

Lorenz Meister

CONTACT	DIW Berlin – German Institute for Economic Research Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) Anton-Wilhelm-Amo-Str. 58, 10117 Berlin, Germany lmeister@diw.de lorenzmeister.com	
RESEARCH INTERESTS	Political Economy, Economics of Inequality, Public Economics	
REFERENCES	Carsten Schröder DIW Berlin & Free University of Berlin cschroeder@diw.de	Panu Poutvaara ifo Institute & University of Munich poutvaara@ifo.de
	Raj Chetty Harvard University chetty@fas.harvard.edu	Lukas Menkhoff DIW Berlin lmenkhoff@diw.de
EDUCATION	Ph.D. in Economics , DIW Berlin & Free University of Berlin Dissertation title: Essays in Socio-Economic Inequality and Social Policy Supervisors: Carsten Schroeder and Panu Poutvaara	2020–present
	M.Sc. in Economics , Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich Thesis: An Economic Analysis of the EU Emissions Trading System	2017–2020
	B.Sc. in Management & Technology , Technical University of Munich Visiting Program (Political Science & Economics), Columbia University	2013–2017 2016–2017
RESEARCH STAYS	Paris School of Economics , World Inequality Lab / Lucas Chancel & Thomas Piketty	5–7/2025
	Harvard University , Opportunity Insights Lab / Raj Chetty	1–7/2024
	King’s College London , Department of Political Economy / Damien Bol	5–6/2023
EMPLOYMENT	DIW Berlin – Research Associate & Ph.D. Candidate Socio-Economic Panel and International Economics Department Research and policy work on inequality, democracy, and perception of public policies	2021–present
	United Nations Secretariat – Intern Department for Economic and Social Affairs, Global Economic Monitoring Branch Policy work on national poverty and inequality measures	2020
	OECD – Intern Directorate for Education and Skills Policy work on early childhood education and care	2019
	University of Munich – Research Assistant Chair of Public Economics / Center for Economic Studies (CES) Research and lecture support on taxation and the welfare state	2018–2019
	Max Planck Institute for Social Law and Social Policy – Research Assistant Munich Center for the Economics of Ageing Support for the Survey of Health, Ageing, and Retirement in Europe (SHARE)	2017–2018

JOB MARKET PAPER	<p>Populism and Narratives of Social Mobility <i>Populism, defined by a rhetoric of “the people” versus “the elite,” has gained traction across Western democracies. This paper examines the relationship between populist attitudes and both subjective beliefs about social mobility and objective measures of social mobility in individuals’ local areas. Through a new US survey, I collect 3,450 respondent-generated narratives of upward mobility and classify them as “luck-based” or “effort-based” using a large language model. I then link this data with electoral outcomes and social mobility measures at the commuting zone-level. Lower local mobility is associated with higher support for populist attitudes and Trump vote shares. Moreover, individuals in low-mobility areas are more likely to perceive national social mobility as limited, suggesting that local conditions shape broader economic beliefs. Those who perceive mobility as low are more likely to emphasize luck in the narrative they provide. To identify the causal effect of such beliefs on populism, I conduct a survey experiment in which 2,000 respondents are randomly exposed to luck-based ascent narratives. Exposure raises populist attitudes by decreasing beliefs in the role of merit, particularly among men, individuals without a college degree, and those without upward mobility experience. These findings suggest that low social mobility fosters populism by shifting beliefs about economic fairness and opportunity.</i></p>	
PUBLICATIONS	<p>Stock Market Participation, Work from Home, and Inequality 2025 <i>with Lukas Menkhoff and Carsten Schröder</i> <u>International Review of Financial Analysis</u></p> <p>Restrictions to Civil Liberties in a Pandemic and Satisfaction with Democracy 2024 <i>with Daniel Graeber and Panu Poutvaara</i> <u>European Journal of Political Economy</u></p>	
WORKING PAPERS	<p>Who Pays for Climate Policy? Distributional Frames and Populist Backlash <i>with Matilda Gettins</i> DIW Discussion Paper 2139</p> <p>Random Forests for Labor Market Analysis: Balancing Precision and Interpretability <i>with Daniel Graeber, Carsten Schroeder, and Sabine Zinn</i> SOEPpaper 1230</p>	
WORK IN PROGRESS	<p>Risk Aversion in the Shadow of Terror <i>with Daniel Graeber and Neil Murray</i></p> <p>Double Standards? Electoral Accountability for Populists <i>with Julia Hélie</i></p>	
POLICY WORK	<p>Distributional Narratives of Climate Policy May Fuel Populism 2025 DIW Weekly Report</p> <p>Populism: Why there is Reason for Hope 2023 DIW Weekly Report: Commentary</p> <p>Economic Determinants of Populism 2023 DIW Roundup</p> <p>Chinese Loans to African Countries Differ from Western Development Loans 2023 DIW Weekly Report</p> <p>Remote Work Facilitates Stock Market Participation 2023 DIW Weekly Report</p>	

