Dear reader,

This report aims to provide insights into the research at the School of Business, Economics and Information Systems of the University of Passau, which is strongly aligned with innovation, change and societal relevance.

Our faculty members are engaged in a continuous exchange of knowledge with their peers and organize or participate in research seminars and conferences to maintain the excellent standing and impact of their academic work; other activities include brown-bag seminars, seminars with renowned visiting scholars as well as workshops for early career researchers. Moreover, by serving in the University Research Ethics Committee they facilitate the compliance to high ethical research standards. These activities complement our extensive graduate program. The Bavarian Graduate Program in Economics gives our PhD students additional access to excellent courses and a powerful academic network, making the School of Business, Economics and Information Systems a fruitful environment for early career researchers.

The members of our faculty work at the frontiers of knowledge and allow managers to solve relevant managerial problems and make well-informed business decisions. They regularly publish their research findings in prestigious journals and are awarded by relevant international academic associations.

All faculty members are active participants in leading academic networks both in Germany and abroad. Many of our faculty members sit on leading editorial boards and chair academic committees of various types. In addition, by participating in commissions of experts and think tanks both on the national and European level, they contribute to evidence-based policymaking.

Our faculty members have also successfully applied for competitive external funds from various institutions, including the German Research Foundation (DFG), the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the European Commission as well as the World Bank.

These research activities allow the School of Business, Economics and Information Systems to achieve excellent results in global rankings. The recent THE Subject ranking for Business and Economics lists us among the 251-300 best Schools in the world and number 10 in Germany.

Moreover, these efforts also ensure that our students – the future generation of academics – receive the best education possible by providing sustainable research-led teaching in an environment of academic freedom. They also allow us to forge ahead and contribute to shaping the development path of business and society.

Professor Jan H. Schumann
Dean of the School of Business, Economics and Information Systems
The School at a Glance

A young, innovative and dynamic faculty

- 21 full professors, 1 junior professor and 2 honorary professors
- More than 100 assistant professors, senior lecturers, postdoctoral researchers, and doctoral students
- An excellent research environment and publications in leading international research journals
- Among the 251-300 best Schools in the world and number 10 in Germany according to the recent THE Subject ranking*

Research and teaching in an international environment

- International Centre for Economics and Business Studies (ICEBS) and a global network of international research partners
- About 60 exchange programmes with partner universities throughout the world
- Double degree programmes at the master’s level with Corvinus University Budapest (Hungary), the University of Turku (Finland), the New Jersey Institute of Technology (USA) and the Université de Lorraine, IAE Metz School of Management (France); joint doctoral programme with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, Chennai (India)
- International guest speakers are a fixture in our doctoral programmes
- International lectures and seminars in co-operation with universities worldwide

* Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2021. Subject: Business and Economics

The School at a Glance

Highly committed lecturers and innovative teaching methods

- Degree programmes and current enrolment figures*:
  - B.Sc. Business Administration and Economics: 1025
  - B.Sc. Information Systems: 262
  - B.Sc. Digital Transformation in Business and Society: 45
  - M.Sc. Business Administration: 323
  - M.Sc. Information Systems: 69
  - M.A. International Economics and Business: 73

- Excellent scores for student satisfaction and success rates:
  - Top ranking positions in terms of graduation in appropriate time and support in studies abroad in the latest CHE ranking**
  - 75% of our students stated that they enjoy studying at the University of Passau*** (German average for Business Administration and Economics: 73%)
  - 79% of our graduates would recommend their studies at the University of Passau****

Corporate relations and entrepreneurial spirit

- Excellent reputation among human resources managers
- Strong practical orientation and many corporate partners
- Research projects with corporate partners (e.g. Center for Digital Business Transformation)
- Specialized Pathfinder programme and Honours Degree programme in Digital Technology and Entrepreneurship
- Start-up support for entrepreneurial students (e.g. INN.KUBATOR Passau and Start-up advice)

* as of the 26th of October 2020
** Source: CHE ranking 2020
*** Source: Study Quality Monitor 2018
**** Source: Graduate Survey 2014/2019

* Student Quality Monitor 2013, ** Graduate Survey 2013, *** Winter semester 2015/2016

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Mission Statement

We are a young, particularly innovative and dynamic business and economics school that enjoys an excellent reputation in the German-speaking world as well as on an international level. We put significant effort into raising our visibility in Europe and abroad as a school dedicated to excellence in both teaching and research, as well as to further strengthen our renown. Economic and societal relevance, a focus on innovation and an interdisciplinary approach are the cornerstones of our research activities, which comprise basic and applied research and knowledge transfer.

