

TIMUR ERGEN

experience

Director, Institute Labor and Economy (*iaw*), University of Bremen, 2025–.
Senior Researcher, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies (MPIfG), 2015–2025.
Interim Professor of Social Science Theory, Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg,
10/2024–04/2025.
Interim Professor of Organizational Sociology. University of Wuppertal, 03/2024–09/2024.
John F. Kennedy Memorial Fellow, Harvard University, 09/2022–07/2023.
Visiting Researcher, Department of Sociology, Columbia University, 02/2019–07/2019.
Post-doc, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, 2014–2015.
Visiting Student, Department of Political Science, M.I.T., 08/2012–01/2013.

education

Dr. rer. pol. (summa cum laude), University of Cologne, 14th October 2014.
Master of Arts, Sociology and Political Science, RWTH Aachen (with distinction), 2010.
Bachelor of Arts, Sociology, Economics, and Economic History, RWTH Aachen, 2008.

service

Executive Council. Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, 2020–.
Early Career Workshop Chair. Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, 2025.
Early Career Workshop Chair. Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, 2024.
Presidential Search Committee. Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, 2023.
Graduate Grant Review Committee. Center for European Studies, Harvard University, 2023.
Early Career Workshop Faculty. Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, 2022.
SER Best Article Prize Committee. Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, 2021.
First Generation Doctorate Mentoring+. University of Cologne, 2019.
Digital Economy Network Chair. Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, 2018–
Works Council Member. Max-Planck-Institute for the Study of Societies, 2018–2022.
Ombudsperson. Max-Planck-Institute for the Study of Societies, 2016–2022.
Doctoral Spokesperson. IMPRS-SPCE, 2011–2013.

publications

Monographs

in preparation. *Organizing Decline: Deindustrialization in Germany and the United States*.

2015. *Große Hoffnungen und brüchige Koalitionen. Politik, Industrie und die schwierige Durchsetzung der Photovoltaik*. Campus Verlag.

Journal Articles (peer-reviewed)

2025. Regulating via Conditionality: The Instruments of the New Industrial Policy. *Regulation & Governance* (with F. Bulfone & E. Maggor).

2025. Picking Losers: Climate Change and Managed Decline in the European Union. *Regulation & Governance* 19, 2, 383–398 (with L. Schmitz).

2023. Firm Foundations: The Statistical Footprint of Multinational Corporations as a Problem for Political Economy. *Competition & Change* 27, 1, 44–73 (with B. Braun & S. Kohl.)
2023. The Silicon Valley Imaginary: U.S. Tax Reform in the 1980s. *Socio-economic Review* 21, 2, 935–957 (with I. Rademacher.)
2023. No Strings Attached: Corporate Welfare, State Intervention, and the Issue of Conditionality. *Competition & Change* 27, 2, 253–276 (with F. Bulfone & M. Kalaitzake.)
2022. Rival Views of Economic Competition. *Socio-economic Review* 20, 3, 937–965 (with S. Kohl.)
2022. Contested Futures: Reimagining Energy Infrastructures in the First Oil Crisis. *Historical Social Research* 47, 4, 242–266 (with L. Suckert.)
2021. Shifting Patterns of Expectations Management in Innovation Policy: A Comparative Analysis of Solar Energy Policy in the United States, Japan and Germany. *Energy Research and Social Science* 79, 102177 (with M. Umemura.)
2021. Is More Mittelstand the Answer? Firm Size and the Crisis of Democratic Capitalism. *Analyse & Kritik* 43, 1, 41–70 (with S. Kohl.)
2019. Wirtschaftliche Untergangsszenarien und neoliberale Reformen. *Leviathan* 47, 2, 144–168.
2019. Varieties of Economization in Competition Policy: Institutional Change in German and American Antitrust, 1960–2000. *Review of International Political Economy* 26, 2, 256–286 (with S. Kohl.)

