

KATHARINA FLEINER, PHD

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Substantive: Political Economy of Finance and Development, Global Economic Governance, The International Financial System and Domestic Development, State-led Finance, Public Administration

Methodological: Statistical inference using observational data; multiple factor analysis; quantitative text analysis; comparative case studies based on interviews, archival data, legal texts, and economic agency reports; construction of composite indices for multi-dimensional concepts

EDUCATION

PhD Candidate in Political Science, University of Geneva Defended Jul 2025

Dissertation project: ["State-Led Finance in the 21st Century: A Comparative Analysis of the Rise and Governance of Sovereign Wealth Funds"](#)

Supervisor: Dr. Lukas Haffert

MPhil in Development Studies, University of Cambridge 2017-2018

Courses: Development Economics; Globalisation, Business and Development; Financial Organisation and Economic Growth; Economic Problems and Performance in Latin America

Supervisor: Dr. Ha-Joon Chang

Bachelor in International Relations, University of Essex 2013-2017

Focus: Econometrics; International Money and Finance; Domestic Politics and International Relations; The Political Economy of International Development and Aid

ERASMUS Year, IE University 2015-2016

International Relations Programme

POSITIONS

Doctoral Teaching Assistant and Independent Instructor, University of Geneva 2018 - 2025

Department of Political Science and International Relations (SPERI)

Doctoral Research Assistant, University of Geneva 2020 - 2024

Swiss National Science Foundation-funded project ["Evaluating the Pursuit of International Development Norms through Peer Review"](#), Project PI: Dr. Simone Dietrich

Visiting Researcher, University of California San Diego Jan 2022 - Jul 2022

Inviting professor: Dr. Christina Schneider

Research Assistant, Essex Lab, University of Essex Jan 2017 - Jul 2017

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. Donno, D., Dietrich, S., Fleiner, K. & Iannantuoni, A. (2025) "Targeting Gender Equality through Foreign Aid" *International Studies Quarterly*. url: <https://doi.org/10.1093/isq/sqaf033>
2. Bau, N., Dietrich, S., Fleiner, K. & Iannantuoni, A. (2025) "Examining New Donors in the OECD's Development Assistance Committee" *Journal of International Development*. url: <https://doi/full/10.1002/jid.70000>

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Bau, N., Dietrich, S., Fleiner, K. & Iannantuoni, A. "Populism and the Promotion of Inclusive Governance Abroad: Evidence from OECD DAC Policy Markers" *Invited to Revise and Resubmit at International Studies Quarterly*.
- "Global Crises, the Power of Finance and the Rise of Sovereign Wealth Funds" (*draft av. on request*)
- "The "State" in State-led Finance: A New Methodology for Assessing Political Influence in Sovereign Wealth Funds" (*draft av. on request*)
- "Democratic Legitimacy in Public Administration: Governing SWFs in Ireland and France"
- "False Friends of the People: Populism's Use of State-led Finance for Elite Gains"

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Workshops

Methodological Pluralism in Critical Finance Research	Jul 2025
Max Planck Summer School for Women in Political Economy	Sep 2023
GSIFE Mini-Conference on Economic Statecraft (online)	Jan 2023
PhD & Post-Doc Colloquium Series, SPERI, UniGe	Nov 2022, Nov 2021, Feb 2021
Southwestern Workshop on Mixed-Methods Research, University of Notre Dame	Oct 2022
Virtual Workshop on Authoritarian Regimes (VWAR) (online)	Oct 2022

Conferences

Annual Meeting of the Political Economy of Aid Society (PEAS)	2024 & 2025
Swiss Political Science Association Congress (SVPW/ASSP)	2024 & 2025
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (APSA)	2023 & 2024
German Political Science Association Political Economy Section Annual Conference	2023
International Studies Association Annual Meeting (ISA)	2023 & 2022
Italian Political Science Association (SISP)	2022
Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)	2022
Political Economy of International Organization (PEIO)	2019

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

CUSO , Graduate Institute Geneva (IHEID)	May 2023
Agent-Based Modelling for Social Scientists	
Instructor: Dr. Corinna Elsenbroich & Dr. Dr Jennifer Badham	
Oxford Spring School in Advanced Research Methods , University of Oxford	Mar 2023
Qualitative Methods	
Instructor: Marnie Howlett	
Digital Skills Workshops for PhD Students , Graduate Institute Geneva (IHEID)	Oct 2021
An Introduction to Web Scraping using R	
Instructor: Emma Vestesson	
World Trade Institute PhD Summer School , World Trade Institute Bern	Sep 2019
Institutions and the Political Economy of Development	
Instructor: Dr. Axel Dreher	
Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis , University of Essex	Jul 2019
Machine Learning for Social Scientists	
Instructor: Dr. Marco Steenbergen	

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Independent Instructor

BA Lecture: "Quantitative Methods" (Taught in French), UniGe	2025
BA Seminar: "Contemporary Challenges in International Economic Relations", UniGe	2018-2024
Supervision of Undergraduate Research Projects, UniGe	2018-2020

Guest Lectures

Seminar on the Role of Sovereign Wealth Funds in International Relations, UniGe	2023
Introduction to International Relations - Session on International Development, UniGe	2021

Teaching outside University

Debate Chamber Summer School Courses, London, UK	2018-2022
Courses: Introduction to International Relations; Introduction to Economics; Money, Capital, and Financial Markets; Growth, Development and Inequalities	
German Language Cafe Teacher, Colchester, UK	2015-2017

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

Swiss National Science Foundation Mobility Grant (17'601.25 ChF)	2022
Funding for my 6-month stay at the University of California San Diego as Visiting Researcher	

Best Masters Presentation , Jesus College, University of Cambridge	Mar 2018
Awarded for the best Masters presentation at the annual Graduate Conference	

Best Empirical Undergraduate Dissertation , Dept. of Government, University of Essex	Jul 2017
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Conference Paper Prize , Dept. of Government, University of Essex	Mar 2017
Awarded for the best paper submitted to the annual student conference	

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Discipline

Journal reviewer for *the Socio-Economic Review*, *the Journal of International Development*, *Journal of Peace Research*, and *Politics*

Swiss Political Science Association

Section Co-chair for International Affairs	Dec 2022 - current
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University of Geneva

Organising Member of the Political Economy of Finance Reading Group	Autumn 2024 - current
SPERI Staff Seminar Series Organiser	Autumn 2020 - Spring 2024
Member of the Commission Relève of the SPERI department	Spring 2021 – Autumn 2022

RELEVANT SKILLS

Software and Programming Languages	R, Stata, LaTeX, GitHub, Python, Tableau, Web-scraping, OCR German (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate), Spanish (basic)
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REFEREES

Dr. Lukas Haffert

Associate Professor of
Comp. Politics & Political Economy
University of Geneva
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Dr. Alice Iannantuoni

Assistant Professor of
International Political Economy
ESPOL
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Dr. Thomas Sattler

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International Relations
University of Geneva
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