An optimal environment for research

We pool our resources in the focus areas Accounting, Finance and Taxation (AFT), Economics (ECON), Management, Innovation, Marketing (MIM), Information Systems (WINF) and Quantitative Methods (QM) to create an optimal research environment. We have outstanding competences in these areas and cooperate with renowned national and international research partners. We initiate and actively participate in interdisciplinary and faculty spanning projects at the University of Passau. Our school is open to interested and motivated researchers from all over the world. Our research output is primarily documented by publications in leading peer-reviewed journals as well as talks at prestigious conferences. High-calibre appointments are an important instrument with which we ensure the constant excellence of research carried out within the school. In all this, we are fully committed to diversity and gender equality.

Imparting competences

We impart our students the competences that allow them to act proactively and responsibly in a complex and competitive environment. Based on a solid theoretical foundation, our students learn how to actively shape the digital transformation. We support our students in developing analytical and creative skills and encourage them in business creation initiatives or their start in a management career in business and society. Apart from an economically oriented attitude, we promote students’ international orientation and impart intercultural understanding and the importance of fair play and reciprocity. This goes along with raising awareness for sustainability and the long-term economic, social and ecological impacts of their actions. The culture of the school is characterized by respect, appreciation and mutual support. The school supports the overarching objectives of the University of Passau, with the networked society and digitalization being the leading themes. Our students have strong analytical and creative skills and put their best effort into their studies.

Research Faculty

Accounting, Finance and Taxation (AFT) area

Professor Markus Diller
Chair of Tax Management

The chair focuses on game theoretic research projects in the field of tax aggressiveness and transfer pricing using analytical and agent-based modelling. Further, we explore machine learning methods in the field of natural (tax) language processing and investment theoretic effects of real estate taxation.

Highlights of the recent academic year:

Our group finished several projects in the area of digitalization of tax consultants. Moreover, the chair generated new insights regarding behavioural aspects of tax avoidance and social influence using agent-based modelling. Finally, our group produced a considerable amount of new online teaching material.


Professor Oliver Entrop
Chair of Banking and Finance

We follow a modern quantitative research approach for analysing economically relevant research questions. We have extensive expertise in the areas of capital markets, financial innovation and financial engineering, corporate finance, and risk management, especially interest rate and foreign exchange rate risk. We conduct both model-theoretical and empirical research.

Highlights of the recent academic year:

We continued to work on research projects in the areas of financial engineering, the market microstructure of financial innovations, investors’ behaviour in early redemption rights, firms’ usage of derivatives and manager education. We also established new research projects in the context of digitalisation.

Professor Vanessa Flagmeier
Chair of Accounting

One of the core research objectives of Junior Professor Flagmeier is to contribute to the debate about corporate transparency which was spurred in recent years by firms’ accounting and tax scandals. Several of her empirical projects address this topic by examining the disclosure behaviour of firms. A second research focus is on the financial accounting of private firms which represent a very important but under-researched part of the economy.

Highlights of the recent academic year:
Junior Professor Flagmeier joined the University of Passau in September 2020. As member (now research fellow) of the DFG Collaborative Research Centre TRR 266 Accounting for Transparency, she was analysing the transparency of private firms in a team of researchers from Humboldt University of Berlin and Paderborn University.

- Flagmeier, V. (in press). The information content of deferred taxes under IFRS. European Accounting Review.
- Member (from Sept 2020 Research Fellow) of the DFG Collaborative Research Centre TRR 266 Accounting for Transparency.
- Member of the Event Team of the European Accounting Association’s Accounting Resources Centre (ARC).

Professor Robert Obermaier
Chair of Business Economics, Management Accounting and Control

Professor Obermaier’s focus is on management accounting and control, company valuation, value-based management, production control, planning and decision theory. The chair focusses its rigorous research efforts on economic problems in the fields that are of high relevance for science, practitioners as well as society. The Centre of Digital Business Transformation studies especially digital transformation strategies and investments and their effects on firm performance as its main field of research.

Highlights of the recent academic year:
During the last year, we intensively worked on questions and challenges of digital transformation of incumbent and start-up firms. Furthermore, we intensively dealt with the productivity and performance effects of investments in digital transformation projects and critical success factors. We also could acquire funding for our project on “Business models of data-driven start-ups” from the Bavarian Research Institute for Digital Transformation (bidt).

Economics (ECON) area

Professor Stefan Bauernschuster
Chair of Public Economics

Professor Bauernschuster and his team use microeconometric methods to answer policy relevant questions in the fields of labour, population, and health economics. They work with both survey and large administrative data sets from developed and developing countries. Often, their focus is on the evaluation of policies using quasi-experimental methods. The team not only contributes to the research frontier in their field but also provides sound information to policy discussions based on its research.

