

# SARAH FRITZ

Halle Institute for Economic Research  
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## EDUCATION

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<b>Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg</b> , Halle (DE) <i>PhD Candidate in Economics</i> Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Christoph Wunder, Dr. Mirko Titze	April 2020 - present
<b>Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi</b> , Milan (IT) <i>M.Sc. in Economic and Social Sciences</i>	Sept. 2017 - Dec. 2019
<b>Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi</b> , Milan (IT) <i>Exchange Program: ERASMUS +</i>	Sept. 2016 - June 2017
<b>Sciences Po Paris, Franco-German European campus</b> , Nancy (FR) <i>Bachelor equivalent (with Distinction)</i> Trilingual studies in European politics and institutions, Economics, European History, Law	Sept. 2014 - Aug. 2017

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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<b>Halle Institute for Economic Research (IWH)</b> , Halle (DE) <i>Researcher at the Centre for Evidence-based Policy Advice</i>	Feb. 2020 - present
<b>University of Essex</b> , Colchester (UK) <i>Visiting scholar</i>	November 2023
<b>University of British Columbia (UBC)</b> , Vancouver (CA) <i>Visiting PhD student</i>	Spring 2022, Spring 2023
<b>Halle Institute for Economic Research (IWH)</b> , Halle (DE) <i>Student research assistant in the Department of Structural Change and Productivity</i>	July 2018 - Sept. 2018

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Public Economics, Labor Economics, Applied Microeconomics

## RESEARCH

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**Reshaping the Economy? Local Reallocation Effects of Place-Based Policies (JMP)** – *draft available soon*  
with [Catherine van der List](#)

We study the effects of place-based policies on aggregate productivity using administrative data on the universe of projects co-financed by the EU in Italy linked to firm balance sheet data. We exploit quasi-experimental variation in EU funding for a large place-based policy stemming from measurement error in regional GDP estimates. Results show that the program decreases labor productivity of areas receiving investments. Decomposing the change reveals that the aggregate productivity declines are driven by reallocation of labor to low-productivity firms, particularly in the manufacturing sector. Analysis of the mechanism using firm-level event studies reveals that the negative labor reallocation effects are caused by high-productivity firms taking up the funds and subsequently becoming more liquidity constrained, leading to slowdowns in employment growth.

**Declining Free Lunch: State Capacity and Foregone Public Spending** – *draft available soon*  
with [Lorenzo Incoronato](#) and [Catherine van der List](#)

## TEACHING

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**Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg**, Halle (DE)

September 2020 - March 2024

*Instructor at the School of Economics and Business*

Principles of Economics (Bachelor level)

Latest evaluation: 1.4 (excellent)

**Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg**, Halle (DE)

April 2020 - August 2023

*Instructor at the School of Economics and Business*

Evidence-based Policy Advice (Bachelor and Master level)

Latest evaluation: 1.5 (excellent)

## POLICY WORK

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### Policy notes

The causal effect of EU fiscal transfers on public support for the European Union  
with [Mirko Titze](#)

2024

### Projects

Participation in the interdisciplinary project “[The Rise of Populist Parties in Europe:  
The Dark Side of Globalisation and Technological Change?](#)” funded by the Volkswagen Foundation.

2020-2024

## AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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**Summa cum Laude** (top 2% of students), Sciences Po Paris (all campuses)

2017

**Scholarship** German Academic Scholarship Foundation

2014-2019

## PRESENTATIONS, CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

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**2025:** 14th European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association (UEA), Workshop on Empirical Microeconomics (WEM-Halle), 2nd Verona Early Career Workshop in Economics, Berlin Network of Labor Market Research (BeNa) Summer Workshop, 59th Annual Meetings of the Canadian Economics Association (CEA)\*, 18th and 19th Workshop on Empirical Microeconomics and Applied Econometrics, 40th meeting of the European Economic Association (EEA)\*, Conference on Regional Economic Inequalities\*, Verein für Socialpolitik (VfS) Annual Conference 2025\*, 40th Italian Association of Labour Economics Conference (AIEL)\*

**2022-2024:** 62nd and 63rd European Regional Science Association (ERSA) Congress, UBC Vancouver School of Economic Urban Lunch Seminar, UBC Vancouver School of Economic Labor Lunch Seminar, 14th and 16th Workshop on Empirical Microeconomics and Applied Econometrics

## OTHER

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**Software** Stata, R,  $\LaTeX$ , GitHub, MS Office

**Languages** German (native), French (native), English (fluent), Italian (advanced)

(updated July 2025)