

FRÉDÉRIC KLUSER

Ph.D. Candidate, University of Bern

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EDUCATION

University of Bern, Ph.D. in Economics, Supervisor: Maximilian von Ehrlich	2024
Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, Visiting Researcher (09/2023-03/2024)	
University of Bern, M.Sc. in International and Monetary Economics, <i>summa cum laude</i>	2020
Toulouse School of Economics, Visiting Student (01/2020-06/2020)	
University of Bern, B.Sc. in Economics, <i>insigni cum laude</i> , Minor in Computer Science	2018

RESEARCH

Interests: Applied economics with a focus on public, urban, and health economics

Working Papers

1. **The Apple Does Not Fall Far From the Tree: Intergenerational Persistence of Dietary Habits**
[Job Market Paper] (with Martina Pons)

Inadequate diets harm individual health, generate substantial healthcare costs, and reduce labor market income. Yet, the determinants of unhealthy eating remain poorly understood. This paper provides novel evidence on the intergenerational transmission of dietary choices from parents to children by exploiting unique grocery transaction records matched with administrative data. We document a strong intergenerational persistence of diet that exceeds income transmission across all measures we consider. At the same time, substantial heterogeneities in the persistence of diet indicate that the socioeconomic background and location of children may be crucial to fostering beneficial eating habits and breaking unhealthy ones. We discuss potential mechanisms and show in a counterfactual analysis that only 10% of the intergenerational persistence in diet can be explained by the transmission of income and education. In line with these results, we introduce a habit formation model and argue that the formation of dietary habits during childhood and their slow alteration are key drivers of our findings.

2. **Cross-Border Shopping: Evidence from Household Transaction Records**

Cross-border shopping allows consumers from high-price countries to obtain comparable goods at lower prices in foreign markets. At the same time, it can reduce domestic consumption, sales, or tax collection. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many countries restricted cross-border movements to mitigate the virus's spread, thereby also prohibiting cross-border shopping. This paper exploits the random timing of the Swiss border closure to study heterogeneities in the willingness to travel for lower prices. To this end, I merge unique consumer-linked transaction data on 750,000 customers with administrative records. I find that domestic grocery expenditures temporarily increase by 10.9% in border regions. My results show that the effect increases in household size, and decreases in age, income, education, and the cross-border locations' price index. Furthermore, I find novel evidence that citizens working close to the border combine their commuting trips with cross-border shopping, providing evidence for strategic trip chaining.

3. **Spatial Frictions in Consumption and Retail Competition** (with Maximilian von Ehrlich and Tobias Seidel)

This paper analyzes spatial consumption frictions by estimating the causal effect of store openings on individual shopping behavior. To this end, we combine unique household-store-linked transaction data with administrative data on income and other socio-demographics. Our findings reveal that spatial frictions significantly influence shopping behavior, with the distance elasticity of expenditures and number of visits being approximately 0.15. Our estimates suggest that consumption areas extend to about 10-20 minutes of travel time, depending on household type. Traditional gravity estimates are shown to be considerably biased due to the endogenous nature of store locations. By combining distance elasticities with a simple model of shopping behavior, we derive store-specific attraction parameters and compute a measure of local grocery market access. Market access varies significantly across different locations, and consistent with spatial equilibrium theory, this variation is reflected in local rents. Consumption frictions are more pronounced for older and smaller households and vary with income, primarily in non-urban areas. Overall, spatial variations in market access are more significant than spatial dispersion in income. Combined with the positive correlation between income and market access, this suggests an important role for real income disparities.

SEMINARS, CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

2024: *European Economic Association Meeting* (Rotterdam), *European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association* (Copenhagen), *Annual Conference of the International Association for Applied Econometrics* (Thessaloniki), *International Panel Data Conference* (Orléans), *European Health Economics Association Conference* (Vienna), *Ph.D. Seminar* (Department of Economics, University of Bern)

2023: *Urban and Real Estate Seminar* (Wharton, UPenn), *Applied Economics Ph.D. Seminar* (Wharton, UPenn), *Data Science Day 2023* (University of Bern), *Young Swiss Economists Meeting* (ETH Zurich), *Seminar* (Center for Regional Economic Development, University of Bern), *Ph.D. Seminar* (Department of Economics, University of Bern)

2022: *European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association* (London School of Economics), *Annual Conference of the Verein für Socialpolitik* (University of Basel), *Workshop on Regional Economics* (ifo Dresden), *Annual Congress of the Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics* (University of Fribourg), *Workshop of the Swiss Network on Public Economics* (ETH Zurich), *Seminar* (Center for Regional Economic Development, University of Bern), *Ph.D. Seminar* (Department of Economics, University of Bern)

AWARDS & GRANTS

Grant for two conferences, *Research Foundation, University of Bern*, 2024

Grant for a Doc.Mobility research visit, *Research Commission, University of Bern*, 2022

Award for the best performance in the graduate program (ex aequo), *Study Center Gerzensee*, 2021

Grant for a Ph.D. summer school, *Research Foundation, University of Bern*, 2021

Award for the third best master's degree, *Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Bern*, 2020

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Bern Seminar: Topics in Public Economics II (2024), Seminar: Topics in Public Economics I (2023), Public Economics (2021, 2022), Tax Policy (2020, 2021), Applied Econometrics with R (2019), Money, Credit, and Banking (2019), Introduction to Macroeconomics (2018, 2019), Introduction to Microeconomics (2018)

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Conference Co-organization Workshop on Regional and Urban Economics, Bern (2023), Swiss Workshop on Local Public Finance and Regional Economics, Bern (2022, 2024)

Faculty Engagements Ph.D. representative at the faculty (2021–2023), student adviser (2019)

SKILLS

Languages: German (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate), Italian (basic)

Programming: R, Stata, Matlab, SQL, Github, LaTeX

REFERENCES

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