

SARAH FRITZ

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EDUCATION

Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg , Halle (DE) <i>PhD Candidate in Economics</i> First Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Christoph Wunder, Second Supervisor: Dr. Mirko Titze	April 2020 - present
Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi , Milan (IT) <i>M.Sc. in Economic and Social Sciences</i>	Sept. 2017 - Dec. 2019
Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi , Milan (IT) <i>Exchange Program: ERASMUS +</i>	Sept. 2016 - June 2017
Sciences Po Paris, Franco-German European campus , 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

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

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Public Economics, Labor Economics, Applied Microeconomics

RESEARCH

Reshaping the Economy? Place-Based Policies and Regional Reallocation (JMP) *draft available upon request*
with [Catherine van der List](#)

We study the medium- to long-term 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 regions 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 investing in capital and automation and subsequently reducing their employment.

A Helping Hand, But Not a Lift. EU Cohesion Policy and Regional Development *WP available soon.*
with [Eva Dettmann](#)

Despite the European Union's efforts to foster economic convergence through place-based fiscal transfers, spatial disparities across European regions are profound and persistent. Using a novel data set, we provide new evidence on the impact of the EU Cohesion

Policy on regional income growth. We apply a Fuzzy Regression Discontinuity Design, exploiting the fact that the EU classifies regions below a certain income threshold as less developed, which generates a discontinuity in the intensity of fiscal transfers they receive. Using digitized historical data employed by the European Commission for the demarcation of eligible regions, we are able to precisely replicate the policy rule and correctly classify regions according to their compliance status. Our panel comprises the years from 1989 to 2020, hence covering all five completed funding periods. We show that the EU's place-based policy fostered GDP-per-capita growth of the less developed regions. However, the implied growth effects are smaller than previously documented.

TEACHING

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

Policy notes

The causal effect of EU fiscal transfers on public support for the European Union

2024

with [Mirko Titze](#)

Projects

Participation in the interdisciplinary project [“The Rise of Populist Parties in Europe:](#)

2020-2024

[The Dark Side of Globalisation and Technological Change?”](#) funded by the Volkswagen Foundation.

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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

2017

Scholarship German Academic Scholarship Foundation

2014-2019

PRESENTATIONS, CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

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)*, Verein für Socialpolitik (VfS) Annual Conference 2025*, 40th Italian Association of Labour Economics Conference (AIEL)*, Joint IZA/OECD Workshop on Global Trends and Local Labor Markets*

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

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

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

(updated May 2025)