

Prof. Dr. Kai Sebastian Gehring

Address	Steinhausweg 1
City	Zürich
Birthplace	Karlsruhe, Germany
Nationality	German
Family	Married, two children
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PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WORK HISTORY

Since 9/2021	Associate Professor of Political Economy and Sustainable Development at the University of Bern and the Wyss Academy for Nature
Since 9/2021	Affiliated Research Professor at CESifo
02/2018 - 8/2021	SNF Ambizione Researcher at University of Zurich
01/2020	Visiting Scholar Deakin University, Melbourne
09/2019 - 12/2019	Visiting Scholar at Stanford University
09/2018	Visiting Scholar at CESifo and LMU Munich
03/2017	Visiting Scholar at University of Cambridge
09/2015 – 02/2018	Postdoc at the University of Zurich, with Prof. Dr. Katharina Michaelowa
04/2013 – 09/2015	External lecturer at the University of Applied Sciences in Kaiserslautern
09/2011 – 05/2015	Ph.D. in Economics supervised by Prof. Dr. Axel Dreher at Heidelberg University and the University of Göttingen. Graduate Program at the University of Mannheim and member of the RTG 1723 “Globalization and Development” at the University of Göttingen and Hannover. Title: Political economy in a globalized world. Final grade: <i>Summa cum laude</i>
09/2014 – 12/2014	Visiting Scholar at Weatherhead Center, Harvard University
02/2005 – 02/2011	Diplom (M.Sc equivalent) in <i>Business Administration</i> with majors in <i>economics</i> and <i>finance</i> the University of Mannheim.
02/2008 – 12/2008	Studies abroad in <i>Business and Economics</i> at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand

ALL PUBLICATIONS IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

2026	Insuring Peace: Index-Based Livestock Insurance, Droughts, and Conflict. (Kai Gehring and Paul Schaudt). <i>Quarterly Journal of Economics</i> , 2026 (advance article online).
2025	Stimulant or Depressant? Resource-Related Income Shocks and Conflict. (Kai Gehring, Sarah Langlotz and Stefan Kienberger). <i>Review of Economics and Statistics</i> 107(6): 1518–1536, 2025.
2022	China and the World Bank - How Contrasting Development Approaches Affect the Stability of African States. (Kai Gehring, Lennart Kaplan and Melvin Wong). <i>Journal of Development Economics</i> 158, 2022
	Can external threats foster a European Union identity? Evidence from Russia's invasion in Ukraine (Kai Gehring). <i>Economic Journal</i> , 2022.
2021	The Origins of Common Identity: Evidence from Alsace-Lorraine. (Sirus Dehdari and Kai Gehring), (<i>American Economic Journal: Applied Economics</i> , 2021)
2020	Overcoming History through Exit or Integration - Deep-Rooted Sources of Support for the European Union (Kai Gehring). <i>American Political Science Review</i> 115:1, 2021.
	Stigma or Cushion? IMF Programs and Sovereign Creditworthiness. (Kai Gehring and Valentin Lang), <i>Journal of Development Economics</i> 146, 2020.
	Regional Resources and Democratic Secessionism. (Kai Gehring and Stephan A. Schneider), <i>Journal of Public Economics</i> 181, 2020.
2019	Crime, Incentives and Political Effort: Evidence for India. (Kai Gehring, T. Florian Kauffeldt and Krishna C. Vadlamannati), <i>European Journal of Political Economy</i> 59, p.1-20, 2019).
2018	Towards the Greater Good? EU Commissioners' Nationality and Budget Allocation in the European Union. (Kai Gehring and Stephan Schneider), <i>American Economic Journal: Economic Policy</i> 10:1, 2018.
	Geopolitics, Aid and Growth. (Axel Dreher, Vera Eichenauer, Kai Gehring), <i>World Bank Economic Review</i> 31:2 (2/ 2018).
	Information Transmission Within Federal Fiscal Architectures: Theory and Evidence. (Axel Dreher, Kai Gehring, Christos Kotsogiannis, Silvia Marchesi), <i>Oxford Economic Papers</i> 70:1, 2018).

2017	The Home Bias in Sovereign Ratings. (Andreas Fuchs and Kai Gehring), <i>Journal of the European Economic Association</i> 15:5, 2017. Aid Fragmentation and Effectiveness: What do we Really Know? (Kai Gehring, Katja Michaelowa, Axel Dreher, and Franziska Spörri), <i>World Development</i> 99, 2017.
2015	Gesture Politics or Real Commitment? Gender inequality and the Allocation of Aid. (Axel Dreher, Kai Gehring and Stephan Klasen), <i>World Development</i> 70, 2015)
2013	Inequality and Happiness: When Perceived Social Mobility and Economic Reality do not Match. (Christian Bjørnskov, Axel Dreher, Justina A.V. Fischer, Jan Schnellenbach, Kai Gehring), <i>Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization</i> 91, 2013). Who Benefits from Economic Freedom? Unraveling the Effect of Economic Freedom on Subjective Well-being. (Kai Gehring), <i>World Development</i> 50, 2013).

