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Personal Information

Born in Bern, Switzerland, 1975. Australian and Swiss citizen. Married, one child.

Current Positions and Affiliations

Professor, Department of Economics, University of Lucerne, since 2011.

External Research Associate, OxCarre, University of Oxford, since 2009; research visit in 2010.

Previous Positions

Lecturer and Program Manager Doctoral Courses, Study Center Gerzensee, 2010-2011.

Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of Melbourne, 2009-2010.

Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of Melbourne, 2007-2009.

Research Fellow, Department of Economics, University of Bern, 2005-2006.

Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Economics, Harvard University, 2004-2005.

Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, University of Bern, 2000-2004.

Education

PhD in Economics (Dr. rer. oec.), University of Bern, 2001-2004.

Swiss Program for Beginning Doctoral Students, Study Center Gerzensee, 2001-2002.

Master of Economics (lic. rer. pol.), University of Bern, 1995-2000.

Awards

Certificate of Excellent Undergraduate Teaching, University of Melbourne, 2007, 2008, 2009.

Dean's Outstanding Lecturer Award, University of Melbourne, 2008.

Knut-Wicksell Prize (for best paper of a young scholar), European Public Choice Society, 2004.

Main Interests

Development Economics, International Trade, Political Economics, Public Economics.

Refereed Journal Articles

- All-pay War (with Hadi Yektaş), *Games and Economic Behavior* 74(2), 526-540, 2012.
- Ethnic Fractionalisation and Aid Effectiveness (with David S. Knight), *Journal of African Economies* 21(1), 65-93, 2012.
- Electoral Terms and Terrorism (with Dominic Rohner), *Public Choice* 159(1-2), 181-193, 2012.
- Institutions, Trade, and the Political Economy of Financial Development, *Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics* 167(3), 445-464, 2011.
- Elections and the Strategic Use of Budget Deficits, *Public Choice* 148(1-2), 149-161, 2011.
- Inefficient Policies and Incumbency Advantage (with Simon Loertscher and Dominic Rohner), *Journal of Public Economics* 94(9-10), 761-767, 2010.
- Natural Resources and Income Inequality: The Role of Ethnic Divisions (with Ruikang M. Fum), *Economics Letters* 107(3), 360-363, 2010.
- Natural Resources, Democracy and Corruption (with Sambit Bhattacharyya), *European Economic Review* 54(4), 608-621, 2010.
- Redistribution and Inequality in a Heterogeneous Society, *Economica* 76(304), 704-718, 2009.
- Industrial Policy in an Imperfect World, *Journal of Development Economics* 90(1), 85-93, 2009.
- What Determines Financial Development? Culture, Institutions or Trade (with Nils Herger and Michael Lobsiger), *Review of World Economics* 144(3), 558-587, 2008.
- Specialization and Welfare in the Presence of Imperfectly Integrated Capital Markets and Learning-by-Doing, *Open Economies Review* 19(3), 391-402, 2008.
- Leisure and Redistribution, *European Journal of Political Economy* 24(2), 354-363, 2008.
- Rent Seeking and Aid Effectiveness, *International Tax and Public Finance* 14(5), 525-541, 2007.
- The Curse of Natural Resources in Fractionalized Countries, *European Economic Review* 50(6), 1367-1386, 2006. Listed in: Top 10 cited articles published in the last five years, *European Economic Review* homepage, 2010, 2011.
- How Fiscal Decentralization Flattens Progressive Taxes (with Kurt Schmidheiny), *FinanzArchiv* 62(2), 281-304, 2006.

Invited Journal Article

- For the Student: Political Economics, *Australian Economic Review* 41(3), 330-335, 2008.

Current Working Papers

- Media Freedom and Democracy: Complements or Substitutes in the Fight against Corruption? (with Sambit Bhattacharyya), *CSAE Working Paper 2012-02*, 2012.
- The Effects of Voting Costs on the Democratic Process and Public Finances (with Simon Luechinger and Alois Stutzer), *WWZ Discussion Paper 2012/02*, 2012.
- Development (Paradigm) Failures, *Study Center Gerzensee Working Paper 11.01*, 2011. Revise and resubmit at *Journal of Development Economics*.

Do Natural Resource Revenues Hinder Financial Development? The Role of Political Institutions (with Sambit Bhattacharyya), *OxCarre Research Paper 10-53*, 2010. Revise and resubmit at *Journal of Development Economics*.