Highlights of the recent academic year:
In the past academic year, the team investigated the impact of a low minimum legal drinking age on drinking behaviour and health using a unique combination of Austrian administrative and survey data. In another project, the team used German administrative data to estimate the impact of massive speed limit monitoring operations on driving behaviour and car accidents. A further project identified the short- and long-run effects of unilateral divorce laws on intimate partner violence in Mexico.

• Winning Karl Paul Hensel-Prize of the year 2020 for Katrin Huber’s PhD thesis.
• Substantial coverage of the project “Speed Limit Enforcement and Road Safety” by Professor Stefan Bauernschuster and Ramona Rekers in leading German print media.

Professor Michael Grimm
Chair of Development Economics

Prof. Grimm and his chair engage in research to solve development problems in low and middle income countries. They guide the implementation of development interventions in the field and perform rigorous evaluations to monitor and assess their causal effects. Partners in the field include the World Bank, international NGOs, the German Development Cooperation and UN special agencies. The group invests also a lot in development-relevant teaching activities and networking.

Highlights of the recent academic year:
Over the past 12 months our group focused on several third-party funded projects, including the cost-effectiveness analysis of interventions to prevent and control non-communicable diseases in Southeast Asia (EU Horizon 2020), the evaluation of financial support given to small and medium sized enterprises in Burkina Faso (World Bank) and a randomized field experiment to encourage the adoption of organic farming practices in Indonesia (BMBF).

• Elected Chairman of the Research Group on Development Economics of the German Economic Association (VfS).
• Acquired funding for 10 scholarships per year for the Master Development Studies over a period of six years from the DAAD’s Helmut Schmidt Programme.
• Host of the 19th EUDN PhD Workshop on Development Economics. EUDN is the European Development Research Network.

Professor Sebastian Krautheim
Chair of International Economics

The focus of the chair’s research is on the field of international trade, broadly interpreted as the “microeconomics of globalization”. This includes determinants of international trade flows, international tax competition, determinants of foreign direct investment as well as the international organization of production when firms can produce in different regulatory environments and face the risk of consumer boycotts in response to ‘unethical’ practices along their international value chain.

Highlights of the recent academic year:
Our work was mainly characterized by topics related to the DFG-funded research project “Global Production and its Watchdogs: Firms and NGOs in the Regulatory Void”. This involved substantial progress in projects with our cooperation partners at the Paris School of Economics, the University of Mainz and the Kiel Institute for the World Economy. This recently resulted in a “revise and resubmit” of one of the papers in the worldwide leading field journal in International Economics.

• A DFG-financed research sabbatical marked the start of the DFG-funded Research Project “Global Production and its Watchdogs: Firms and NGOs in the Regulatory Void” in April 2020. This allowed to make substantial progress in this research agenda despite the Covid-19 crisis.
• Academic interaction despite Covid-19: regular participation of the members of the chair in innovative online formats like the “Open International Brownbag Seminar” organized by Professor Philip Sauré from the University of Mainz as well as several online talks and participation in online conferences by members of the chair.
• Chair of the selection committee for the area “International Economics” for the (first) annual (online) Conference of the German Economic Association (Jahrestagung des Vereins für Socialpolitik).
Management, Innovation, Marketing (MIM) area

Professor Suleika Bort
Chair of International Management and Social Entrepreneurship

Our group works at the intersection of International Management, Organization, Sustainability and Entrepreneurship. We have a strong focus on Organizational Theory and we are in particular interested, but not limited, to study the following research topics: International Cooperation and Networks, Institutions, Sustainability, Social Categorization and related social problems such as inequality, discrimination and under-representation of specific social groups in Organizations.

Highlights of the recent academic year:
We presented our research at important conferences such as the Academy of Management Virtual Meeting and we acted as convenor and hosted sub-theme 29: Innovation, Networks, Entrepreneurship, and Technology at the 36th Virtual European Group of Organization Studies (EGOS) Colloquium 2020.

• The Best Conference Award for the paper “Learning the Bias? How Successor Pre-Succession Firm Experience Affects Family Firm Performance” presented at the 17th Interdisciplinary European Conference on Entrepreneurship Research (IECER), 16–18 October 2019, Utrecht University, Netherlands.

Professor Marina Fiedler
Chair of Management, People and Information

The chair’s research focuses on the interface of three central topics of digitization: (1) the role of AI in organizations and IT platforms, (2) governance and management of sustainable behaviour, and (3) changes in designing work.