Book chapters (selection)

2023. Imagined Futures and Social Innovation. In: J. Howaldt and C. Kaletka (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Social Innovation*. Edward Elgar, 7–10.
2023. The Future in the Economy. In: Milan Zafirovsky (ed.), *The International Handbook of Economic Sociology*. Milton Park: Routledge, 583–600 (with M. Seeliger.)
2021. Transcending History's Heavy Hand: The Future in Economic Action. In: Andrea Maurer (ed.), *Handbook of Economic Sociology for the 21st Century*. London, Springer Nature, 79–94 (with J. Beckert.)
2018. The Dilemma between Aligned Expectations and Diversity in Innovation. In: Jens Beckert and Richard Bronk (eds.), *Uncertain Futures: Imaginaries, Narratives, and Calculation in the Economy*. Oxford, Oxford University Press, pp. 298–318.

Working papers and other publications (selection)

2024. The Political Economy of Conditionality and the New Industrial Policy. *MPIfG Discussion Paper* 24/6 (with F. Bulfone & E. Maggor.)
2024. Whose Social Order? (Forum on *Cloud Empires: How Digital Platforms Are Overtaking the State and How We Can Regain Control*.) *Socio-economic Review*.
2023. The Sunshine Problem: Climate Change and Managed Decline in the European Union. *MPIfG Discussion Paper* 6/23 (with L. Schmitz.)
2022. Review of »Veblen: The Making of an Economist Who Unmade Economics« by Charles Camic. *Economic Sociology: Perspectives and Conversations* 23.2, 40–41.
2019. Review of »Democracy and Prosperity« by Torben Iversen and David Soskice. *Economic Sociology: The European Electronic Newsletter* 21, 1, 56–59.
2019. The Symmetric Fallacy: The Dangers of Symmetric Reasoning in the Social Sciences. *CES Open Forum Series*, no. 32, Harvard University, Cambridge (with L. Haffert.)

teaching

2025. Foundations of institutional theory. Undergraduate seminar. University of Bremen.
2025. Capitalism and modern society. Undergraduate seminar. University of Bremen.
2025. The ordinal society. Undergraduate seminar. University of Bremen.

2025. Intermediary institutions. Undergraduate seminar. Catholic University of Applied Sciences of North Rhine-Westphalia.
2024. Social theory. Undergraduate lecture. Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg.
2024. The ordinal society. Undergraduate seminar. Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg.
2024. The sociology of climate change. Undergraduate seminar. Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg.
2024. Model cases in the social sciences. Master seminar. Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg.
2024. Welfare states and the economy. Undergraduate seminar. Catholic University of Applied Sciences of North Rhine-Westphalia.
2024. Introduction to organizational sociology. Undergraduate lecture. University of Wuppertal (with L. Suckert.)
2024. Qualitative research methods. Undergraduate seminar. University of Wuppertal , (with L. Suckert.)
2024. Sociological research practice. Master's seminar. University of Wuppertal.
2024. Interdisciplinary research colloquium. Master's seminar. University of Wuppertal (with M. Lutter & L. Suckert.)
2024. Sociology of markets. Doctoral seminar. Sciences Po Paris (with O. Pilmis) (24h.)
- 2016–2022. Annual seminars on Good Academic Practice. MPIfG Cologne (8h).
2021. Green energy transitions. Undergraduate seminar. University of Wuppertal (33h.)
2019. Foundations of institutional theory. Master's seminar. University of Cologne (28h).
2018. Organisationssoziologie multinationaler Unternehmen. Undergraduate seminar. University of Duisburg-Essen (with S. Kohl) (42h.)
2018. Innovation & society. Master's seminar. University of Cologne (32h).
2018. Economy & society II. Doctoral seminar. MPIfG Cologne (28h).
2017. Economy & society II. Doctoral seminar. MPIfG Cologne (with J. Beckert) (30h.)
2016. Economy & society II. Doctoral seminar. MPIfG Cologne (with J. Beckert) (30h.)

