

Dr. Michael Schwan

Assistant Professor
Macro-finance and Sustainability

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Employment

2024 – University of Groningen
Assistant Professor, Department of Global Economics and Management

2018 – 2023 University of Cologne
Senior Researcher, Cologne Center for Comparative Politics

2017 – 2018 University of Cologne
Executive Manager, Cologne Center for Comparative Politics

Other positions

2024 – Sparkasse KölnBonn
Member of the Supervisory Board

2023 – Koelnmesse GmbH
Member of the Supervisory Board

Education

2014 – 2018 University of Cologne
PhD, Political Science (Dr. rer. pol.)

2011 – 2014 University of Cologne
Master of Arts, Political Science and Economic Geography

2007 – 2011 Philipps University Marburg
Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, Sociology and Economics

International experience

- 2022 American Council on Germany, New York City, NY, USA
DZ Bank Fellow on Transatlantic Business and Finance
- 2021 Johns Hopkins University, Washington, DC, USA
Research fellow, American-German Institute (AGI)
- 2017 Boston University, Boston, USA
Visiting Researcher, Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies
- 2009 University of Lucerne, Lucerne, Switzerland
ERASMUS, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Research Articles

- 2023 **(07)** “Bank Types, Inclusivity, and Payroll Protection Program Lending During Covid-19”, *Economic Development Quarterly*, 37(3), 277-97 (with M. Cassell and M. Schneiberg).
- 2022 **(06)** “Sparkassen revisited. The resiliency of German savings banks between globalization and crises”, in: Institute for Banking and Financial History (IBF), “Banking on the State”, *IBF Paper Series, Conference Papers 01-22*, 150-164 (with M. Cassell).
- 2021 **(05)** “Weathering the Storm. Financialization and German Savings Banks”, *New Political Economy*, 26(3), 422-438.
- (04)** “Financialization of, not by the State. Exploring Changes in the Management of Public Debt and Assets across Europe”, *Review of International Political Economy*, 28(4), 820-842. (With C. Trampusch and F. Fastenrath)
- 2017 **(03)** “Where States and Markets Meet. The Financialisation of Sovereign Debt Management”, *New Political Economy*, 22(3), 273-293 (with F. Fastenrath and C. Trampusch).
- (02)** “Which Roads lead to Wall Street? The Financialization of Regions in the European Union”, *Comparative European Politics*, 15(4), 661-683.
- 2014 **(01)** “Staatskapitalismus in NRW und Bayern. Der Aufstieg und Fall von WestLB und BayernLB“ [State capitalism in North Rhine-Westfalia and Bavaria. The rise and fall of WestLB and BayernLB], *Zeitschrift für Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft*, 8(2), 129-54 (with C. Trampusch and B. Linden).

Manuscripts

- 2025 (01) “Pushing for profits. New ownership and the corporate governance of non-financial firms in Europe.” *Draft available.*
- (02) “Taking care of business? The politics of the Paycheck Protection Program” (with M. Cassell and M. Schneiberg). *Revision under review*
- (03) “Politics, Policy, Ecologies: Race and Possibilities for Inclusivity within American Banking” (with M. Cassell and M. Schneiberg). *Revise and resubmit*
- (04) “How Industry 4.0 Inc. shakes the supremacy of top dogs: The digital transformation of German industry and new corporate networks” (with J. Horn and C. Trampusch). *Revise and resubmit*