WORKING PAPERS

2025	Virality: Measuring Narrative Roles and Their Effects on Beliefs and Behaviour. (Kai Gehring and Matteo Grigoletto). <i>CESifo Working Paper No. 12064</i>, 2025.
2022	Immigrant Narratives. (Kai Gehring, Joop Age Harm Adema, Panu Poutvaara). <i>CESifo Working Papers 10026</i>, 2022

ONGOING PROJECTS

Green Facade or Genuine Progress? Assessing the Real Impact of Sustainability Regulations on Industrialized Mining (Kai Gehring and Paul Schaudt)

Measuring Mining Activity from Space (Kai Gehring, Michael Momment, Paul Schaudt)

Understanding Artisanal Mining (Mathieu Couttenier, Fernando Fernandez, Kai Gehring, Arne Weiss)

Sustainable Value Chains for Artisanal Gold Production in the Peruvian Rain Forest (Fernando Fernandez, Kai Gehring, Julie Zähringer)

From Villain to Hero - Using Aspirational Narratives to Foster Technology Adoption among Artisanal Gold Miners in the Peruvian Amazon (Mathieu Couttenier, Fernando Fernandez, Kai Gehring, Matteo Grigoletto, Arne Weiss)

Identifying Barriers to Formalization When State Capacity Is Low (Fernando Fernandez, Kai Gehring, Matteo Grigoletto, Stefano Jud, Quynh Nguyen, Arne Weiss)

Why Has Violence Declined? (Kai Gehring and Joachim Voth)

Terror Propaganda - Global Success and Local Impact of Islamic State in Afghanistan (Travers Child, Kai Gehring, Sarah Langlotz, Austin Wright)

OTHER NON-PEER REVIEWED CONTRIBUTIONS (SELECTED)

2023	Identity Formation under Occupation and External Threats: Evidence from Alsace-Lorraine and the Annexation of Crimea. (Kai Gehring). <i>In Nation Building: Big Lessons from Successes and Failures</i> , edited by Dominic Rohner and Ekaterina Zhuravskaya
2023	VoxEU: "Analyzing Climate Change Policy Narratives with the Character-Role Narrative Framework."
2023	CESifo, Munich: "Immigrant Narratives in German Newspapers"
05/2020	VoxDev: "Resources and conflict: The role of law enforcement and group competition"
12/2019	VoxEU: "Separatism on the rise: The role of regional resources?"
12/2019	ifo Schnelldienst: "Can Development Cooperation Ensure More Growth and Stability in Developing Countries?"
12/2017	ifo DICE Report: "Resource-related Income Shocks and Conflict."
04/2018	Global Development Blog: "Aid fragmentation and aid effectiveness: the latest evidence."
12/2017	ifo Schnelldienst: "Am besten allein? Separatismus in Europa: Welche Kräfte treiben die Unabhängigkeitsbewegungen an?"
11/2017	Wirtschaftsdienst: "Separatistische Bewegungen: Erklärungen und Lösungsansätze."
10/2017	DeFacto: "Ökonomische Gründe für den Erfolg separatistischer Parteien."
06/2017	Euractiv Blog: "Why the European Commission is in Need of Reform."
08/2016	Ökonomenstimme: "Hilft Entwicklungshilfe oder hilft sie nicht?"
06/2016	DeFacto: "Auch EU-Kommissare denken nicht 'europäisch.'"

11/2015	Ökonomenstimme: "Entwicklungshilfe: Warum Wettbewerb unter Geberländern nicht schädlich sein muss."
10/2015	VoxEU: "Does foreign aid affect growth?"
06/2012	Does Aid Buy (Economic) Freedom? (Axel Dreher and Kai Gehring), <i>Economic Freedom of the World: 2012 Annual Report, Fraser Institute.</i>

PRESS COVERAGE

Financial Times, Washington Post, NZZ, Spiegel, Zeit, FAZ, Handelszeitung, Wirtschaftswoche, Börsenzeitung, among others.