stipends & grants

- Symposium *Europe's industrial policy options in the digital, green and geoeconomic transitions*. Volkswagen Stiftung (with H. Callaghan and B. Hancké) (56.404€), 2026.
- The triangle of German democratic capitalism: Growth, housing and voting, German National Science Foundation (DFG) (with C. Bartels & S. Kohl) (ca. 425.000€) (No. 545938199), 2025–2028.
- Villa Vigoni-Conference on *Europe and the Geoeconomic Challenge*, German National Science Foundation (DFG) (with A. Hassel, D. DiCarlo, K. McNamara, & M. Moschella) (20.066€), 2025.
- International seminar grant, Université Franco-Allemande, 2023.
- John F. Kennedy Memorial Fellowship, Harvard University, 2022.
- Travel grants. Deutscher akademischer Austauschdienst, 2019, 2018, 2016.
- PhD stipend. International Max Planck Research School, 2010–2014.

awards

- Socio-economic Review best article award shortlist, 2023.
- Theodor-Wessels-Award. For research contributions in energy economics and policy, 2015.
- Outstanding thesis award. Department of Sociology, RWTH Aachen, 2010.
- Springorum Coin. RWTH Aachen. For outstanding final exams, 2010.

Dean's List. RWTH Aachen (3% university-wide), 2010.

recent talks

- 2024. Picking Losers: Climate Change and Managed Decline in the European Union. Center for Advanced Internet Studies, Ruhr-University Bochum, 18th September.
- 2024. Greening regions in world markets: The regional politics of green growth model restructuring. Watson Institute for International Affairs, Brown University, 5th September (with D. Di Carlo).
- 2024. Projecting Industrial Decline. Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology. Central European University, 14th May.
- 2024. Picking Losers: Climate Change and Managed Decline in the European Union. Universidad Diego Portales, Santiago, Chile, 25th January.
- 2023. Climate Change and Managed Decline in the European Union. Department of Government and Public Policy, University of Strathclyde, 5th December.
- 2023. Deindustrialization as Structural Fact and Political Idea. Institute Colloquium, Zentrum für zeithistorische Forschung Potsdam. 30th November.
- 2023. Industrial policy conditionalities. New Thinking in Industrial, Innovation & Technology Policy: Perspectives from Developed & Developing Countries. Center for Political Economy, Columbia University, 9th November (with E. Maggor & F. Bulfone.)
- 2023. New paradigm and tools for industrial policy. ICIPo2023. International Conference on Industrial Policy, 25–27 August, Bangkok (with E. Maggor & F. Bulfone.)
- 2023. Imaginaries of industrial change in Germany and the United States. 34th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, 20–22 July 2023.
- 2023. Organizing decline: Deindustrialization in Germany and the United States. Loughborough University London. 12 June.
- 2023. Rival views of economic competition. Economic Sociology Graduate Seminar, UC San Diego, 15 May.
- 2023. Deindustrialization as structural fact and political idea. New Research in Europe Seminar. Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, 22 March.
- 2022. Free markets à la carte: Infrastructural power in the European green deal. Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute, Florence, 12 December (with L. Schmitz.)
- 2022. The first oil crisis and the role of multi-layered interpretative struggles in bringing about alternative futures. Conference 'Governing (by) expertise. The politics of social scientific knowledge production.' ENS Paris-Saclay, 28–29 April.

reviewer (selection)

Cambridge University Press, Comparative Political Studies, Competition & Change, Enterprise & Society, European Journal of Sociology, Journal of Institutional Economics, Journal of Management Studies, Journal for Technology Assessment in Theory and Practice, Independent Research Fund Denmark, Leviathan, MPIfG Discussion Paper Series, Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Oxford University Press, Policy & Internet, Perspectives on Politics, Review of International Political Economy, Review of Social Economics, Routledge, Schweizerischer Nationalfonds, Social Forces, Socio-economic Review, Strategic Organization, Weizenbaum Journal for the Digital Society, Zeitschrift für Soziologie.

memberships

American Sociological Association, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Soziologie, Hamburger Kolloquium für Sozialtheorie, Hertie Foundation Fellows & Friends, Society for the Advancement of Socioeconomics, Weatherhead Research Cluster on Comparative Inequality and Inclusion at Harvard University (2022–2023 Affiliate.)