Policy Papers

- 2025 (05) “I don’t want your money’. The delayed and incomplete implementation of the German Recovery and Resilience Plan (DARP).” Brussels, Transform! Europe.
- 2023 (04) “Außenhandel. Brüchige Kontinuität von Krisen und Abhängigkeiten“, *Bilanz 2022 – Ausblick 2023. Fakten & Argumente zur wirtschaftlichen Situation in der Krise*, Munich, Institut für sozial-ökologische Wirtschaftsforschung (isw).
- 2022 (03) “Stronger than ever? The EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility and the German economy”, *The EU Recovery and Resilience Programmes after Covid-19. Delivering the reconstruction, the EU needs?* Brussels, Transform! European Network for Alternative Thinking and Political Dialogue, 60-65.
- 2021 (02) “Money as a Substitute for a Plan. The fragile Recovery of the German Economy: short-term Projects, long-term Challenges”, *Economic Anti-Crisis Measures of EU Member States after the Outbreak of Covid-19 in 2020*, Brussels, Transform! Europe, 109-121.
- (01) “Ein stabiles Fundament? Machen ungleich verteilte Einkommen und Vermögen das Finanzsystem instabil und krisenanfällig?”, Study commissioned by the parliamentary group DIE LINKE in the German Bundestag, Berlin.

Current projects

- a) Bank ownership and regional political economy’s response to crises.
(with Prof. Mark Cassell, Kent State University and Prof. Marc Schneiberg, Reed College)
- b) Shareholder composition, nonfinancial firms and the rise of asset managers.
- c) Digitalization, M&A and the reconfiguration of corporate networks in German industry
(with Prof. Christine Trampusch and Jonas Horn, University of Cologne)
- d) Business interests in the emerging European hydrogen infrastructure politics.
(with Michael Kemmerling, University of Cologne)

Invited Talks

2024 Hertie School of Governance, Berlin
John-F.-Kennedy Institute, Free University Berlin

Conferences

2024 *-no conference participations: parental leave-*

2023 American Political Science Association (APSA), Los Angeles, USA
European Group for Organizational Studies (EGOS), Cagliari, Italy
German Political Science Association (DVPW), Witten, Germany

2022 Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, virtual
Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE), Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Council for European Studies (CES), Lisbon, Portugal
German Political Science Association (DVPW), Berlin, Germany
German Political Science Association (DVPW), Burghausen, Germany

2021 Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE), virtual
Leibniz Institute for Financial Research (SAFE), virtual

2020 *-no conference participations: Covid-19 pandemic-*

2019 Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies (MPIfG), Cologne, Germany
DFG Network „The Politics of Money”, Cologne, Germany
Cologne Center for Comparative Politics (CCCP), Cologne, Germany
Council for European Studies (CES), Madrid, Spain
European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), Mons, Belgium
Swiss Political Science Association (SVPW), Zurich, Switzerland

2018 Cologne Center for Comparative Politics (CCCP), Cologne, Germany
Global Network on Financial Geography (FINGEO), Brussels, Belgium

2016 Council for European Studies (CES), Philadelphia, USA

2015 German Political Science Association (DVPW), Duisburg, Germany
Council for European Studies (CES), Paris, France

2014 German Political Science Association (DVPW), Dusseldorf, Germany

Teaching

- PhD Comparative Political Economy, Seminar
ISM International School of Management, Summer 2022
- MA Comparative Political Economy, Lecture
University of Cologne, Summer 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
Inequality: Politics and Economics (Policy Seminar)
University of Groningen, Spring 2025
International Political Economy, Seminar
Jacobs University and University of Bremen, Bremen, Summer 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
International Banking and Finance, Lecture and Tutorials
University of Groningen, Fall 2024
Models of Capitalism, Seminar
University of Cologne, Winter 2018-2019
States, Markets and Power, Seminar
University of Groningen, Spring 2024, Fall 2024
The Political Economy of the USA, Seminar
University of Cologne, Summer 2018
- BA International Business Thesis Seminar
University of Groningen, Spring 2025
Introduction to Comparative Political Economy, Seminar
Cologne School of Journalism, Summer 2017
The Political Economy of Germany, Seminar
University of Cologne, Winter 2019-20, Summer 2018, 2021, 2022, 2023
The Rise of Finance, Seminar
University of Cologne, Summer 2016
- Supervision of several dozen of Bachelor and Master theses since 2018
(Economics; International Business; International Relations; Political Science;
Philosophy, Politics and Economics; Social Sciences)