Highlights of the recent academic year:
This year the team was particularly interested in pro-environmental behaviour of employees and information systems; mindful management practices; Future of Work and digital transformation and artificial intelligence.


Professor Jörg Peters
Chair of Development Economics

My research focusses on environmental, energy and development economics. I study infrastructure and climate policy interventions, mostly in Africa, but I’m also engaged in the research transparency debate and how we generate credible evidence and responsibly derive policy recommendations.

Highlights of the recent academic year:
In the past 12 months, we continued our work on several large-scale policy randomizations in Senegal and Rwanda, covering electricity infrastructure and supply side interventions on local markets for improved cookstoves. We furthermore acquired DFID-funding to examine the resilience to COVID related lockdowns among micro-entrepreneurs in Uganda in a 12-years follow up to a randomized cash transfer program.

• Advising multilateral organizations such as the World Bank and the Green Climate Fund as well as governments in Africa, Europe and the US.
• Acquired funding from the German Ministry of Research and Education, the UK and the US government and international foundations.

Professor Johann Graf Lambsdorff
Chair of Economic Theory

The chair takes a behavioural and experimental approach to economic theory. Topics focus on the economics of corruption, institutional economics, macroeconomics and monetary economics. With classEx the chair provides a globally used service for running experiments in lectures and in the field.

Highlights of the recent academic year:

• Acquired funding from DFG „Zwischen Verantwortung und Reziprozität – Beiträge der experimentellen Korruptionsforschung“, EUR 350,000.

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Professor Carolin Häussler
Chair of Organisation, Technology Management and Entrepreneurship

Our group focuses on research into the design and evolvement of all kind of collaborative forms to leverage investments in scientific and technical innovation. The chair’s objective is to participate and contribute to the worldwide research community.

Highlights of the recent academic year:
In the past year, our chair produced impactful research insights which were published in prominent journals and disseminated to both the scholarly community and practitioners. As a member of the Commission of Experts for Research and Innovation, Prof. Häussler presented the 13th annual report to Chancellor Angela Merkel and the German federal government. In an innovative new collaborative format, Prof. Häussler published a paper on “Open Innovation in Science” together with over 40 co-authors.


Professor Carola Jungwirth
Chair of Governance

Chairholder Professor Dr Carola Jungwirth was President of the University of Passau (until 31/03/2020) and is currently HRK Vice-President for Teaching and Studies. Due to these commitments, she was not involved in any research activities last year. The chair will realign its research profile in the near future and focus on various issues of governance and management of institutions and people.

Professor Andreas König
Chair of Strategic Management, Innovation and Entrepreneurship
Vice Dean

We conduct basic research at the interface of three central topics of management research: (1) strategic leadership in the context of discontinuous technological change, particularly digital transformation; (2) the impact of top executives’ characteristics on organizational outcomes (Upper Echelons Theory); and (3) the use of strategic rhetoric, primarily by top executives, and its influence on how constituents evaluate organizations.

Highlights of the recent academic year:

• Successful first round of application for DFG research and training group Digital Platform Ecosystems (together with colleagues, especially Jan Krämer).
• Representative-at-large of the Strategic Leadership and Governance IG of the Strategic Management Society, member of Editorial Board of Academy of Management Review.
• International collaborations, e.g., J. Bubendzurich (Notre Dame), T. Cho (Seoul), V. Gilsing (VU Amsterdam), N. Hiller (Florida International), A. Kohli (Georgia Tech), M. Pfarrer (UGA), B. Yakis Douglas (King’s), R. Whittington (Oxford).
The chair is dedicated to research topics of high managerial relevance that meet the scientific requirements of international top journals. We achieve this through a profound theoretical foundation of our research work as well as through the use of sophisticated and up-to-date quantitative empirical research methods. Research at the chair focuses on the areas of Online Marketing, Technology and Innovation, Value-oriented Customer Relations Management, and Pricing of Services.

Highlights of the recent academic year:

Our group worked on diverse topics, both in B2C and B2B. In B2C we focused on consumer reactions towards IOT and mystery products. We also continued to work on online-marketing topics, such as bidding strategies in search engine marketing. In B2B, we worked on e-commerce strategies and solution-selling. Topics that we studied in both B2C and B2B were issues of data sharing and strategic decision making of data-driven start-ups as well as customer orientation.

• Winning the “2019 Best Reviewer Award from Journal of Service Research” by Professor Dr Schumann.
• Acquired funding from the German Research Foundation (DFG) for the project “Beyond the Dyad: Effects of Business Network Data Exchange on the Privacy Calculus” (together with Professor Dr Widjaja).
• Acquired funding from the Bavarian Research Institute for Digital Transformation (bidt) for the project “Data-driven business models along the Value Chain” (together with Professor Dr Obermaier).

