

# Felix RUSCHE

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics, University of Mannheim

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## EDUCATION

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present September 2019	<b>UNIVERSITY OF MANNHEIM</b> , Mannheim, Germany Economics, Ph.D.
February 2019 September 2016	<b>UNIVERSITY OF MANNHEIM</b> , Mannheim, Germany Economics, M.Sc.
July 2018 February 2018	<b>BOCCONI UNIVERSITY</b> , Milan, Italy Visiting Student
March 2016 September 2012	<b>OSNABRÜCK UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES</b> , Osnabrück, Germany Applied Economics, B.A.
November 2014 July 2014	<b>NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY</b> , Port Elizabeth, South Africa Visiting Student

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

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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, Digital Economy Research Department, Leibniz Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW), Mannheim, Germany

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

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2019 - 2021	Ph.D. Scholarship, Freudenberg Foundation & ZEW (> 30,000€)
2020	Second Prize - Goldmedia Award for innovative theses in Media Economics (400€)
2014 - 2019	German National Merit Foundation (Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes) - Scholarship for 'academic excellence, interdisciplinary expertise, and social responsibility' (> 30,000€)
2016	StudyUp-Award for an excellent bachelor's thesis, Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences (500€)

## WORK IN PROGRESS

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(1) **Media for Development : Evidence from India** (work in progress)

(2) **Discrimination in Job-Network Formation** with Yulia Evsyukova and Wladislaw Mill (work in progress)

## PUBLICATIONS

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(1) **Few Voices, Strong Echo : Measuring Follower Homogeneity of Politicians' Twitter Accounts** (*New Media & Society*, 2022)

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.

## CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, AND SUMMER SCHOOLS

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- 2022** CRC TR224 9th Young Researchers Workshop (Bonn), 1st Frankfurt-Mannheim PhD Workshop, ZEW Political Economy Workshop
- 2021** Summer School : Unstructured Data in Empirical Economics (CEMFI Summer School), Data Science Summer School (Hertie School Berlin)
- 2020** Bonn-Mannheim PhD Workshop
- 2019** ZEW Conference on the Economics of Information and Communication Technologies

## FIELD EXPERIENCE

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- 03/2022 - 04/2022** Independent field research on Community Radios in New Delhi and across Northern India

## LANGUAGES AND COMPUTER SKILLS

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- Languages** German (native), English (fluent - TOEFL 2019 : 114 of 120 points / Top 3% ), Spanish (B1), French (A1)
- Software** R, Stata, Python, LaTeX, QGIS
- Hobbies** Traveling, drawing, bouldering, reading

## NON-ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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- 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
- 07/2013 - 09/2013** Internship, Various Business Departments, Frimo Inc, Detroit, USA

## EXTRACURRICULARS

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- 2022** Co-organizer of the 1st Frankfurt-Mannheim Ph.D. Workshop
- 2021-present** Mentor, Graduate Applications International Network (GAIN)
- 2019-present** Elected member of the Department Council and Ph.D. Cohort Representative
- 2017 - 2019** Two-year Social Science Research Seminar of the German National Merit Foundation - Topic : Digitization, Ethics, and Society : An Integrative Analysis. Lecturers : Rudolf Müller (U Maastricht) and Tamar Sharon (U Nijmegen)