Reviewer

Antipode; Cambridge Journal of Economics; Cogent Economics and Finance; Competition & Change;
Dutch Research Council (NWO); German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD); German Politics; Inter-
national Studies Review; Max Planck Discussion Paper Series (MPIfG); New Political Economy; Review
for International Political Economy; Socio-Economic Review; Springer Economics; Swiss National Sci-
ence Foundation (SNF); Volkswagen Foundation

Grants and Awards

2022	American Council on Germany (ACG) Research Fellowship (~€10,000) German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Conference travel grant, Council for European Studies, Lisbon (~€1,100)
2021	American-German Institute (AGI) Research fellowship (~€7,000) ECONtribute DFG Cluster of Excellence, Bonn and Cologne Research grant for data acquisition (~€12,000) ECONtribute DFG Cluster of Excellence, Bonn and Cologne Selten Seeding Grant for early career researchers (€5,000)
2019	University of Cologne, Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences Young scholars teaching award (€2,000)
2014 – 2018	University of Cologne, Cologne Graduate School (CGS) Full graduate scholarship (PhD) (€46,000)
2017	University of Cologne IpaK mobility grant, Boston University (~€2,900) German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Mobility grant, Boston University (declined)
2016	Council for European Studies EIGPE young scholars best paper award 2016 German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Conference travel grant, Council for European Studies, Philadelphia (~€1,000)
2009 – 2014	Federal Ministry of Education and Research Scholarship of excellence for BA and MA students (€54,000)

Services to the profession (select)

2025 –	University of Groningen, Faculty of Philosophy Program Director, M.Sc. Philosophy, Politics and Economics
2024 –	University of Groningen, Faculty of Philosophy Member of the Board, Center for Philosophy, Politics and Economics
2019 – 2023	University of Cologne, Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences Member of different selection committees for professorships
2019 – 2023	University of Cologne, Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences Member of the Faculty Council (Engere Fakultät)
2016 – 2017	University of Cologne, Albertus Magnus Graduate Center PhD representative of the Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences

Research interests

Models of capitalism/Growth Models; financialization; corporate governance; digitalization in finance and manufacturing; spatial inequalities; regional economic governance; alternative banking; country and regional expertise: Germany, USA, (Italy and the EU).

Academic interests

Policy areas: economic policy, fiscal policy, industrial policy, monetary policy; Theory: democracy, elite theory, hegemony, state theory; Institutional change: business and labor power; Political Systems: EU, Germany, Italy, United States; Economy and finance: financial systems, imbalances, income and wealth distribution, regional integration, urban and rural development.

Voluntary work, community outreach (select)

Nearly twenty years of experience in curating, organizing and teaching events, panels, workshops, lecture series and film screenings on urban and youth culture (dance, music, film and history). Successful grant applications and collaborations on the local and state level with e.g. KFZ Marburg, OT Werkstattstraße Köln-Nippes, LAG Tanz NRW, RheinEnergie Stiftung, SK Stiftung Kultur, Skulptur.Projekte Münster, Deutsche Sporthochschule Köln (German Sports University), Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln (HfMT) (Cologne University of Music and Dance), Filmclub 813, (...)

Skills

Software: Audacity, Gimp, Inkscape, MS Office, R
Languages: German (native), English (C2), Italian (B2)

Referees

Prof. Mark K. Cassell

-Professor of Political Science-
Director, Washington Program in National Issues (WPNI)
Kent State University
mcassell@kent.edu

Prof. Dr. Martin Höpner

-Research Group Leader of the Research Group on the
Political Economy of European Integration-
Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies
martin.hoepner@mpifg.de

Prof. Dr. Andreas Nölke

-Professor of Political Science with focus on International Relations
and International Political Economy-
Goethe University Frankfurt
a.noelke@soz.uni-frankfurt.de

Prof. Dr. Waltraud Schelkle

- Joint Chair for European Public Policy-
European University Institute (EUI)
Department of Political and Social Sciences &
Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies
waltraud.schelkle@eui.eu

Prof. Dr. Christine Trampusch

-Professor of International Comparative Political Economy and Economic Sociology-
University of Cologne
Cologne Center for Comparative Politics
christine.trampusch@uni-koeln.de