SELF-ORGANIZED AND HOSTED WORKSHOPS

09/2023	Annual Swiss Development Economist Meeting hosted at the University of Bern
2023	Narrative economics(with Paul Schaudt)
2023	Resources, Conflict and the Enviroment workshops(with Paul Schaudt)
07/2022	12th Beyond Basic Questions workshop hosted at the University of Bern
07/2021	Political Economy workshop at ETH Zurich (with Elliot Ash)
07/2020	Swiss Development and Political Economy Workshop (with Christian Ochsner)
09/2019 & 05/2020	UZH Workshop on Political Economy and Development(with Christian Ochsner)
09/2017	Workshop on origins and consequences of group identities(with Bruno Caprettini and Joachim Voth)

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS PARTICIPATION (SELECTED)

/2024	CESifo Summer Institute in Venice. Presentation of: Analyzing Climate Change Policy Narratives with the Character-Role Narrative Framework
/2023	EUDN yearly conference at Bocconi University, Milan, Italy. Presentation of: China and the World Bank - How Contrasting Development Approaches Affect the Stability of African States
/2023	European Association of Environmental Economists workshop - Governing the Unmanageable: The Political Economy of Global Commons in Cyprus. Keynote presentation: Political Economy considerations for environmental economics
/2023	Bolzano Workshop on Historical Economics in Bolzano. Invited Presentation: Analyzing Climate Change Policy Narratives with the Character-Role Narrative Framework
/2023	Workshop on European Identity Politics in Amsterdam. Invited Presentation: External Threats and Identity
07/2019	NBER Summer Institute in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. Presentation of: China and the World Bank - How Contrasting Development Approaches Affect the Stability of African States
09/2018	2018 Barcelona GSE Summer Forum. Presentation of: Regional Resources and Democratic Secessionism (Kai Gehring and Stephan A. Schneider), ETH and University Zurich CIS Working Paper No. 90 (October 2016).

04/2017	NBER Summer Institute in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. Presentation of: The Origins of Common Identity: Division, Homogenization Policies and Identity Formation in Alsace-Lorraine
06/2014	Crisis, Institutions, and Banking Union Workshop at the Federal Ministry of Finance, Berlin, Germany. Presentation of: Information Transmission within Federal Fiscal Architectures: Theory and Evidence
12/2013	United Nations UNU-WIDER ReCom Workshop "Aid for Gender Equality" at United Nations, Copenhagen, Denmark. Presentation of: Gesture politics or real commitment? Gender inequality and the allocation of aid.
11/2013	Northeastern Universities Development Consortium Conference (NEUDC) at Harvard University, Massachusetts, USA. Presentation of: Geopolitics, Aid and Growth.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)

2024	Hamburg University
2024	Berlin MCC
01/2023	TU Dresden
01/2023	ETH Zurich
04/2023	University of Uppsala
2022	ifo institute Fuerth
04/2022	Paris Dauphine
10/2021	University of Luzern)
04/2021	Graduate Institute Geneva
09/2020	Harvard (Online Seminar)
09/2020	Princeton (Online Seminar)
06/2020	Bocconi, European Politics Workshop
10/2019	Stanford University
06/2019	World Trade Institute
03/2019	CEU Budapest
09/2018	University of Bergen
09/2018	Ifo Institute
	Max Planck Institute in Munich

06/2018	University of Cologne
	HEC Lausanne
03/2018	UB Barcelona
06/2018	University of Konstanz
01/2018	WZB Berlin Social Science Center
04/2018	ETH Zurich
05/2017	Heinrich-Heine-University of Düsseldorf
	Solvay Brussels School of Economics & Management
03/2017	Cambridge University Department Economics

LIST OF COURSES TAUGHT

University of Bern	2023: Executive Education - Geopolitical challenges – Resources, conflicts, value-chains).
	Winter term 2022 & 2023: Comparative Economic Development (MA-level, lecture).
	Winter term 2022 & 2023: Politische Ökonomie (BA-level, lecture).
University of Zurich	Winter Term 2016 & 2017 & 2018: Long-term Development – Institutions, Geography, Culture and Growth (BA-level, lecture).
	Summer Term 2017: Kernkompetenz Politische Ökonomie (Basic Microeconomics for political science students).
	Summer Term 2015 & 2016: International Organizations & Development Aid (seminar).
	Summer Term 2016: Supervision of 18 BA theses.
University of Heidelberg	Summer term 2015: Economic Policy (Tutorial).
	Summer term 2015: Introduction to Econometrics with Stata (Lecture).
	Winter term 2013 & 2014 & 2015: Macroeconomics (Tutorial).
	Summer term 2013 & 2014: Introduction to Econometrics using Stata for BA/MA theses (self-developed course).
	Winter term 2013/2014: Development Aid (Bachelor Seminar).
	Summer term 2013: Economics and Politics of International Economic Organizations (Bachelor Seminar).
	Summer term 2013: Economics and Politics of International Economic Organizations (Bachelor Seminar).
FH Kaiserslautern – University of Applied Sciences	External Lecturer since 2013: Annual course "Introduction to Business and Economics" within the degree program "IT-Analyst". Self-developed lecture and curriculum.

