




Felix RUSCHE

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics, University of Mannheim

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EDUCATION

present September 2019	UNIVERSITY OF MANNHEIM, Mannheim, Germany Economics, Ph.D., advisor : Antonio Ciccone, Course Phase GPA : 1.4
June 2023 January 2023	POMPEU FABRA UNIVERSITY, Barcelona, Spain Research Stay
February 2019 September 2016	UNIVERSITY OF MANNHEIM, Mannheim, Germany Economics, M.Sc., GPA : 1.3
July 2018 February 2018	BOCCONI UNIVERSITY, Milan, Italy Visiting Student
March 2016 September 2012	OSNABRÜCK UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES, Osnabrück, Germany Applied Economics, B.A., GPA : 1.37
November 2014 July 2014	NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY, Port Elizabeth, South Africa Visiting Student

TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

2021 - present	Research assistant to Antonio Ciccone, University of Mannheim & Fellow at Collaborative Research Center Transregio 224 (Universities of Bonn and Mannheim)
2021	Microeconomics B (B.Sc.), teaching assistant, University of Mannheim
2021	Introduction to Econometrics (B.Sc.), teaching assistant, University of Mannheim
2019	Master's thesis student/ intern, Digital Economy Research Department, Leibniz Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW), Mannheim, Germany

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Presentations	2024 : ASSA Annual Meeting (San Antonio, scheduled); 2023 : NBER Summer Institute : Labor Studies, Advances with Field Experiments (University of Chicago), 3rd Discrimination and Diversity Workshop (University of East Anglia), Institute of Labor Economics (IZA), Pompeu Fabra University (PhD Seminar & Internal Applied Seminar), London Business School Transatlantic Doctoral Conference, Nordic Conference in Development Economics (Gothenburg), German Development Economics Conference, German Economic Association Annual Conference, Barcelona School of Economics PhD Jamboree, HeiKaMaXY Workshop (Heidelberg), CRC TR224 Retreat (Bonn & Mannheim); 2022 : CRC TR224 10th Young Researchers Workshop (Bonn & Mannheim), 1st Frankfurt-Mannheim PhD Workshop; 2020 : Bonn-Mannheim PhD Workshop; 2019 : ZEW Conference on the Economics of Information and Communication Technologies
Field Experience	Independent field research on Community Radios in New Delhi and across Northern India (03/2022 - 04/2022)
Events	2023 : Co-organizer of the 1st Frankfurt-Mannheim-Bonn Ph.D. Conference (90 presentations, 160 participants) 2022 : Co-organizer of the 1st Frankfurt-Mannheim Ph.D. Workshop (43 presentations, 100 participants)
Summer Schools	2023 : CRC Media Training (EconNewsNetwork), Data Science Summer School 2023 (Hertie School); 2022 : Network Analysis Workshop (LMU Munich), Natural Language Processing for Economists Workshop (Uni Heidelberg), Data Science Summer School 2022 (Hertie School); 2021 : Unstructured Data in Empirical Economics (CEMFI), Data Science Summer School 2021 (Hertie School)
Discussant	2022 : ZEW Political Economy Workshop; 10th CRC TR224 Retreat (Bonn & Mannheim)
Referee	Information, Communication & Society; New Media & Society

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

2023 - 2026	Add-on Fellowship for Interdisciplinary Economics, Joachim Herz Foundation (12,500€ research grant)
2019 - 2021	PhD Scholarship, Freudenberg Foundation & ZEW
2020	Second Prize - Goldmedia Award for innovative theses in Media Economics
2014 - 2019	German National Merit Foundation (Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes) - Scholarship for 'academic excellence, interdisciplinary expertise, and social responsibility'
2016	StudyUp-Award for excellent bachelor's theses, Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences

NON-ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

03/2015 - 07/2015	Internship, Political Department, German Embassy Beijing, China
07/2013 - 09/2013	Internship, Strategic Finance, Deutsche Börse AG, Frankfurt am Main, Germany
07/2011 - 09/2011	Internship, Various Business Departments, Frimo Inc, Detroit, USA

LANGUAGES AND COMPUTER SKILLS

Languages	German (native), English (fluent - TOEFL 2019 : 114 of 120 points / Top 3%), Spanish (B1)
Technical Skills	R, Python, Stata, Qualtrics, LaTeX, QGIS
Hobbies	Traveling, drawing, reading

