Lukas Lehner

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Primary: Labor Economics
Secondary: Applied Microeconomics, Public Economics

REFERENCES

Prof. Brian Nolan
University of Oxford
☎ +441865288895
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Prof. Nathan Wilmers
MIT
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Prof. Maximilian Kasy
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Prof. Emmanuel Saez
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Prof. Jesse Rothstein
UC Berkeley
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DOCTORAL STUDIES

University of Oxford, PhD in Social Policy (economics track)   2019 - present
Essays on Social Policies to Support Unemployed Workers
Supervisor: Brian Nolan

Visiting Positions

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Sloan School of Management   2023
Supervisor: Nathan Wilmers

University of California, Berkeley, Department of Economics   2022 - 2023
Supervisor: Emmanuel Saez

PRE-DOCTORAL STUDIES

London School of Economics (LSE), MSc in Political Economy (with Distinction)   2016

Vienna University of Economics (WU), BSc in Economics (with Distinction)   2015

RESEARCH

Job Market Paper

"Employing the Unemployed of Marienthal: Evaluation of a Guaranteed Job Program",
(joint with Maximilian Kasy)
    ESRC Prize for Outstanding Early Career Impact, 2023
    Innovation in Politics Award, 2023
    Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy dissertation grant award, 2022

We evaluate a guaranteed job program launched in 2020 in Austria. Our evaluation is based on three approaches, pairwise matched randomization, a pre-registered synthetic control at the municipality level, and a comparison to individuals in control municipalities. This allows us to estimate direct effects, anticipation effects, and spillover effects.

We find positive impacts of program participation on economic and non-economic well-being, but not on physical health or preferences. At the municipality level, we find a large reduction of long-term unemployment, and no negative employment spillovers. There are positive anticipation effects on subjective well-being, status, and social inclusion for future participants.

Working Papers

"Reframing Active Labor Market Policy: Field Experiments on Barriers to Program Participation", (joint with Anna Schwarz)
> Austrian Economic Association (NOeG) Dissertation Fellowship 2023

Governments struggle to attract unemployed workers to their widely offered job training programs. In three randomized field experiments with 50,000 job seekers, we investigate the barriers to participation in job training programs by using informational interventions designed to encourage participation. Raising awareness about the availability of job training increased program enrollment by 18%. Signaling program cost with a voucher on top to reduce internalized stigma increased completion by 28%. Effects were sizable and concentrated among women and low-income job seekers. Notably, increased job training did not result in higher employment or wages. These findings indicate that while low-cost informational interventions effectively boost participation, the overall success of job training programs in enhancing employment prospects hinges on their fundamental design.

"Worker Organization and Firm Performance: New Evidence from Union Membership Registries", (joint with Emanuel List)
> OeNB Anniversary Fund Grant, 2023 - 2025

Do unions increase workers' wages at the expense of firm performance? For the first time at the national level, we exploit union membership records to understand this relationship. We show that worker organization goes hand in hand with higher wages without negative implications for labor productivity or firm profits under coordinated labor relations such as in Austria. Works councils are more important than union density. Union density matters at the sectoral level where collective bargaining takes place while works councils shape wages at the firm level. Works councils matter most for low-road employers, while union density affects particularly high-road employers, consistent with rent-sharing theories.

Work in Progress

"What Do Unemployed Workers Want: Guaranteed Work or Guaranteed Income?"

"Declining Earnings Inequality but Rising Income Inequality: What Explains the Discordant Trends?", (joint with Zachary Parolin and Nathan Wilmers)

"Do Job Seekers benefit from Occupational Mobility?",
(joint with Ishaana Talesara and Arthur Wickard)

"Do Minimum Wages reduce Poverty?",
(joint with Zachary Parolin)

Journal Publications

"Begging thy Coworker: Labor Market Dualization and the Wage Growth Slow-Down in Europe", (joint with Paul Ramskogler and Aleksandra Riedl), *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*, forthcoming.

> Barnett Prize for the best paper of the year by a research student at DSPI, Oxford, 2021
> SASE Early Career Workshop Award, 2022

"Capturing the COVID-19 Crisis through Public Health and Social Measures Data Science", (joint with Cindy Cheng, Amélie Desvars-Larrive, Bernhard Ebbinghaus, Thomas Hale, Alex Howes, Luca Messerschmidt, Angeliki Nika, Steve Penson, Anna Petherick, Hanmeng Xu, Alexander John Zapf, Yuxi Zhang, and Sophia Alison Zweig), *Scientific Data*, 2022, 9, 520.

"Welfare state support during the COVID-19 pandemic: Change and continuity in public attitudes towards social policies in Germany", (joint with Bernhard Ebbinghaus, and Elias Naumann), *European Policy Analysis*, 2022, 8(3), 297~311.

"Cui bono - business or labour? Job retention policies to prevent mass unemployment in Europe during the Covid-19 pandemic", (joint with Bernhard Ebbinghaus), *Transfer: European Review of Labour and Research*, 2022, 28(1), 47 − 64.

