

Dr. Michael Schwan

Assistant Professor (UD1)
Macro-finance and Sustainability

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Employment

2024 –	University of Groningen Assistant Professor (UD1) (tenured), 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

2025 –	Sparkasse KölnBonn Member of the Supervisory Board
2023 – 2025	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-Universität 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

- 2026 (10) “The Economy and the 2025 Federal Election”, in R Campbell & L.K. Davidson-Schmich (eds.), *The 2025 German Federal Election. A Polity Under Stress*. Palgrave Macmillan, 163-184. (with M. Cassell)
- (09) “Industry 4.0 Inc. – Mergers and acquisitions and the digital transformation of German industry”, *Competition & Change*, online first. (with C. Trampusch and J.L. Horn)
- 2025 (08) “Business as Usual? Conventional Politics, Critical Junctures and Policy Feedback in the Paycheck Protection Program”, *Perspectives on Politics*, online first. (with M. Cassell and M. Schneiberg)
- 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

- 2026 (01) “Pushing for profits. New ownership and the corporate governance of non-financial firms in Europe.” Available at SSRN: <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.5397280>.
- (02) “Mobilizing Organizational Heterogeneity: Prospects and Mechanisms for Meaningful Financial Inclusion” (with M. Cassell and M. Schneiberg). *Resubmitted after revision*.
- (03) “Manufacturing the Paradox’. The reconfiguration of Post-Sectoral Business Alliances and Geo-economic Competition in the new European Transnational Hydrogen Infrastructure” (with M. Kemmerling). *Draft available*.

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. Bruchige 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) Business interests in the emerging European hydrogen infrastructure politics.
(with Michael Kemmerling, University of Cologne)

Invited Talks

- 2026 Università degli Studi della Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli”, Caserta
2024 Hertie School of Governance, Berlin
 John-F.-Kennedy Institute, Free University Berlin

Conferences

- 2025 German Political Science Association (DVPW), Mainz, Germany
 Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE), Montreal, Canada
2024 Wharton-Groningen PPE Workshop, Groningen, the Netherlands
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 <i>ISM International School of Management</i> , Summer 2022
MA	Comparative Political Economy, Lecture <i>University of Cologne</i> , Summer 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 Inequality: Politics and Economics (Policy Seminar) <i>University of Groningen</i> , Spring 2025 International Political Economy, Seminar <i>Jacobs University and University of Bremen, Bremen</i> , Summer 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 International Banking and Finance, Lecture and Tutorials <i>University of Groningen</i> , Fall 2024, 2025, 2026 International Economics and Sustainable Development (Thesis Seminar) <i>University of Groningen</i> , Spring 2026 Models of Capitalism, Seminar <i>University of Cologne</i> , Winter 2018-2019 States, Markets and Power, Seminar <i>University of Groningen</i> , Spring 2024, Fall 2024, 2025, 2026 The Political Economy of the USA, Seminar <i>University of Cologne</i> , Summer 2018
BA	International Business (Thesis Seminar) <i>University of Groningen</i> , Spring 2025 Introduction to Comparative Political Economy, Seminar <i>Cologne School of Journalism</i> , Summer 2017 Global Political Economy, Lecture and Tutorials <i>University of Groningen</i> , Spring 2026 The Political Economy of Germany, Seminar <i>University of Cologne</i> , Winter 2019-20, Summer 2018, 2021, 2022, 2023 The Rise of Finance, Seminar <i>University of Cologne</i> , Summer 2016
	Supervision of several dozens of Bachelor and Master theses since 2018 (Economics; International Business; International Relations; Political Science; Philosophy, Politics and Economics; Social Sciences).

Reviewer

Antipode; Bloomsbury; Cambridge Journal of Economics; Cogent Economics and Finance; Competition & Change; Dutch Research Council (NWO); German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD); German Politics; International Studies Review; Max Planck Discussion Paper Series (MPIfG); New Political Economy; Perspectives on Politics; Review for International Political Economy; Socio-Economic Review; Springer Economics; Swiss National Science 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)

2026 –	University of Groningen, Faculty of Economics and Business Member of Program Committee, B.Sc. International Business
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)