EXTRACURRICULARS

2019 - present	Ph.D. Cohort Representative
2019 - 2023	Elected member of the Department Council
2021 - 2022	Mentor, Graduate Applications International Network (GAIN) : support of an African student in Economics applying for graduate studies at European and North American universities
2015 - 2019	Seminars of the German National Merit Foundation : [1] Two-year Social Science Research Seminar 2017-19 - Digitization, Ethics, and Society : An Integrative Analysis, [2] Weekend Seminar 2017 - Effective Altruism : Risks of Artificial Intelligence, [3] Weekend Seminar 2016 - Freedom vs. Security : The Internet as a new Space for an Enduring Conflict, [4] Summer School 2015 - Narratives of the Future : Visionary Utopia or Botch ?
2018 - 2019	Board Member of 'Nice to Meet You' at Uni Mannheim - a student refugee-integration project.
2015 - 2016	Campus Without Borders in Osnabrück : Collaboration in the organization and setup of a student refugee integration project. Acquisition of new members, support of refugees, and organization of first events

WORK IN PROGRESS

(1) Linked Out? A Field Experiment on Discrimination in Job Network Formation

with Yulia Evsyukova and Wladislaw Mill ([PDF](#))

We assess the impact of discrimination on Black individuals' job networks in the U.S. using a two-stage field experiment with 400+ fictitious LinkedIn profiles. Varying race via A.I.-generated images only, we find that Black profiles' connection requests are accepted at significantly lower rates (Stage I) and their networks provide less information (Stage II). Leveraging our experimental design to eliminate first-stage endogeneity, we identify gatekeeping as the key driver of Black-White disparities. Examining users' CVs reveals widespread discrimination across different social groups and – contrary to expert predictions – stronger discrimination among women and younger users.

(2) Broadcasting Change : India's Community Radio Policy and Women's Empowerment

Field experiments and the investigation of unintended effects of entertainment television suggest that media can change behaviors, attitudes, and provide valuable information. However, research on media use as a policy for development remains very limited. This paper provides a way forward by evaluating a 2006 policy change in India that allowed NGOs and educational institutions to apply for radio licenses. By 2020, a total of 288 Community Radio Stations (CRS) had been launched. I evaluate the effectiveness of the policy regarding one of its main aims : empowering women. For this, I combine detailed information on the radios' coverage areas with high-resolution data from the National Family and Health Survey (NFHS). For identification, topographic features between radio towers and observations are exploited. In addition, I introduce and utilize a novel approach that reduces noise in randomly displaced data, such as DHS data. The results demonstrate that CRS are effective in changing behaviors and attitudes of and toward women. Girls in areas exogenously exposed to CRS receive more years of education and are more likely to obtain a degree. Boys' education is unaffected, suggesting both a shift in parents' attitudes towards girls' schooling and a general increase in their willingness to invest in education. CRS also lower the probability of women getting married below the age of 25

and decrease the fertility of young women. Finally, I provide evidence of CRS increasing young women's autonomy concerning household decisions and mobility. Overall, the findings suggest that CRS can be an effective policy to empower women and improve their education, family planning, and decision-making abilities.

(3) Dissecting Media Bias : Daily Stock Market Performance in the News

with Antonio Ciccone

PUBLICATIONS

(1) Few Voices, Strong Echo : Measuring Follower Homogeneity of Politicians' Twitter Accounts

New Media & Society, 2022 ([URL](#))

Politicians have discovered Twitter as a tool for political communication. If information provided by politicians is circulated in ideologically segregated user networks, political polarization may be fostered. Using network information on all 1.78 million unique followers of German Members of Parliament by October 2018, follower homogeneity across politicians and parties is measured. While the overall homogeneity is low, politicians of the AfD - a right-wing populist party - stand out with very homogeneous follower networks. These are largely driven by a small group of strongly committed partisans that make up around 7 percent of the party's but around 55-75 percent of the average AfD politician's followers. The findings add to the literature by showing potentially unequal distributions of network segregation on Twitter. Further, they suggest that small groups of active users can multiply their influence online, which has important implications for future research on echo chambers and other online phenomena.

REFERENCES

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