"A Reversing Case within Trajectories of Liberalisation: The revival of neo-corporatism in Austria since 2008", *Momentum Quarterly - Journal for Societal Progress*, 2017, 6(4), 210 − 229.

Tools and Data

"Striketracker", (joint with Alexander Busch, Jim Frindert, and Kilian Weil) *in-progress*.

"Causes and Consequences of Unemployment in the COVID-19 pandemic", (joint with Daniel Schönherr), 06/2022, https://doi.org/10.11587/XJNNYA, AUSSDA, V1.

"Oxford Supertracker: The Global Directory for COVID Policy Trackers and Surveys", (joint with Mary Daly, Bernhard Ebbinghaus, Marek Naczyk, and Tim Vlandas), 07/2020

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Total amount awarded: € 540,000.

Awards

ESRC Prize for Outstanding Early Career Impact (£ 10,000)	2023
Austrian Economic Association (NOeG) Dissertation Fellowship (€ 4,000)	2023
Innovation in Politics Award (joint with Marienthal Job Guarantee project team)	2023
WU International Research Fellowship (€ 6,000)	2023
Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy dissertation grant award ($ 7,500)	2022
UC Berkeley Fellowship 2022/23 of the Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation ($ 6,000)	2022
SASE / Digit 2022 Early Career Workshop Award	2022
IZA Summer School in Labor Economics travel award	2022
Oxford-Santander Academic Travel Award (£ 1,250)	2022
Barnett Prize for best paper of the year by a research student at DSPI, Oxford	2021

Scholarships

Scatcherd European DPhil scholarship at the University of Oxford (£ 45,000)	2019 - 2023
Saven European DPhil scholarship at the University of Oxford (£ 25,000)	2019 - 2023

UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) DPhil scholarship (£ 13,000)	2019 - 2023
Institute of New Economic Thinking (INET) YSI conference scholarship (€ 200)	2016
MSc merit scholarship from the Chamber of Labour (€ 4,150)	2015 - 2016
BSc merit scholarship from the Vienna University of Economics (€ 400)	2014 - 2015

Large grants (≥ € 100,000)

Co-PI for "Labor Unions and Firm Productivity" (€ 249,000) from the Central Bank of Austria (OeNB) with Emanuel List (PI)	2023 - 2025

Medium grants (≥ € 10,000 - < € 100,000)

PI for "Reframing training for job-seekers" (€ 59,400) from Public Employment Service (AMS) with Anna Schwarz	2022 - 2026
PI for "Unionization and Firm Performance" (€ 60,000) from Chamber of Labour with Emanuel List	2022 - 2023
Research England's HEIF and ESRC Impact Acceleration Account (£ 10,000) through the University of Oxford's COVID-19 Urgent Response Fund with Marek Naczyk (PI), Mary Daly, Bernhard Ebbinghaus and Tim Vlandas	2020

Small grants (< € 10,000)

DSPI Student Support Fund, University of Oxford (£ 500)	2023
St Edmund Hall Graduate College Grant, University of Oxford (£ 1,000)	2023
Co-PI for Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) from WU Vienna (€ 4,725) "Fostering international knowledge transfer in higher edcuation: Oxford Tutorial meets WU Vienna" with Severin Rapp	2022
St Edmund Hall MCR Academic Endeavours Grant, University of Oxford (£ 325)	2022, 2023
PI for "Training vouchers for job seekers" (€ 9,000) from Public Employment Service (AMS) with Anna Schwarz	2021 - 2026
PI for a survey of job seekers (€ 4,000) from Public Employment Service (AMS) with Anna Schwarz	2021
ESRC Research Training and Support Grant (£ 2,330)	2019, 2022
St Edmund Hall College Grant, University of Oxford (£ 1050)	2019, 2021, 2022
PI for "Wage growth in Europe" from the Central Bank of Austria (OeNB) (€ 3,000)	2019 - 2020
ESRC Overseas Fieldwork (£ 600)	2019 - 2020

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

2024 **(scheduled):** IAB, IZA, University of Graz, Public Employment Service Austria.

2023**:** European Parliament, European Commission, MIT IWER, MIT Sloan ESWG, University of Cambridge, University of Oslo, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Bard College, University of Duisburg-Essen, Johannes Kepler University Linz, Territoires zéro chômeur de longue durée, German Academic Scholarship Foundation, Ministry of Labour and Economy (Austria), Public Employment Service Austria.

2022**:** OECD / IZA, United Nations, UC Berkeley Economics, UC Berkeley IRLE, UC Berkeley IES, FEPS, IZA / Sheffield / Econtribute, SASE, Oxford BSG, Economic Policy Club, Public Employment Service Austria, Arbeit Plus, Chamber of Labour Austria.

2021: OECD, ILO, Oxford BSG, Covid-19 PHSM, Bertelsmann Foundation, ETUI, SZEF, Chamber of Labour, Diskurs, Vienna University of Economics and Business, Public Employment Service Austria, Netzpolitischer Abend.

Conferences and Workshops

2024 (scheduled): In_equality Conference.

2023: SOLE, LERA, EALE, ESPAnet.

