

Certificate of Appreciation

To whom it may concern,

We would like to recognize the outstanding contribution, effort, and dedication of Tom Wiederkehr to our team as a volunteer research assistant for the CoronaNet Research Project. Tom was active with our project from 2022-04-11 to 2022-07-07 and, in that time, coded and updated policy information for France. Without the support of our dedicated RAs, such as Tom Wiederkehr, we would not be able to sustain our pace of policy documentation which, to date, counts more than 100 thousand policies from virtually every country in the world.

The CoronaNet Research Project is working to gather comprehensive and global data on government responses to the COVID-19 crisis. This work includes gathering information about which governments are responding to the coronavirus, toward whom policies are targeted (e.g. other countries), the types of policies enacted (e.g. travel restrictions, banning exports of masks) and their timing and duration. For more information, see www.coronanet-project.org.

Tom has been a country expert for France. This role involves researching and creating a comprehensive overview of government policies enacted in France as well as collecting and entering new and updated policy information related to COVID-19. Becoming a country expert requires passing a series of trainings on how to code data in the CoronaNet database, which uses a custom Qualtrics survey instrument, keeping up with policy coding on a weekly basis, and attending weekly country- or regional coordination meetings as well as project-wide meetings.

In addition to being a country expert, Tom took on the following additional roles within CoronaNet:

- **Country Manager:** This role involves leading a group of RAs. It involves oversight and support of RAs, including conducting regular performance and activity appraisals to guarantee the development of a consistent and up-to-date dataset. Regional Managers are the first point of contact for RA questions regarding research and organizational issues. The role requires a profound knowledge of the construction of the dataset and strong leadership and management skills in order to foster a team spirit among the RAs, enhance their motivation, and develop a positive work environment.
- **TUM Course:** Tom participated in the course ‘Analyzing the Coronavirus Pandemic in Real Time: An Introduction to Evidence-Based Global Public Policy’ course at the Hochschule für Politik at the Technical University of Munich. The course gave students experience in applying quantitative and statistical analyses in order to generate original research to help us better understand the politics of the pandemic. In this course, the concept of ‘evidence-based public policy’ was introduced and explored on the basis of students’ own work to address a variety of questions about the drivers and consequences of the public policies adopted across the globe in response to the pandemic.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our thanks to Tom Wiederkehr for supporting these important and time-sensitive collection efforts and for being part of the CoronaNet community.



Luca Messerschmidt, Principal Investigator

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CoronaNet Research Team

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Joan Barceló (NYU Abu Dhabi)

Cindy Cheng (TU Munich)

Vanja Grujic (Universidade de Brasília)

Allison Spencer Hartnett (Yale University)

Robert Kubinec (NYU Abu Dhabi)

Luca Messerschmidt (TU Munich)

Timothy A. Model (Havighurst Fellow at the Miami University)

Caress Schenk (Nazarbayev University)

Svanhildur Thorvaldsdottir (TU Munich)