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIPS IN SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES, FELLOWSHIPS IN RENOWNED ACADEMIES

CESifo, EUDN, German Economic Association Committee for Development Economics, Board of the European Public Choice Society.
 American Economic Association, European Economic Association, Verein für Socialpolitik, Royal Economic Society, among others.

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES/ SUPERVISION OF JUNIOR RE-SEARCHERS

University of Bern	Supervision of PHD students, MA, BA and seminar theses, participation in a hiring commission, department representative for social media, representation of department in a foundation, coordinator for interdisciplinary projects at the Wyss Academy.
University of Zürich	Supervision of BA and seminar theses, Assisting PhD students. Responsible for hiring and supervising student research assistants at the chair.
University of Heidelberg	Joint supervision of MA, BA and seminar theses. Responsible for hiring and supervising student research assistants at the chair.

THIRD PARTY FUNDS, AWARDS, ORGANIZATION OF WORKSHOPS

	SNF Ambizione Grant (Area: Economics, Duration: 4 years). Funding amount: 868,961 CHF.
	DFG Grant (with Thilo Hunning and Fabian Wahl). Funding amount: 87,000 EUR.
	Research grant from the University of Stanford for "The effect of absolute and relative group size for immigrant integration" (with Vicky Fouka and Marco Tabellini). Funding amount: 36,600 US\$.
	2 X University of Zurich GRC Grant for research and reading group on "Political Economy and Development" from the University of Zurich (with Christian Ochsner, Julian Langer, Joachim Voth and Katharina Michaelowa, UZH). Funding amount: 10,000 + 8,000 = 18,000 CHF.
	University of Zurich and UBS grants to organize workshop on "Origins and consequences of group identities" (with Bruno Caprettini and Max Winkler). Funding amount: 17,500 + 5000 = 22,500 CHF.
	University of Zurich Grant for research and reading group on "National, ethnic and religious identities" from the University of Zurich (with Bruno Caprettini and Max Winkler, Joachim Voth, Katharina Michaelowa, UZH). Funding amount: 7,500 CHF.
	SNF Scientific Exchanges. Funding amount: 12,979 CHF.
	SNF Flexibility Grant. Funding amount: 17,500 CHF.
	DAAD scholarship for a year studying abroad in New Zealand.
	Overall amount ~1,000,000 Euro.

REVIEWING ACTIVITIES

Reviewing (Selected)	Quartely Journal of Economics, American Economic Review, Review of Economics Studies, Econometrica, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, Economic Journal, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Development Economics, American Political Science Review, Journal of Politics, European Economic Review, Review of International Organizations, IMF Economic Review, European Journal of Political Economy, World Development, Journal of Comparative Economics, Journal of Development Studies, Spring Meeting of Young Economists (SMYE) conference board of reviewers, IIPF yearly conf etc.
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REFERENCES

Axel Dreher	Heidelberg University Area: Development Economics, Political Economy Tel: +49 6221 54 2921 Mail: axel.dreher@awi.uni-heidelberg.de Relationship: Ph.D. supervisor, mentor, co-author
Hans-Joachim Voth	University of Zurich Area: Economic History, Political Economy Tel: +41 44 634 5547 Mail: voth@econ.uzh.ch Relationship: Mentor, co-author

OTHER EMPLOYMENT AND INTERNSHIPS

04/2011 – 07/2011	Consultant at Simon Kucher & Partners, the worldwide leaders in Pricing consulting. Implemented and concluded 3 consulting projects in area banking: savings accounts, working capital loans, and mortgage lending.
01/2010 – 02/2010	Intern at the Center for European Economic Research ZEW: Structure and efficiency of the German electricity market; empirical analysis of retail pricing and competitive behavior.
9/2009 – 12/2010	Teaching assistant in Marketing I. at the Institute of Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Homburg. Student assistant responsible for projects, lecture preparation, and empirical work/ data collection.
07/2009 – 09/2009	Intern at IBM Business Consulting: Launch, coordination and implementation of the Smarter Planet Campaign.
03/2008 – 10/2008	Student trainee at the Christchurch City Council CCC in New Zealand. Independently implemented and completed market research and consulting projects.
07/2007 – 08/2007	Intern at IBM Business Consulting: Launch, coordination and implementation of the Smarter Planet Campaign.

07/2007 – 08/2007	Intern in the department of "Coordination Sales and Marketing" (In-house Consulting) at Bosch GmbH. Projects in sales and innovation management.
2/2007 – 11/2007	Student assistant at the chair of Finance Prof. W. Bühler.