

# SARAH FROHNWEILER

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**Primary field:** Development Economics

**Secondary fields:** Labor, Migration, and Behavioral Economics

## EDUCATION

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<b>University of Göttingen</b> PhD in Economics, <i>summa cum laude</i>	2022 - 2025
<b>University of Western Australia</b> Visiting scholar in the Department of Economics	2024
<b>Tufts University</b> Visiting scholar at The Fletcher School and the Department of Economics	2024
<b>University of Göttingen</b> M.Sc. in <i>Development Economics</i>	2018 - 2020
<b>University of Bayreuth</b> B.A. in <i>International Economics and Development</i>	2014 - 2018

## JOB MARKET PAPER

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Make me believe. Self-efficacy and human capital investments among young women in Ghana. [\[Draft\]](#)  
[\[Development Impact Blog Post\]](#)

Programs aimed at fostering development typically target external constraints, such as limited access to education, credit, or social protection. However, participation and completion rates in these programs often remain low. Internal psychological constraints may represent an additional barrier to engagement and investment decisions. I implemented a pre-registered randomized testimonial campaign designed to boost self-efficacy – beliefs about one’s ability to succeed – among young women in Ghana who registered for a free training program. The testimonials significantly raised self-efficacy and training completion rates, driven by enhanced training performance and a shift in the characteristics of participants who initiated the training. Consistent with a model of behavioral investment traps, effects are concentrated among women with intermediate education levels and lower self-efficacy. These findings suggest that addressing both internal and external constraints can enhance program outcomes.

## PUBLICATIONS

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Frohweiler, Sarah, Bernd Beber, and Cara Ebert (2024). “Information frictions, belief updating and internal migration: Evidence from Ghana and Uganda.” **Journal of Development Economics**, 171, 103311. [\[Journal\]](#)

Frohweiler, Sarah, Esther Heesemann, Marcello Perez-Alvarez, Manuel Santos Silva, and Sebastian Vollmer (forthcoming). “Hospital construction and emergency waiting time: Evidence from Nicaragua.” **Journal of Development Effectiveness**. [\[Journal\]](#)

Frohweiler, Sarah, Bernd Beber, and Cara Ebert (2023). “Delayed Effects on Migration Intentions in an Information Provision Experiment in Ghana.” **Revue d’économie du développement**, 35, 37-44. [\[Journal\]](#)

## WORKING PAPERS

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Frohnweiler, Sarah, Bernd Beber, Tabea Lakemann, Jan Priebe, and Jann Lay (2024). “Effects of skills training on employment and livelihood outcomes: A randomized controlled trial with young women in Ghana”. Ruhr Economic Papers, 1095. [[Working paper](#)]

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

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Skills trainings and Bayesian learning: A multisite randomized controlled trial in Ghana (with Bernd Beber, Tabea Lakemann, Peter Partey, Regina Schnars, and Jann Lay)

Cognitive load, migration, and climate adaptation in Senegal (with Bernd Beber, Lena Detlefsen, Cara Ebert, and Salar Jahedi)

Development Assistance and International Migration (with Bernd Beber)

## NON-PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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Beber, Bernd, Sarah Frohnweiler, Tabea Lakemann, and Jann Lay (2024). “Good Jobs through Training: Refining Development Cooperation in Africa.” GIGA Focus Africa, 4, Hamburg: German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA). [[Report](#)]

Ebert, Cara, Daniela Flörchinger, Sarah Frohnweiler, Stepahnie Ihring, and Micaela Rosadio Cayllahua (2021). “Employment and income effects of skills development interventions: An impact evaluation of three employment promotion measures in Eastern Africa within GIZ’s Employment and Skills for Development program.” RWI project report. [[Report](#)]

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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### Conference and Seminar Presentations

CESifo/ifo Junior Workshop on the Economics of Education (Munich, DEU), EEA (Bordeaux, FRA) 2025

MIT Behavioral Lunch (Cambridge, USA), PhD Workshop Tufts University (Medford, USA), University of Western Australia (Perth, AUS), Curtin University (Perth, AUS), GDE (Hannover, DEU), AFES (Abidjan, CIV), SEEDEC (Bergen, NOR), ESPE (Rotterdam, NLD), VfS (Berlin, DEU), OXDEV (Oxford, GBR), BSoE Workshop (Berlin, DEU) 2024

CSAE (Oxford, GBR), Economics of Migration Junior Seminar (online), Economics of Migration - Junior Workshop (Paris, FRA), GDE (Dresden, DEU), EALE (Prague, CZE) 2023

Doctoral Workshop on Development Economics of the German Economic Association (Berlin, DEU), IDOS (Bonn, DEU), MoPED (Berlin, DEU), NOVAFRICA (Lisbon, PRT) 2022

### Services to the Profession

Organizing member of the Development Economics Network Berlin (DENEb) [[Website](#)] 2020 - present

## FIELDWORK & DATA COLLECTION

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Principle Investigator for N4G program evaluation in Ghana including three waves 2021-2023

Field Coordinator for ProfArts program evaluation in Ghana including three waves 2020-2023

Field Coordinator for endline data collection of hospital evaluation in Nicaragua 2019

## SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

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RWI Research Exchange funding	2024
DAAD Conference Funding	2023
Leibniz PhD Network - Small Event Fund, 8th DENEb PhD Workshop	2023
Scholarship Stiftung der deutschen Wirtschaft (sdw) - Studienförderwerk Klaus Murmann	2018 - 2020

## TEACHING

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Empirical Development Economics, Tutorial, HU Berlin	Summer term 2025
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## EMPLOYMENT

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<b>RWI - Leibniz Institute for Economic Research</b>	2020 - 2025
Researcher in the research unit <i>Climate Change and Development</i>	
<b>University of Göttingen</b>	2018 - 2020
Research assistant at the <i>Chair of Development Economics</i> , Prof. Stephan Klasen, PhD	
<b>University of Bayreuth</b>	2017 - 2018
Research assistant at the <i>Chair of Institutional Economics</i> , Prof. Dr. Martin Leschke	
<b>KfW Research Team</b>	2018
Intern at the team <i>Macro and Global Economics</i>	
<b>PricewaterhouseCoopers GmbH</b>	2018
Intern at the department <i>Economics and Policy</i>	
<b>Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy</b>	2018
Intern at the department VII A1 <i>Fundamental issues of the national and European SME policy</i>	
<b>German-Argentinian Chamber of Industry and Commerce</b>	2016
Intern at the departments <i>Foreign Trade</i> and <i>Environment and Energy</i>	

## SKILLS

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<b>Software</b>	Stata, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X, SurveyCTO, MSOffice
<b>Languages</b>	German (native), English (fluent), Spanish (fluent)

## REFERENCES

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University of Göttingen  
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