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Research Interests

Fields: Industrial Organization, Applied Econometrics, Technology and Internet Markets.
 Topics: Networks, Online Markets, Pricing Strategies and Consumer Behavior.

Current Position

2014–present: Postdoctoral Researcher at the Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW), Department for the Economics of ICT, Mannheim, Germany (Contract since 2009)

Education

2009–2014: University of Mannheim

Ph.D. in Economics – Thesis Title: *ICT, Search Behavior and Market Outcomes.*

2006–2007: M.Sc. in Economics: Toulouse School of Economics, “Économie mathématique et économétrie.”

2000–2005: Magister (M.A. equivalent) in Economics: University of Vienna.

2000–2008: Magister (M.A. equivalent) in Spanish and English Studies: University of Vienna.

Thesis Advisors and Referees

Prof. Martin Peitz (Advisor)

Dept. of Economics, U. Mannheim.

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Prof. Philipp Schmidt-Dengler (Advisor)

Dept. of Economics, U. Vienna.

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Prof. Irene Bertschek

Dept. of Economics of ICT, ZEW, Mannheim

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Prof. Avi Goldfarb

Rotman School of Management, U. Toronto

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Job Market Paper (abstract cf. p.3):

“Spillovers in Networks of User Generated Content - Pseudo-Experimental Evidence on Wikipedia”

Refereed Journal Publications

Hackl, Franz, Michael E. Kummer, Rudolf Winter-Ebmer and Christine Zulehner (2014), Market Structure and Market Performance in E-Commerce, *European Economic Review* 68, 199-218.

Hackl, Franz, Michael E. Kummer and Rudolf Winter-Ebmer (2014), 99 Cent: Price Points in E-Commerce, *Information Economics and Policy* 26, 12-27.

Ongoing Research:

“Money for Privacy - Android Market Evidence”, with Patrick Schulte (ZEW), 2014 (abstract cf. below)

“Centrality and Content Creation in Networks - The Case of German Wikipedia”, with Marianne Saam, George Giorgidze and Iassen Halatchliyski, ZEW Disc. Paper 12-053., 2014

“Side Effects of the Crisis - Public Goods Provision and Economic Downturn” with Olga Slivko (ZEW) and Michael X. Zhang (HKUST), 2014

“Geographical Price Discrimination Online. Evidence from Russia (with O. Slivko and I Yamtchikov)”, 2014

“Market Entry in E-Commerce” NET Inst. Working Paper No. 08-23, with Maximilian Kasy (U. Harvard), 2008

Teaching Experience

Markets and Strategies: M.A. course at U. Mannheim (Prof. M. Peitz), T. A.
Spring 2011, Spring 2012, Spring 2013, Spring 2014

Applied Econometrics: Magister course at U. Vienna (Prof. C. Zulehner, Prof. J. Crespo-Cuaresma), T.A.
Fall 2004, Spring 2005

Research Experience

2009–2014 Predoctoral Researcher at ZEW (Dept. of Economics of ICT); Mannheim, Germany

2007–2009 Researcher at Johannes Kepler University (Dept. of Economics); Linz, Austria

Research Grants

“Side Effects of Economic Crises in Europe and the Provision of Online Public Goods”;
Grant by Strengthening Efficiency and Competitiveness in the European Knowledge Economies (SEEK) program.
Partners: M. Hinnsaar (Col. Carlo Alberto), T. Hinnsaar (Col. Carlo Alberto), O. Slivko (ZEW), M. X. Zhang (HKUST), P. Gloor (MIT) – awarded in 2014, EUR 199,000.

“Firm Behavior over the Product Life Cycle. Entry, Exit and Pricing Strategies on Online Price-Comparison Sites”; Grant by SEEK program. Partners: F. Hackl (U. Linz), R. Winter-Ebmer (U. Linz & IHS, Vienna) and C. Zulehner (U. Vienna). – awarded in 2010, EUR 92,000.

Fellowships and Awards

2013: “Best PhD Paper Award” at the IIIrd ICT Conference in Munich - Runner Up.

2008: NET Institute, Summer Research Grant.

2006: Postgraduate Grant of the Austrian Ministry of Science and Research.