	How Shocks Affect Stock Market Participation DIW Roundup	2023
	Providing Quality Early Childhood Education and Care: Results from the Starting Strong Survey 2018 TALIS Report, OECD Publishing Press, Paris	2019
TEACHING	Humboldt University Berlin <i>Seminar</i> – Topics in Emerging Markets (Master level, joint) Co-Supervision of multiple master’s theses in economics	WS22/23
	Hertie School <i>Tutorial</i> – Economic Growth and Climate Change (Master level) <i>Tutorial</i> – Economics I (Master level)	SS22 WS21/22
	Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich <i>Tutorial</i> – Mathematics for Economists (undergraduate level)	SS18
CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS	2025 (incl. scheduled): American Economic Association Meetings (San Francisco), Applied Economics Lunch Seminar (Paris School of Economics), Graduate Seminar (Paris School of Economics), Applied Panel Analysis Meeting (DIW Berlin), Political Economy Lunch Seminar (Hertie School), Political Economy Workshop (Berlin School of Economics), Quantitative Political Economy Early Career Workshop (King’s College London), STATA Conference in Applied Econometrics (Aix-Marseille School of Economics), Workshop on the Economics of Risky Behavior (Madrid), Weekly Seminar (Rockwool Foundation Berlin), New Direction in Inequality Research Conference (London School of Economics), 9th PhD Workshop in Empirical Economics (Potsdam University), 1st Interdisciplinary WZB Conference on the Future of Democracy (Berlin Social Science Center)	
	2024: Political Economy Research Workshop (Harvard), Graduate Student Political Economy and Rational Choice Workshop (Harvard), Work and Family Researchers Network Conference (Montreal), United Nations DESA Development Policy Seminar (New York City), Congress of the International Institute of Public Finance (Prague), Annual Meeting of the German Economic Association (Berlin), Leibniz im Bundestag Policy Brief (Berlin)	
	2023: Meeting of the European Public Choice Society (Hannover), Meeting of the European Society of Population Economics (Belgrade), Berlin School of Economics Summer Workshop (Berlin), Meeting of the International Finance and Banking Society (Oxford), Berlin Behavioral Economics Colloquium and Seminar (Humboldt University Berlin), SOEP Brownbag Seminar (DIW Berlin), WZB Behavioral Economics Series (Berlin Social Science Center)	
	2022: DGGÖ Annual Conference on Health Economics (Hamburg), DIW Graduate Center Summer Workshop (Potsdam), Cluster Seminar in Public Economics (DIW Berlin)	
SUMMER SCHOOLS	Microeconomic Analysis, University of Warsaw	2024
	Political Economy: Institutions and Media, Aix-Marseille School of Economics	2023
	Microeconometrics and Public Policy Evaluation, Paris School of Economics	2022
	Econometrics, London School of Economics	2018
	Europe: Politics and Identity - Crises and Inequalities, SciencesPo Paris	2017
RESEARCH GRANTS	DIW Bridge Project (25,000 EUR) – DIW Berlin	2023
	INSIGHTS Seed Funding (4,000 EUR) – Leibniz Association	2023

SCHOLARSHIPS	DAAD Research Scholarship, German Academic Exchange Service	2024
	Dieter Schumacher YSTF Scholarship	2023
	PhD Studies Stipend, DIW Berlin	2020–2021
	Erasmus+ Scholarship, European Commission	2019
REVIEWING	CESifo Economic Studies, Journal of Labor Research	
AWARDS	IFABS 2023 Oxford Conference Best Poster Award, IFABS	2023
	DMV Abitur-Award in Mathematics, German Mathematician Society	2013
SKILLS	Languages: German (native), English (professional), French (fluent) Software: Stata, R, Python, LaTeX/TikZ	