

# Mira Fischer

## Contact Information

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Market Behavior Research Unit  
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Citizenship: Germany

## Research Fields

Primary Fields: Economics of Education, Behavioral Economics  
Secondary Fields: Behavioral Policy-Making, Organizational Economics

## Employment

09/2018 –	WZB Berlin Social Science Center, Postdoctoral Research Associate (6 years, fixed-term)
04/2012 – 08/2018	University of Cologne, Research and Teaching Assistant
09/2011 – 09/2012	Cologne Institute for Economic Research, Junior Economist

## Education

04/2012 – 03/2018	Ph.D. in Economics (awarded summa cum laude), University of Cologne, thesis title: “Essays in Behavioral Economics of Education”, supervisor: Dirk Sliwka, committee: Bernd Irlenbusch, Matthias Heinz
10/2013 – 05/2014	Ph.D. Course Program in Economics of Education, University of Zurich
10/2008 – 03/2011	Master in International Economics, University of Konstanz, grade: 1.4, top <5%
09/2010 – 12/2010	Exchange Student, RGGU, Moscow
10/2005 – 07/2008	Bachelor in Philosophy (major) and Political Science (minor), University of Konstanz, grade: 1.3, top <5%
09/2002 – 06/2004	International Baccalaureate Diploma, International School Maastricht

## Academic Visits

05/2019	Hanken School of Economics, Helsinki, host: Topi Miettinen
01/2019	Ifo Institute, Munich, host: Ludger Wössmann
12/2017	University of Chicago, host: John List
11/2017	University College London and NIESR, host: Alex Bryson
03 –04/2017	NHH Norwegian School of Economics, Bergen, hosts: Bertil Tungodden and Alexander Cappelen
09 –11/2014	University of Chicago, host: John List
11/2013	NIESR, London, host: Alex Bryson

## Affiliations and Memberships

06/2020 –	Economic Science Association Mentoring Program, Mentee
10/2018 –	IAB-UCL Anglo-German Early Career Quantitative Education Researchers Network, Member
09/2018 –	Collaborative Research Center Transregio (Berlin and Munich) “Rationality and Competition”, Member
02/2018 –	IZA Institute of Labor Economics, Bonn, Research Affiliate
07/2015 – 08/2018	Cologne Center for Social and Economic Behavior, Member

## Journal Articles

Fischer, M., Sliwka, D. (2018) Confidence in Knowledge or Confidence in the Ability to Learn: An Experiment on the Causal Effects of Beliefs on Motivation, **Games and Economic Behavior**, 111, 122-142

Fischer, M., Kauder, B., Potrafke, N., Ursprung, H.W. (2017) Support for Free-market Policies and Reforms: Does the Field of Study Influence Students' Political Attitudes?, **European Journal of Political Economy**, 48, 180-197

Fischer, M., Kampkötter, P. (2017) Effects of German Universities' Excellence Initiative on Ability Sorting of Students and perceptions of Educational Quality, **Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics**, 173(4), 662-687

Fischer, M., Lotz, S. (2014) Ist sanfter Paternalismus ethisch vertretbar? Eine differenzierende Betrachtung aus Sicht der Freiheit, **Sozialer Fortschritt/German Review of Social Policy**, 63(3), 52-58 -- English version -- : Is Soft Paternalism Ethically Legitimate? - The Relevance of Psychological Processes for the Assessment of Nudge-Based Policies, Cologne Graduate School Working Paper, 5(2), 2014

## Handbook Articles

Fischer, M., Khadjavi, M. (2020) Präferenzen, In Heidbrink, L., Lorch, A., Rauen, V. (Eds.): **Springer Handbuch Praktische Wirtschaftsphilosophie** (1-13), Wiesbaden: Springer VS

## Working Papers

Two Field Experiments on Self-Selection, Collaboration Intensity, and Team Performance, with Rainer Michael Rilke and Burcin Yurtoglu

The E-Word - On the Public Acceptance of Experiments (representative survey experiment), with Elisabeth Grewenig, Philipp Lergetporer and Katharina Werner

Effects of Timing and Reference Frame of Feedback: Evidence from a Field Experiment, with Valentin Wagner

Salience of Ability Grouping and Biased Belief Formation (lab experiment)

## Work in Progress

Investigating the Effect of Mindfulness Meditation on Academic Performance (field experiment), with Lea Cassar and Vanessa Valero

Does the Support for Behavioral Policies Depend on Why they Work? Representative Evidence on the Relevance of Psychological Mechanisms (representative survey experiment), with Elisabeth Grewenig, Philipp Lergetporer, Katharina Werner, and Ludger Wössmann

Understanding the Response to High Stakes Incentives in Primary Education (secondary analysis of representative data), with Maximilian Bach

### **Invited Presentations and Seminars**

2020	Economic Science Association Junior Faculty Webinar (scheduled)
2019	Ifo Institute, Hanken School of Economics, University of Trier
2018	Hanken School of Economics, IZA Institute of Labor Economics, WZB Berlin, Bristol Workshop on Assessment and Feedback
2017	NHH Norwegian School of Economics, University of Maastricht, University of Chicago, NIESR
2016	University of Düsseldorf
2014	University of Chicago

