

DOMINIK S. MEIER

Assistant Professor for Global Philanthropy

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Research Interests

My research examines individual and institutional philanthropy with a focus on global contexts. At the individual level, I study prosocial behavior including charitable giving and volunteering across cultures and platforms. At the institutional level, I investigate how nonprofits, foundations, and corporate philanthropy programs operate internationally, with particular attention to how nonprofit and for-profit organizations differ and overlap in their missions and contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). I employ big data analytics, machine learning, and natural language processing to analyze philanthropic patterns at scale, including developing algorithms to detect SDG-related content in text.

Academic Employment

University of Basel, Faculty of Business and Economics, Basel, Switzerland

Assistant Professor for Global Philanthropy (Non-Tenure Track)

Aug 2024 – Present

Postdoc, Center for Philanthropy Studies

Sep 2023 – Jul 2024

University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland

PhD Student, Center for Philanthropy Studies & Center for Economic Psychology

Aug 2019 – Aug 2023

Graduate Research Assistant, Center for Philanthropy Studies

Sep 2017 – Aug 2019

Graduate Research Assistant, Center for Economic Psychology

Sep 2018 – Jun 2019

Teaching Assistant (R & Statistics)

Aug 2015 – Dec 2018

Education

PhD, *summa cum laude*, University of Basel

2019 – 2023

Faculty of Psychology

Dissertation: *Social Preferences Across Contexts*

Advisors: Prof. Dr. Jörg Rieskamp & Prof. Dr. Georg von Schnurbein

MSc, Economic Psychology, University of Basel

2017 – 2019

Grade: 5.9/6.0

Advisor: Prof. Dr. Jörg Rieskamp

BSc, Economics, University of Basel

2018 – 2019

Grade: 5.2/6.0

BSc, Psychology, University of Basel

2014 – 2017

Grade: 5.6/6.0

Awards & Fellowships

Daniel Cheng Prize for Early Career Achievement	2025
Gradel Institute of Charity, University of Oxford	
ARNOVA DAS Award for the text2sdg R package	2024
Visiting Researcher , Gradel Institute of Charity, New College, University of Oxford	Sep 2024 –
Ongoing	
Fellows Program	
Penn Summer Social Impact Doctoral Fellows Program	Jun 2022
University of Pennsylvania	

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

1. **Meier, D. S.** (2025). Compassion for all: Real-world online donations contradict compassion fade. *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, 54(2), 267-301. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08997640241234567>
2. **Meier, D. S.**, Mata, R., & Wulff, D. U. (2025). text2sdg: An R Package to Monitor Sustainable Development Goals from Text. *The R Journal*, 16(1), 83-95. <https://doi.org/10.32614/RJ-2024-089>
3. **Meier, D. S.**, & Searing, E. AM. (2025). Towards an SDG-Based Typology for U.S. Nonprofits. *Business Strategy and the Environment*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/bse.xxxx>
4. **Meier, D. S.**, & von Schnurbein, G. (2025). From Mission to Market: Assessing Sector Overlap Between Nonprofits and For-Profits. *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08997640241234568>
5. **Meier, D. S.**, & von Schnurbein, G. (2024). Risking your health to help others: volunteering during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, 53(3), 741-769. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08997640231234567>
6. Wulff, D. U., **Meier, D. S.**, & Mata, R. (2024). Using novel data and ensemble models to improve automated labeling of Sustainable Development Goals. *Sustainability Science*, 19(5), 1773-1787. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11625-024-01234-5>
7. **Meier, D. S.** (2023). The evolution of SDG-related third sector and public administration literature: an analysis and call for more SDG-related research. *Sustainability: Science, Practice and Policy*, 19(1), 1-14. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15487733.2023.1234567>
8. Albrecht, R., Jarecki, J. B., **Meier, D. S.**, & Rieskamp, J. (2021). Risk preferences and risk perception affect the acceptance of digital contact tracing. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, 8(1), 1-9. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-021-01234-5>

Manuscripts Under Revision

9. **Meier, D. S.** (2025). The Changing Face of Philanthropy: How Corporate Philanthropy Surpassed Nonprofit Legitimacy in Media Narratives (1840-2024). Revise and resubmit at *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*.

Working Papers

10. Meier, D. S. (2025). The Intellectual Geography of Nonprofit Research: An LLM-Driven Analysis of Theories, Contexts, and Methodologies. ERNOP 2025 presentation.
11. Van Overbeeke, P., & Meier, D. S. (2025). Volunteers vs paid staff: Exploring the global dynamics of role substitution in philanthropic organizations. ERNOP 2025 presentation.
12. McDonnel, D., & Meier, D. S. (2025). When Charities Leave: Country-Level Patterns of UK Overseas Charity Presence, Withdrawal, and Adaptation. ERNOP 2025 presentation.
13. Walk, M., Horvath, K., Meier, D. S., & Oster, M. (2025). "United by Music, United by You": ESC Volunteer Perceptions of HR-Practices – a Mixed-Methods Study. ERNOP 2025 presentation.
14. Doodeman, E., de Wit, A., Meier, D. S., & Mohan, J. (2025). How important is volunteering in people's lives? Capturing caring intentions with Large Language Models.
15. Meier, D. S. (2025). LLM-rated deservingness predicts donation-based crowdfunding success.

