

# Alexander Patt

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

July 2020–current, postdoctoral research assistant, Institute for Employment Research (IAB), Germany.

Nov 2016–Sept 2019, research associate, Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Germany.

Aug 2014–Feb 2015, visiting research fellow, Center for International Development, Harvard University, Cambridge, USA.

Sept 2013, research stay at OECD Directorate for Education and Skills, Paris, France.

Mar 2012–Sept 2015, research fellow, Zeppelin University, Friedrichshafen, Germany & Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Labour economics (esp. human capital and migration), regional economics (esp. development and technology), microeconomic theory (esp. learning and experiments)

## EDUCATION

Doctorate in Economics, Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Germany, 2020 (summa cum laude).

Dissertation title: “The Enriching Complexity of Complex Tasks: Revisiting the Mechanisms behind Individual and Regional Productivity Growth.”

Advisors: Prof. Dr. Simon Wiederhold, Prof. Alexander Danzer, Ph.D.

MSc in Finance & Economics (Research), London School of Economics, UK, 2011.

## PROJECTS

2016, “Heterogeneous and Complex Human Capital” funded by Friedrich A. von Hayek-Gesellschaft.

2012–2015, “Lifelong Learning, Innovation, Growth & Human Capital Tracks in Europe” (LLLight’in’Europe) EU funded FP7 project. <http://www.lllightineurope.com>

## MEMBERSHIP

Verein für Socialpolitik, Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

EALE Job Market Tour 2023 local event co-organisation (at IAB).

Master of ceremony at the joint EALE SOLE AASLE world conference, 2020.

Refereeing for *LABOUR: Review of Labour Economics and Industrial Relations*, *Labour Economics*, *International Journal of Manpower*, *The Manchester School*.

## PUBLICATIONS

International migrant selection on occupational skills. *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 2021 (with Jens Ruhose, Simon Wiederhold, and Miguel Flores)

Complex problem-solving skills and innovativeness—evidence from occupational testing and regional data. *European Journal of Education*, 2016 (with Peer Ederer and Samuel Greiff)

What do employers pay for employees’ complex problem solving skills? *International Journal of Lifelong Education*, 2015 (with Peer Ederer, Ljubica Nedelkoska, and Silvia Castellazzi)

## WORK IN PROGRESS

Home ownership and structural changes in the labour market (with Bernd Fitzenberger)

Labour market tightness and worker allocation across and within firms (with Sabrina Genz and Alexandra Spitz-Oener)

Play stupid games, win stupid prizes? Casino-based evidence on exploration strategies and curiosity in a high-complexity game (with Katharina Hartinger)

How to fix occupational information in the IAB Employment Biographies data following 2011 structural break

#### UNREFEREED POLICY PAPERS

Rückgang des Gender Pay Gaps während Corona, außer bei niedrigen Verdiensten, IAB-Kurzbericht, 2024 (with Bernd Fitzenberger and Anna Houštická) [In German]

Income growth is related to complexity. Policy brief P7, LLLight'in'Europe, 2015

Income returns to complex problem solving skills are strongly significant. Policy brief P6, LLLight'in'Europe, 2015

#### CONFERENCE AND RESEARCH TALKS

- 2nd Workshop on Urban Labor Markets and Local Income Inequality, Nuremberg, Germany, *December 2025*.
- Annual Conference of the Verein für Socialpolitik, Köln, Germany, *September 2025*.
- Warsaw International Economic Meeting, Warsaw, Poland, June 2025.
- 24th Bavarian Micro Day, Würzburg, Germany, June 2024.
- 5th Behavioral Macroeconomics Workshop, Bamberg, Germany, June 2023 (hybrid).
- 8th International PhD Meeting in Economics, Thessaloniki, Greece, June 2023.
- Spatial Dimensions of the Labour Market: Megatrends in Times of Covid, Nuremberg, Germany, October 2022.
- CReAM Annual Workshop on Topics in Labour Economics, Piedmont, Italy, September 2022.
- CReAM Annual Workshop on Topics in Labour Economics, Piedmont, Italy, September 2021.
- Trade, Technology, and Demographics: 6th International Conference of the DFG Priority Program 1764, Germany, June 2021 (virtual).
- CReAM Annual Workshop on Topics in Labour Economics, Piedmont, Italy, September 2020.
- Annual Conference of the Verein für Socialpolitik, Leipzig, Germany, September 2019.
- 34th Annual Congress of the European Economic Association, Manchester, UK, August 2019.
- Inaugural Munich Young Economists' Meeting, Kochel am See, Germany, June 2019.
- 9th ifo Dresden Workshop on Labor Economics and Social Policy, Dresden, Germany, May 2019.
- 11th Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Workshop: Perspectives on (Un-)Employment, Institute for Employment Research (IAB), Nuremberg, Germany, January 2019.
- 6th International Conference on Economics, ICE-TEA, Antalya, Turkey, November 2018.
- Annual Conference of the Verein für Socialpolitik, Freiburg, Germany, September 2018.
- TASKS IV: Labor Market Adjustments to Digitization and the Future of Work, Mannheim, Germany, September 2016 (poster session).
- Annual Conference of the Verein für Socialpolitik, Augsburg, Germany, September 2016.
- LLLight'in'Europe Final Results Conference, Brussels, Belgium, September 2015.
- Growth Lab Seminar Series, Kennedy School, Harvard University, Cambridge, USA, February 2015.
- The 6th International Symposium on Human Capital and Labor Markets, Beijing, China, October 2014.
- Growth Lab Seminar Series, Kennedy School, Harvard University, Cambridge, USA, September 2014.

- TASKS III: Changing Tasks — Consequences for Inequality, Nuremberg, Germany, May 2014.

#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Seminar on current topics in labor market policy.

Foundations of economics tutorial, decision theory tutorial.

Behavioral finance tutorial, seminar on behavioral finance.

Seminar on institutions and innovation in historical perspective.

Mentor in the Solution and innovation skills MOOC at the Leuphana Digital School.

Bachelor (5) and master (1) theses supervision.

#### COURSEWORK AND WORKSHOPS

“Mathematical and Computational Methods for Complex Social Systems”, AMS Short Course, 2021.

“Advanced Econometrics”, Prof. Jeffrey Wooldridge (MSU), BGPE course program, 2019.

“Machine Learning”, Prof. Martin Spindler (Universität Hamburg), audited course at the University of Regensburg, 2019.

“A Course on Game Theory and Information Economics”, Prof. Zvika Neeman (Tel Aviv), BGPE course program, 2018.

“Regional and Urban Economics”, Prof. Gilles Duranton (UPenn), BGPE course program, 2018.

“Introduction to Graduate Labor Economics, with an Emphasis on Life-Cycle Dynamics”, Prof. Florian Hoffmann (UBC), BGPE course program, 2017.

#### LANGUAGE SKILLS

Russian (native), English (fluent), German (intermediate).

#### TECHNICAL SKILLS

Statistical analysis and programming skills in GNU R; economic experiments implementation with oTree.

Last updated: August 2025.