

TUULI TÄHTINEN

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ifo Institute & University of Munich

Research Interests

Political Economy, Public Economics, Development Economics, Applied Microeconomics

Current Position

Postdoctoral researcher, ifo Institute, Center for Public Finance and Political Economy	Since 2023
Junior Faculty Member, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich	Since 2023

Education

PhD in Economics, European University Institute	2023
Visiting Doctoral Student, Aalto University	2022–2023
MRes in Economics, European University Institute	2018
Master in Economics (M.Soc.Sc.), University of Helsinki	2016

Research

Working Papers

“Populism and Ideological Convergence: Evidence from a Multiparty System”
(Revise & resubmit at the Journal of Public Economics)

Populist parties have gained significant power in European politics in the last decades, raising concerns over the potentially contagious effect of populism. I study how populist party representation in local councils affects other parties’ ideological positions. I use variation created by close elections to identify ideological shifts resulting from a change in party representation, holding voter preferences constant. I use candidate level data from a voting advice application to derive ideological positions. I model candidates’ responses using item response theory to obtain measures of ideology that are comparable across election years. The results show that higher populist representation causes ideological convergence among established parties’ political candidates. One additional seat to the populist party causes a 10 % decrease in the interquartile range of ideological positions. The convergence takes place only on the liberal-conservative dimension, while positions on the economic dimension are unaffected.

“When Facebook is the Internet: the Role of Social Media in Ethnic Conflict”
(Revise & resubmit at World Development)

This paper investigates whether social media access is associated with increased probability or intensity of ethnic conflict in Myanmar. In this context most people use mobile phones, and particularly the Facebook app, to access the internet. To distinguish the effects of social media from those of the broader internet, I exploit geographic variation in mobile phone coverage as a proxy for Facebook availability. Despite compelling evidence of a hate-campaign utilizing Facebook to reach wide audiences, I do not find that social media is related to conflict. The only exception to the null result is variation related to the Rohingya crisis: in this regional setting suggestive evidence points to Facebook availability being associated with higher probability of conflict.

Work in Progress

“Making the Cut: Close Elections and Local Welfare Policies”, with Nikolaj Broberg and Thomas Walsh

“The Effects of Female Political Leaders: Evidence from an Exogenous Government Change in Germany”, with Luisa Dörr, Klaus Gründler and Niklas Potrafke

“Politician Ideology, Policy Outcomes and Within-Party Selection”

“Democracy under Pressure: Fading Support amid Rising Violence”, with Nicole Stoelinga

Policy Papers

“Profitability, competition, and development needs in the private rental housing market”, with Eeva Alho, Valtteri Härmälä, Antti Kekäläinen, Kirsi Noro and Lauri Vuori, Publications of the Government’s analysis, assessment and research activities 9/2018. (in Finnish)

“Immigrants on the labour market – A study of the working lives of immigrants arriving in Finland in different years”, with Henna Busk, Signe Jauhiainen, Antti Kekäläinen and Satu Nivalainen, Finnish Centre for Pensions, Studies 6/2016. (in Finnish)

“Patient freedom of choice, the Swedish model and Finland’s health and social services reform – from the point of view of functionality of the markets and economic effects”, with Ari Ahonen and Liisa Vuorio, Publications of the Finnish Competition and Consumer Authority 6/2015. (in Finnish)

Conferences and Seminars

2024: Political Economy of Democracy and Dictatorship

2023: UniBZ Political Economy Workshop, Silvaplana Political Economy Workshop, ZEW-ifo Young Scholar Political Economy Workshop; Helsinki GSE; MPSA Annual Conference; ETLA

2022: Helsinki Development Economics PhD Workshop; Helsinki GSE

2021: EALE Annual Conference; EEA-ESEM Congress; Annual Conference of the International Association for Applied Econometrics; International Conference on European Studies; Annual Congress of the Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics; Congress of the French Economic Association; Annual Conference of the Canadian Economics Association; XXIII Applied Economics Meeting; QMUL Economics and Finance Workshop for PhD & Post-doctoral Students; European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association; Scottish Economic Society Annual Conference; European Public Choice Society; ETH Zürich; RGS Doctoral Conference in Economics

2019: Annual Meeting of the Finnish Economic Association

Professional Activities

Refereeing: CESifo Economic Studies, European Economic Review, European Journal of Political Economy, Journal of European Economic Association

Grants

PhD Grant, Academy of Finland	2017–2021
PhD Completion Grant, European University Institute	2020

Research and Professional Experience

Pellervo Economic Research PTT. Helsinki, Finland. Economist	2016–2017
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Finnish Competition and Consumer Authority. Helsinki, Finland. Research Assistant	2015
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VATT Institute for Economic Research. Helsinki, Finland. Research Assistant	2014
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