Software

16. Wulff, D. U., & Meier, D. S. (2021). text2sdg: Detecting UN Sustainable Development Goals in Text (Version 0.1.0). Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5553980>

Book Chapters & Encyclopedia Entries

17. Seffusatti, A., & Meier, D. S. (2025). PPP–DSE Nexus. In *Digital Social Entrepreneurship* (pp. 77-94). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003583448-5>
18. Meier, D. S. (2025). Compassion. In *International Encyclopedia of Civil Society*. Springer.

Reports & Non-Refereed Publications

19. Neubert, L., von Schnurbein, G., Lussi, M., & Meier, D. S. (2022). *Jahrbuch der Hilfswerke. Die Finanzen der Schweizer Nonprofit-Organisationen*.
20. Potluka, O., Meier, D. S., Wolf, R., Giardina, F., & Ramacci, R. (2022). *Mapping Digitale Zivilgesellschaft in der Schweiz*. CEPS Forschung & Praxis – Band 29.
21. Neubert, L., von Schnurbein, G., Lussi, M., & Meier, D. S. (2021). *Jahrbuch der Hilfswerke. Die Finanzen der Schweizer Nonprofit-Organisationen*.
22. Meier, D. S., Nietlispach, L., & Kirnbauer, Y. (2020). *Konjunkturbarometer 2020. Eine Trendanalyse des Schweizer NPO-Sektors*. CEPS Forschung & Praxis – Band 25.
23. Neubert, L., von Schnurbein, G., Schweiwiler, M., & Meier, D. S. (2020). *Jahrbuch der Hilfswerke. Die Finanzen der Schweizer Nonprofit-Organisationen*.

Selected Conference Presentations

Meier, D. S. (2024). The Changing Face of Philanthropy: How Corporate Philanthropy Surpassed Nonprofit Legitimacy in Media Narratives (1840-2024). Paper presented at the 53rd Annual ARNOVA Conference, Washington D.C., USA.

Meier, D. S., & Searing, E. AM. (2024). Towards an SDG-Based Typology for U.S. Nonprofits. Paper presented at the 53rd Annual ARNOVA Conference, Washington D.C., USA.

Meier, D. S. (2024). The Changing Face of Philanthropy: How Corporate Philanthropy Surpassed Nonprofit Legitimacy in Media Narratives (1840-2024). Paper presented at the 16th ISTR International Conference, Antwerpen, Belgium.

Meier, D. S., & Litofcenko, J. (2023). Blurry boundaries: Implications of convergence between for-profits and non-profits on their survival probabilities. Paper presented at the 52nd Annual ARNOVA Conference, Orlando, USA.

von Schnurbein, G., **Meier, D. S.**, Hengevoss, A., & Valta, P. (2023). Are they worth the money? Consequences of individual satisfaction and organizational performance of board compensation. Paper presented at the 52nd Annual ARNOVA Conference, Orlando, USA.

Meier, D. S. (2023). Compassion for all: Real-world online donations contradict compassion fade theory. Paper presented at the 11th ERNOP Conference, Zagreb, Croatia.

Meier, D. S., & von Schnurbein, G. (2022). What Motivates People to Volunteer During a Pandemic? Paper presented at the 15th ISTR International Conference, Montreal, Canada.

Meier, D. S., & von Schnurbein, G. (2019). Let people choose – the effect of sorting on the external validity of social preference games in philanthropy. Paper presented at the ERNOP Conference, Basel, Switzerland.

Teaching Experience

University of Basel

Executive Education

- Nonprofit Leadership (CAS Nonprofit Governance & Leadership) – Half-day module

Graduate Courses (Master's Level)

- Social Preferences and Fundraising: A Behavioral Economics Perspective
- Text Analysis in R: From Basic Techniques to Modern AI

Undergraduate Courses (Bachelor's Level)

- Sustainability Management: Foundations of Responsible Management
- Introduction to Modern Data Analysis with R and AI

Student Supervision

- Doctoral Students: Alice Seffusatti, "NPOs and SDGs" (2024 – ongoing)
- Bachelor and Master Theses: 5+ years of supervision experience

Service to Profession

Editorial Service

Editorial Board, <i>Voluntas</i>	2026 – Present
Editorial Board, <i>Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly</i>	2025 – Present

Conference Organization

Co-Organizer, First Workshop on Global Philanthropy	2025
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Professional Memberships

Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA)
International Society for Third Sector Research (ISTR)
European Research Network on Philanthropy (ERNOP)