### **Conference Presentations**

2020	European Economic Association Virtual Congress (scheduled), International Workshop on Contracts and Incentives, Tokyo (scheduled)
2019	IAB-UCL Anglo-German Early Career Quantitative Education Researchers Meeting, Nuremberg
2018	European Economic Association Annual Congress, Cologne; Advances with Field Experiments, Boston University; Lisbon Meeting on Economics and Political Science
2017	Workshop on Equity in Education, University of Leuven; Advances with Field Experiments, University of Chicago; IZA Workshop on the Economics of Education; Maastricht Behavioral and Experimental Economics Symposium
2016	Economic Science Association World Meeting, Jerusalem; Incentives and Behavior Change Conference, Tel Aviv University; Cologne Social Cognition Meeting; Workshop on Education, Skills and Labor Market Outcomes, University of Trondheim; TIER Workshop on Education Economics, University of Maastricht; Ifo Workshop on Labor Economics and Social Policy, Dresden
2015	Mini-School by the Research Center for Rationality in the Light of Experimental Economics, Düsseldorf; Colloquium on Personnel Economics, Vienna; LEER Workshop on Education Economics, University of Leuven; Maastricht Behavioral and Experimental Economics Symposium; TIBER Symposium on Psychology and Economics, University of Tilburg; Workshop on the Economics of Education and Self-Regulation, University of Mainz
2014	World Congress of the International Economic Association, Dead Sea, Jordan; Workshop on Applied Economics of Education, Catanzaro
2013	Workshop on University Management, University of Duisburg; Colloquium on Personnel Economics, Tübingen
2012	TIBER Symposium on Psychology and Economics, University of Tilburg; Economic Science Association European Conference, Cologne

### **Summer Schools**

2016	HCEO Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality, University of Bonn
2015	Summer School in Economics of Education and Self-Regulation, University of Mainz
2012	Cologne Summer School in Philosophy

### **Refereeing**

Management Science, European Economic Review, Labour Economics, Education Economics, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Educational Researcher

## **Awards, Scholarships and Grants**

Nominated for Participation in the 70<sup>th</sup> Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting (postponed to 2021)  
Sponsorship by Techniker Krankenkasse health insurance for field experiment on meditation and academic performance (~ 10,000 euros, primary applicant), 2019  
Shared sponsorship by University of Chicago (Prof. John List) and Cologne Center for Social and Economic Behavior for research stay at University of Chicago, 2017  
Sponsorship by Nuffield Foundation for research stay at University College London and NIESR, 2017  
Travel grant from Cologne Center for Social and Economic Behavior for research stay at NHH Norwegian School of Economics, 2017  
Best paper award (with Patrick Kampkötter) for “Effects of German Universities' Excellence Initiative on Ability Sorting of Students and perceptions of Educational Quality” from the German Academic Association for Business Research, 2013  
Travel grant from German Academic Exchange Service for exchange semester in Moscow, 2010  
Tuition fee waivers for being among the top 5% of graduates of my Bachelor's program in Philosophy in 2008 and my Master's program in International Economics in 2011

## **Teaching** (all at the University of Cologne, much in collaboration with colleagues)

### *- Master level classes*

Moral and Social Norms (Seminar): winter 16/17, winter 17/18  
Advanced Business Ethics (Course): summer 16, summer 17  
Business Ethics and Continental Philosophy (Tutorial): winter 15/16, winter 16/17, winter 17/18, summer 18  
Economics of Incentives in Organizations (Tutorial): summer 15  
Empirical Studies in Human Resource Management (Seminar): summer 13  
Strategic Human Resource Management (Tutorial): winter 12/13, winter 13/14, winter 14/15

### *- Bachelor level classes*

Experimental Studies in Personnel Economics (Seminar): winter 14/15  
Experimental Studies in Personnel and Education Economics (Seminar): winter 13/14  
Human Resource Management (Tutorial): summer 13, summer 14

## **Theses Supervision**

### *- At University of Cologne*

16 Master's and 29 Bachelor's theses in personnel, labor, education and behavioral economics, and ethics

### *- In Berlin*

1 Master's thesis in education economics and 1 Bachelor's thesis in behavioral economics

## **Media Coverage (selected)**

WirtschaftsWoche, August 15, 2019: “Warum der Abschluss einer Exzellenzuni keine Karrieregarantie ist“ [“Why a degree from an excellence university is not a guarantee for a career“]

Times Higher Education, April 24, 2018: “Research prestige boosts students' satisfaction, study finds“

Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung, August 21, 2016: “Du bist, was du studierst” [“You are what you study“]

## **Public Speaking**

Presentation on “Policy Experiments and Behaviorally-informed Policies: Some Clarifications” at 1<sup>st</sup> Behaviour Change Science & Policy Symposium, Helsinki, May 15, 2019

Panelist for discussion on “Nudging and Persuasive Design” at Berlin Design Week, September 20, 2018

Panelist for expert talks on “Corporate Behavior and Human Rights” at German Institute for Human Rights, Berlin, November 8, 2018

## **Contributions to Education Policy (in German)**

Fischer, M., Geis, W. (2013) Bestimmungsgrößen der Bildungsmobilität in Deutschland [Determinants of Educational Mobility in Germany], IW-Trends, 1/13

Anger, C., Fischer, M., Geis, W., Lotz, S., Plünnecke, A., Schmidt, J. (2012) Gesamtwirtschaftliche Effekte einer Ganztagsbetreuung von Kindern von Alleinerziehenden [Macroeconomic Effects of Day Care for Children of Single Parents] (with), Report for the Federal Ministry for Families, Senior Citizens, Women, and Youth (BMFSFJ) and the German Red Cross

Anger, C., Fischer, M., Esselmann, I., Plünnecke, A. (2012) Bildungsmonitor 2012. Infrastruktur verbessern – Teilhabe sichern – Wachstumskräfte stärken [Education Monitor 2012. Improving the infrastructure – securing participation – strengthening growth], Report by the Cologne Institute for Economic Research