Foreign Aid and Enlightened Leaders (with Paul A. Raschky), *Monash Department of Economics Discussion Paper 54/10*, and *Study Center Gerzensee Working Paper 10.05*, 2010.

Biased Experts, Costly Lies, and Binary Decisions (with Simon Loertscher and Dominic Rohner), *Study Center Gerzensee Working Paper 10.01*, 2010.

Popular Writings

Interview with Jeremy C. Stein: Financial Crises and Financial Stability, *Study Center Gerzensee Newsletter*, 01/2012.

Interview with Harrison Hong: Behavioral Finance and Financial Crises, *Study Center Gerzensee Newsletter*, 01/2011.

Natural Resources and Corruption: Is Democracy the “Missing Link”? (with Sambit Bhattacharyya), *VoxEU.org*, 13/09/2009.

Menschenrechtsverletzungen werden in der Entwicklungshilfe “belohnt”: Ein quantitativer Blick auf die Schweizer Entwicklungszusammenarbeit von 1980 bis 2004 (with Stephan Ryser), *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, 21/02/2007.

Grants and Fellowships

Discovery Project (AUD 135,000; with Paul A. Raschky), Australian Research Council, 2012-2015.

Faculty Research Grant (AUD 12,000), University of Melbourne, 2008-2009.

Fellowship for Prospective Researchers, Swiss National Science Foundation, 2004-2005.

Presentations

Annual conferences: Econometric Society (Brisbane 2007, Canberra 2009), European Economic Association (Madrid 2004, Vienna 2006, Glasgow 2010, Oslo 2011), European Public Choice Society (Berlin 2004, Durham 2005), Public Choice Society (New Orleans 2005), Royal Economic Society (Nottingham 2006), Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics (Basel 2004, Fribourg 2010, Lucerne 2011), Verein für Socialpolitik (Kiel 2010).

Workshops and specialized conferences: Australasian Development Economics Workshop (Sydney 2007, Canberra 2008), Australasian Economic Theory Workshop (Melbourne 2010), CRED Workshop on Governance and Conflicts (Namur 2011), DEGIT Conference (Melbourne 2007), Nordic Conference in Development Economics (Stockholm 2008), Norwegian-German Seminar on Public Economics (Garmisch-Partenkirchen 2005), Otago Workshop in International Trade (Dunedin 2007), Research Committee on Development Economics (Berlin 2006), Silvaplana Workshop in Political Economy (Silvaplana 2006, Pontresina 2010).

Research seminars: Australian National University (2007), Deakin University (2008), Goethe University Frankfurt (2010), Harvard University (2005), La Trobe University (2008), Monash University (2008, 2009), Pompeu Fabra University (2011), Study Center Gerzensee (2008), Tilburg University (2006), University of Adelaide (2008), University of Auckland (2007), University of Basel (2006, 2009), University of Bern (2009, 2010), University of Heidelberg (2008, 2010), University of Lucerne (2010), University of Melbourne (2006), University of Oxford (2010), University of

St. Gallen (2009), University of Tasmania (2008), University of Zurich (2006, 2011), Wageningen University (2011), WZ Berlin (2006).

Teaching Experience

University of Lucerne: Growth and Development (BA, 2011), International Economics (BA, 2011), Math Review (BA, 2011), and various seminars in development, international and political economics.

Study Center Gerzensee: Microeconomics of Banking (central bankers' course, 2011).

University of Melbourne: Competition and Strategy (BCom, 2007, 2008, 2009), Political Economics (Honours/MEcon/PhD, 2008, 2009).

Services

Refereeing: *American Economic Review*, *European Economic Review*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Public Economics*; *Agricultural Economics*, *Economic Record*, *Economics and Politics*, *Environmental and Resource Economics*, *European Journal of Political Economy*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Journal of Public Economic Theory*, *Open Economies Review*, *Public Choice*, *Review of International Organizations*, *Review of World Economics*, *Scandinavian Journal of Economics*, *Southern Economic Journal*, *World Development*.

Conference co-organization: Australasian Development Economics Workshop (Melbourne 2009), Swiss Economists Abroad Conference (Gerzensee 2010).

Program committee: Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics (Lucerne 2011, Zurich 2012).