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🌐 <https://carlo-birkholz.github.io/>






Personal profile

I am Assistant Professor (Akademischer Rat a. Z.) at the Chair of Development Economics at the University of Göttingen, Germany. I am externally affiliated with the Norwegian Centre for Taxation. I have obtained my PhD from the University of Mannheim in February, 2025.





In my research I combine large-scale, novel data sources, such as granular electricity consumption from smart meters, software development activities from GitHub or night time light intensity from satellite imagery, with machine learning techniques like random forests and large language models. With these approaches, I revisit core economic concepts, such as the effects of regional distributive politics, incentives for and occurrence of tax evasion, the global distribution of human capital, or the formation of beliefs about inflation.

In my policy work, which has been cited by German and international media, I focus on the effects and interactions of fiscal and monetary policy within the European Union.

Employment history

- from 04/2025  **Akademischer Rat** (similar to Assistant Professor) at the Chair of Development Economics at the University of Göttingen.
- 12/2019 – 03/2025  **Researcher** at the Corporate Taxation and Public Finance Department of the ZEW Mannheim - Leibniz Centre for European Economic Research.
- 01/2019 – 03/2019  **Lecturer** in Econometrics at Yangon School of Political Science, Yangon Myanmar.
- 04/2017 – 03/2018  **Student assistant** for the Department of International Economic Policy at the University of Freiburg.
- 10/2011 – 09/2014  **Employee** at IBM Germany as part of the integrated studies programme.

Education




- 09/2020 – 02/2025  **Doctor of Business and Economics** (Dr. rer. pol.) at the University of Mannheim. Dissertation: 'Digital Threads and Regional Ties: The Study of Global Services Trade and Regional Favoritism', *summa cum laude*.
- 04/2016 – 07/2019  **MSc Economics** at the University of Freiburg.
- 10/2011 – 09/2014  **BSc Business Informatics** at the Berlin School for Economics and Law.
- 2011  **A-levels** at the Evangelisches Gymnasium zum Grauen Kloster in Berlin.

Publications

Peer-reviewed articles

- 1 Z. Asatryan, T. Baskaran, **C. Birkholz**, and P. Hufschmidt, "The regional economics of mineral resource wealth in africa," *Economica*, vol. 91, no. 364, pp. 1424–1453, 2024.
- 2 Z. Asatryan, **C. Birkholz**, and F. Heinemann, "Evidence-based policy or beauty contest? an llm-based meta-analysis of eu cohesion policy evaluations," *International Tax and Public Finance*, pp. 1–31, 2024.
- 3 **C. Birkholz** and D. Gomtsyan, "Immigrant religious practices and criminality: The case of Ramadan," *Journal of Comparative Economics*, vol. 51, no. 1, pp. 90–104, 2023.








Working papers

- 1 **C. Birkholz** and D. Gomtsyan, *The global software production network*, 2024, under review at Journal of Development Economics.  URL: https://carlo-birkholz.github.io/assets/WPs/The_global_software_production_network.pdf.
- 2 Z. Asatryan, T. Baskaran, **C. Birkholz**, and P. Hufschmidt, *Favoritism by the governing elite*, 2023.  URL: <https://doi.org/10.4419/96973198>.
- 3 Z. Asatryan, T. Baskaran, **C. Birkholz**, and D. Gomtsyan, *Favoritism and firms: Micro evidence and macro implications*, 2022.  URL: <https://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4137954>.

Work in progress

- 1 *Beyond additionality: The impact of EU Cohesion Policy on investments by the Member States* **with Zareh Asatryan**.
- 2 *ChatGPTing about inflation - do news about inflation drive heterogeneous inflation expectations?* **with Rüdiger Bachmann**.
- 3 *Do they actually move? Tracing tax induced migration with electricity consumption data* **with Maximilian Todtenhaupt and Johannes Voget**.