2022: AFE U. Chicago, IZA Summer School, SASE (2), ISA RC28, ESPAnet, BUIRA (2), Oxford (3).

2021 **and prior:** ESPAnet, ESPAnet Workshop, ESPAnet Working Group, SPA, PSA, InGRID: Experimental designs in social policy research, Villa Vigoni Conference, Global Forum on Democratizing Work, University of Glasgow Symposium, Oxford (7), ESRC (2), INET YSI.

ENGAGEMENT

Reports and Book Chapters

"Unemployment and Labor Market Policy", (joint with Dennis Tamesberger). In: *Handbook of Social Infrastructure*. Edward Elgar Publishing. forthcoming.

"Universal Job Guarantee Boosts Wellbeing & Eliminates Long-Term Unemployment", (joint with Maximilian Kasy and Jess Kaplan), Oxford, UK: Institute of New Economic Thinking at the Martin School, University of Oxford, 09/2023.

"Das Recht auf Arbeit. Wirtschaftliche und soziale Auswirkungen einer Jobgarantie", (joint with Maximilian Kasy). In: Elisabeth Kaiser, Marcus Schober (Eds.), *Beschäftigung für alle. Die Zukunft der Arbeit*, $92 - 100$, Vol. 4, Vienna: ÖGB Verlag, 2023.

"Tracking Policy Responses to COVID-19: Opportunities, Challenges and Solutions", (joint with Mary Daly, Bernhard Ebbinghaus, Marek Naczyk, and Tim Vlandas), Department of Social Policy and Intervention, University of Oxford, 09/2020.

Selected Interviews and Media Quotes

My research appears regularly in the media and I have given over 50 interviews during my PhD.

Print

"What happens when jobs are guaranteed?", The New Yorker, 12/2022.

"Als Gramatneusiedl die Arbeitslosigkeit abschaffte", Der Spiegel, 12/2023.

"Unconditional job guarantee to be trialled in Austria, in world first", Independent, 11/2020.

TV

"European Stories: Helping the Long-term Unemployed", ARTE (TV documentary), 12/2021.

"Plan B: Zurück in den Job. Wege aus der Arbeitslosigkeit", ZDF (TV documentary), 04/2022.

"Experiment Jobgarantie: Was uns ein Pilotprojekt für Langzeitarbeitslose lehrt", ORF, ECO Magazin (TV), 02/2023.

Radio

"The many benefits of a guaranteed job program (with Max Kasy and Lukas Lehner)", Pitchfork Economics Podcast, 01/2023.

"Sozialexperiment: Mit Jobgarantie gegen Arbeitslosigkeit", Deutschlandfunk Nova (radio), 01/2023.

"Dimensionen: Die Nobelpreise 2021: Wirtschaft. Der Arbeitsmarkt als "natürliches" Experiment.", Ö1 (radio) interviewed alongside David Card and Joshua Angrist, 12/2021.

TEACHING

University of Oxford

Statistics for Public Policy (postgraduate level) *Seminar Leader*	2022
Applied Microeconometrics (postgraduate level) *Teaching Assistant*	2021
Social Policy / Public Economics (undergraduate level) *Seminar Leader*	2021 - 2022
Political Economy (undergraduate level) *Seminar Leader*	2021 - 2022

University College London (UCL) / National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM)

Tools for Efficient Workflows (GitHub, Markdown, Docker) (PhD level) *Course Convenor*, Syllabus	2023

GESIS Fall Seminar in Computational Social Science, Mannheim

Tools for Efficient Workflows, Smooth Collaboration and Optimized Research Outputs *Course Convenor*, Syllabus (PhD level)	2022

Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU)

Economic Policy (undergraduate level) *Course Convenor*, Syllabus	2022
Supervision of final theses (undergraduate level)	2021 - 2022
International Macroeconomics (undergraduate level) *Teaching Assistant*	2014 – 2015

Training for higher education

Advancing Teaching and Learning (ATL) programme by the Oxford Centre for Teaching and Learning and Advance HE, UK	2021 - 2022
Preparing for Learning and Teaching training at Oxford (PLTO)	2021

SERVICE

Reviewer: Applied Economics, Belgian Science Policy Office, Competition & Change, European Journal of Social Security, Journal of European Social Policy, Momentum Quarterly, Research in Social Stratification and Mobility, Social Policy & Administration, Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft
Organizer: UC Berkeley IES panel, ESPAnet panel, Covid-19 PHSM Conference
Contributor: Social Science Prediction Platform's Superforecasting Panel

PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Bocconi University, *Research Fellow*	2023 - present
Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU), *Researcher*	2021 - present
University of Oxford, Department of Social Policy, *Researcher*	2020 - 2021
Oesterreichische Nationalbank (OeNB), Vienna, *Consultant*	2019 – 2020
OECD, Paris, *Economist*	2017 – 2019
International Labour Organization (ILO), Geneva, *Economist*	2016 – 2017
London School of Economics (LSE), *Research Assistant*	2015 – 2016

SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

Data Analysis: R, Stata, Python
Languages: English (fluent), German (native), Spanish (intermediate), French, Italian (basic)