prices play a limited role in this subsidized setting, our study focuses on behavioral interventions. In a field experiment with 341 employees of a large German company, we test whether social comparisons, either in isolation or in combination with a climate-related moral appeal, can change the use of public and car-related transportation. We find strong evidence for a reduction in car-related mobility in response to the combined treatment, which is driven by taxi and ride-sharing services. This is accompanied by substitution towards micromobility, i.e., transport modes such as shared e-scooters or bikes, but not towards public transport. We do not find any effects of the social comparison alone. Our results demonstrate that small, norm-based nudges can change transportation behavior, albeit for a limited time.

Work in Progress

Regulatory Stringency, Supply Chains and Innovation in the Car Industry.

Dormant Papers

Are there Rebound Effects from Electric Vehicle Adoption? Evidence from German Household Data (with Vera Huwe), *ZEW Discussion Paper* No. 20-048, 2020

Abstract: We analyze rebound effects of electric vehicle adoption on both the extensive (vehicle ownership) and the intensive (vehicle mileage) margin using cross-sectional household level data on vehilce ownership and use from Germany. To investigate the effect of electric vehicle adoption on household mileage, we predict the counterfactual number of cars owned if the household had not adopted an electric vehicle using a supervised learning model. We trained this model on a set of households not owning electric vehicles that were matched to the electric vehicle owners. We do not find a significant increase in the number of cars owned for households owning one electric and one conventional vehicle. However, electric vehicle ownership is associated with a significant reduction in annual mileage of -23 % of the sample mean. For the selection of covariates for matching, we contrast an ad hoc variable selection with a data-driven variable selection method (double LASSO). We find that the data-driven variable selection changes the magnitude of the estimation results substantially.

Relevant Professional Experience

Research Assistant

RWI - Leibniz-Institute for Economic Research e.V. Research Area: Environment and Resources	since 07/2022
ZEW - Leibniz-Centre for European Economic Research GmbH Research Area: Environmental and Resource Economics	02/2020 – 06/2020
ZEW - Leibniz-Centre for European Economic Research GmbH Research Area: Environmental and Resource Economics	01/2019 – 06/2019

Teaching Assistant

Advanced Econometrics (Master), Uni Mannheim	09/2022 – 02/2023
Principles in Economics (Bachelor), Uni Mannheim	09/2021 – 02/2022
Linear Algebra 1 (Bachelor), Uni Mannheim	09/2017 – 01/2018

Internships

NERA Economic Consulting Practice: Energy, Environment, Communications and Infrastructure	08/2021 – 09/2021
Institute of Energy Economics at the University of Cologne gGmbH	07/2020 – 08/2020
ZEW - Leibniz-Centre for European Economic Research GmbH Research Area: Environmental and Resource Economics	07/2019 – 08/2019

Scholarships

Doctoral Scholarship, Graduate School of Economic and Social Sciences, Uni Mannheim	09/2020 – 08/2021
Scholarship, Bronnbacher Stipendium, Association of Arts and Culture of the German Economy at the Federation of German Industries e. V. (*Kulturkreis der deutschen Wirtschaft im BDI e.V.*)	03/2020 – 11/2021
Scholarship, PROMOS, German Academic Exchange Service (*Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst*)	08/2018 – 12/2018
Scholarship, Deutschlandstipendium, Uni Mannheim	08/2017 – 07/2019

Presentations

2022	27th EAERE Annual Conference, 10th Mannheim Conference on Energy and the Environment, University of Mannheim, University of Heidelberg

Skills

Software:	R, Stata, MATLAB, Python, GAMS, LaTex, MS Office, Git
Languages:	German (native), English (C2), French (A2)

Citizenship: German

Last updated: February 14, 2023