Invited Talks and Seminars

2014: MIT-Media Center (Boston), Northeastern U (Boston),

2013: WU Wien, U Kaiserslautern, U Linz

International Conferences and Workshops (Selected)

Refereed Conference Publication: Giorgidze, George , Torsten Grust, Iassen Halatchliyski and Michael Kummer (2013), Analysing the entire Wikipedia history with Database Supported Haskell, in: Kostis Sagonas, Practical Aspects of Declarative Languages, 15th International Symposium, PADL 2013, Rome, Italy, January 21-22, 2013, Proceedings Series: Lecture Notes in Computer Science Bd. Vol. 7752, Rome, Italy

2014: WISE, Auckland (sched.); 37th NBER Summer Inst., Boston (Digitization, Poster); EEA-ESEM, Toulouse; 5th Conf. on Internet Search and Innovation, SEARLE, Chicago; IIOC, Chicago; 7th ICT ParisTech

2013: IIIrd Conference on ICT, Munich; 11th Workshop on Media Economics, Tel Aviv; IIOC, Boston - Rising Star Sessions; 11th ZEW Conf. on Econ. of ICT, Mannheim; EARIE, Évora, MaCCI IO Day (Mannheim)

2009–2012: EARIE (2010, 2011, 2012), EEA (2010), German Econ. Assoc. (2010); ICT ParisTech, 2009

Refereeing and Other Service

Refereeing for Management Science, International Journal of Industrial Organization, Informations Systems Research, Information Economics and Policy

Organized Workshop (SEEK): “Entry, Pricing, and Consumer Search in Online Markets” at ZEW. Keynote Speakers: Sarah Fisher-Ellison (MIT) and Gautam Gowrisankaran (U. Arizona), Oct., 2011

Army Replacement Service: Ambulance Man, 40h/week, Red Cross; Vienna, Austria. (9/1999 – 8/2000)

Citizenship, Language and Software Skills

Citizenship: Austria

Languages: German (native), English (fluent), Spanish (fluent), French (fluent), Portuguese (Beginner)

Computer Skills: STATA, Python, SQL, GAUSS, Matlab, E-Views, L^AT_EX

ABSTRACTS

Job Market Paper

“Spillovers in Networks of User Generated Content - Pseudo-Experimental Evidence on Wikipedia”

Quantifying spillovers and peer effects in networks is challenging, because networks often form endogenously. I circumvent this problem by exploiting exogenous variation in the article network of German Wikipedia. Wikipedia prominently advertises one featured article on its main site every day, which exogenously increases viewership of the advertised article. Shifts in the viewership of adjacent articles are due to their link from the treated article. Through this approach I isolate how the link network causally influences users' search and contribution behavior. I use a difference-in-differences analysis to estimate how attention spills to neighbors through the transient shock of advertisement. I further develop an extended peer effects model which relaxes the requirement of an exogenously given network. This model enables the estimation of the underlying spillover. Advertisements affect neighboring articles substantially: Their viewership increases by almost 70 percent. This, in turn, translates to increased editing activity. Attention is the driving mechanism behind views and small edits. This is documented by the fact that both outcomes are related to the order of links, while more substantial edits are not.

An earlier version was circulated as “Spillovers in Networks of User Generated Content - Evidence from 23 Natural Experiments on Wikipedia” and is available as ZEW Disc. Paper 13-098.

Research Paper

“Money for Privacy - Android Market Evidence”, with Patrick Schulte (ZEW), 2014

We study the role of privacy in the market for mobile applications. Such programs for smartphones and tablet PCs have become a very important market. Yet, neither the role of privacy on that market is well understood, nor do we have empirical evidence concerning the role of privacy in the usage of mobile devices. We exploit data on 300,000 mobile applications and almost 1,000 “applications-pairs” to analyze both sides of this market: First we analyze the price that application suppliers offer for more privacy. Second we study how users' installations are related to the “personal data greediness” of a mobile application.

Recently Published Paper

“Market structure and market performance in E-commerce”, *European Economic Review* (2014), with Franz Hackl (U. Linz), Rudolf Winter-Ebmer (U. Linz) and Christine Zulehner (U. Frankfurt)

We analyze the interaction between market structure and market performance and how it varies over the product cycle. To account for the potential endogeneity in this relation, we use an instrumental variable approach. We combine data from the largest Austrian online market for price comparisons with retail data on wholesale prices provided by a major hardware producer for consumer electronics. Our results show that instrumenting is important for estimating the empirical effect of competition on the markup of the price leader. One more firm in the market is associated with a reduction of the price leader's markup which is equivalent to competition between existing firms for an additional 3 weeks in the product life cycle. Our results support search theoretic models and contradict models of monopolistic competition. Moreover our results support the existence of price dynamics over the product cycle. They also highlight the substitutability between newly innovated and old expiring technologies and how it varies with respect to competitors' and own brand innovations.