Policy work

- 1 Z. Asatryan, **C. Birkholz**, and F. Heinemann, *How to make evaluations of EU Cohesion Policy more credible*, 2024.  URL: <https://ftp.zew.de/pub/zew-docs/policybrief/en/pb08-24.pdf>.
- 2 Z. Asatryan, **C. Birkholz**, and F. Heinemann, *Rethinking EU Cohesion Policy*, 2024.  URL: <https://ftp.zew.de/pub/zew-docs/policybrief/en/pb10-24.pdf>.
- 3 F. Heinemann, Z. Asatryan, J. Bachtrögl-Unger, **C. Birkholz**, F. Corti, M. v. Ehrlich, U. Fratesi, C. Fuest, V. Lang, and M. Weber, *Enhancing objectivity and decision relevance: A better framework for evaluating cohesion policies*, 2024.  URL: <https://ftp.zew.de/pub/zew-docs/dp/dp24034.pdf>.
- 4 **C. Birkholz** and F. Heinemann, *Magnitudes and capital key divergence of the Eurosystem's PSPP/PEPP purchases, update April 2023*, 2023.  URL: https://ftp.zew.de/pub/zew-docs/ZEWKurzexpertisen/EN/ZEW_Shortreport2302.pdf.
- 5 **C. Birkholz** and F. Heinemann, *Allocation is key? Analysis of ECB public sector bond purchases' divergence from the capital key*, 2022.  URL: https://www.suerf.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/f_c61f3e16ddd926f2b6b7ef4ee06b0367_51277_suerf.pdf.
- 6 **C. Birkholz** and F. Heinemann, *Magnitudes and capital key divergence of the Eurosystem's PSPP/PEPP purchases-update December 2021*, 2021.  URL: https://ftp.zew.de/pub/zew-docs/ZEWKurzexpertisen/EN/ZEW_Shortreport2113.pdf.
- 7 K. Wohlrabe, A.-C. Rathje, S. Rumscheidt, D. Boumans, U. Hannich, F. Heinemann, **C. Birkholz**, and J. Nover, *Die Widerstandsfähigkeit der deutschen Wirtschaft in der Corona-Pandemie: Jahresmonitor der Stiftung Familienunternehmen*, 2020.  URL: <https://www.econstor.eu/bitstream/10419/250011/1/174913814X.pdf>.

Grants & funding

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|------|---|
| 2023 | 7,000 € travel grant from the MannheimTaxation Science Campus. |
| 2022 | 74,000 € research grant from the MannheimTaxation Science Campus. |
| 2019 | 2,100 \$ scholarship from the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. |

Affiliation

since 2023 **Contributing member** of the Political Leaders' Affiliation Database ([PLAD](#)).

since 2022 **Affiliated researcher** with the Norwegian Centre for Taxation at the Norwegian School of Economics.

Conferences & workshops

Presented at

- 2025 Cohesion Talks @ European Court of Auditors
- 2024 European Economic Association Congress, Annual Congress of the IIPF, Meeting of the Armenian Economic Association, Notre Dame Graduate Student Seminar, Notre Dame Graduate Macro Workshop, German Federal Ministry of Finance Project Workshop
- 2023 Göttingen Chair Research Seminar (October), Career Panel Gottingen Development Economics Homecoming, Annual Congress of the IIPF, Göttingen Chair Research Seminar (June), 1st ZEW-ifo Young Scholar Political Economy Workshop, German Development Economics Conference, Cross-departmental ZEW research workshop
- 2022 Annual Meeting of the Verein für Socialpolitik, Brown Bag Seminar at Norwegian School of Economics
- 2021 European Economic Association Congress, Annual Congress of the IIPF, 3rd International Conference on Globalization and Development, Research Seminar in Public Economics at University of Mannheim, German Development Economics Conference

Organized

- 2023 **Workshop** on taxation and mobility, 22. - 23. June.
Keynote: Camille Landais (London School of Economics)
Conference on public finances with a focus on fiscal policy-making in times of crises, 4.-5. May.
Keynotes: Rüdiger Bachmann (University of Notre Dame), Sarah Zubairy (Texas A&M University)
- 2022 **Conference** on public finances with a focus on government and innovation, 5.-6. May.
Keynotes: John Van Reenen (MIT), Danielle Li (MIT)

Research stays, visits abroad and engagement

Research stays

- 01/2024 – 05/2024 **Research visit** at the University of Notre Dame invited by Rüdiger Bachmann.
- 11/2022 **Research visit** at Norwegian School of Economics invited by Maximilian Todtenhaupt.


Refereeing

- 2024 The B.E. Journal of Macroeconomics (3)
- 2022 Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance, Panoeconomicus, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization

Engagement

- 6/2023 **Teaching** an online course in Political Economy at the Yangon School of Political Science.
- since 2019 **Sponsoring Member** of the society Initiative Austausch e.V. which supports political education projects in Myanmar.
- since 2022 **Voluntary Instructor** at the Institute for Sports in Mannheim, Germany.

Skills

Languages  German (native), English (C2), Latinum, Graecum, Hebraicum.

Coding  Stata, Python, R, \LaTeX

References

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