Professor Dirk Totzek
Chair of Marketing and Services
Dean of Studies

The research activities of the chair centre around four key research areas: pricing, services, business-to-business marketing, and customer relationship management. We particularly examine problems at the intersections of these areas.

Highlights of the recent academic year:

The team of the chair particularly continued working on several research projects and publications in the area of IT-infused product-service-systems as well as in the area of dynamic pricing as an innovative pricing mechanism. Members of the team presented their research results at the 2020 AMA Winter Educators’ Conference and publications in the area of IT-infused product-service-systems as well as in the area of dynamic pricing as an innovative pricing mechanism. Research at the chair focuses on the areas of Online Marketing, Technology and Innovation, Value-oriented Customer Relations Management, and Pricing of Services.

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Professor Jan Krämer
Chair of Internet and Telecommunications Business

The chair’s research activities focus on the analysis of firms as well as the design of markets and services in the Internet and telecommunications industry. Our research addresses technical, strategic, economic as well as policy questions and employs an interdisciplinary pluralism of methods, tailored to best address the respective research question.

Highlights of the recent academic year:

In the past year, the chair engaged in numerous research activities on the regulation of Internet markets and online platforms, particularly in the context of data portability and data sharing in online platform markets. In this context, Professor Krämer was also involved in projects for the Centre for Regulation in Europe, a Brussels-based think tank, and served as a policy expert for the European Commission. Furthermore, Professor Krämer took a lead role in the application for a DFG Research Training Group on “Digital Platform Ecosystems”, which brings together nine outstanding researchers from the University of Passau.

• Positive first-round evaluation of the DFG Research Training Group on “Digital Platform Ecosystems” for which Professor Krämer is the designated speaker.
• Publication and preparation of new research on the regulation of online platform markets, particularly on data portability and data sharing.
• Schöller Fellowship Award for Dr Daniel Schnurr and doctoral thesis award for Dr Michael Wohlfarth.
Professor Franz Lehner  
Chair of Information Systems  
with a focus on Information and IT Service Management

Information Systems is seen as an interdisciplinary research discipline supporting business, public administration but also non-profit organisations in their use of IT and Information Systems (IS). The chair’s research is application-oriented and mainly based on design science principles. Due to its international orientation the chair is in contact with leading IS departments in the US, India, Finland, Hungary, and further countries. A recent initiative led to the foundation of the International Association for Knowledge Management.

Highlights of the recent academic year:
Research activities were focused on knowledge management, IT- and IT-service management (including data management and cloud computing), business process modelling and the development of mobile applications. The leading textbook on knowledge management by Professor Dr Lehner was revised and appeared in the 6th edition.


Professor Thomas Widjaja  
Chair of Business Information Systems

The chair of Business Information Systems focuses on three intertwined research areas: (1) “IT Architecture Management”, (2) “Data-based Business Models and Privacy”, and (3) “Software Industry and Digital Services”. In our research projects, we cooperate closely with colleagues from German and international universities (like University of Virginia, ESSEC Business School, University of Bern).

Highlights of the recent academic year:
During the last two semesters, our group focused on different research projects in the area of digital platforms and data-based business models. In terms of teaching, we have made extensive efforts to create a comprehensive online teaching program.

- New research project (DFG-Sachbeihilfe) “Beyond the Dyad: Effects of Business Network Data Exchange on the Privacy Calculus” together with Professor Dr Schumann.

Quantitative Methods area

Professor Harry Haupt  
PD Dr Joachim Schnurbus  
Chair of Statistics and Data Analytics and Computational Statistics and Mathematics Teaching Unit

The chair of Statistics and Data Analytics and the Computational Statistics and Mathematics teaching unit aspire to be vital contributors to the worldwide scientific community in theoretical and applied statistics. Last year, all junior and senior researchers achieved remarkable successes as contributors at refereed international conferences and journals, in their respective roles as authors, referees, and organizers. In addition, they have been able to expand their activities and been granted scientific research funds.

Highlights of the recent academic year:
The statistics group consisting of chair and teaching unit and actually four full-time PhD students and one postdoc, looks back to a very successful year, where it forged new and renewed national and international research collaborations as well as acquired research, transfer and teaching innovation funds.

- Two research papers co-authored by PhD students and postdocs published in renowned international journals, several research papers under review. Software contributed to a free statistical computing and graphics software environment.
- Acquired funding from European Union (EU) for the project DIGITOUR.
- Scientific program committee member of an international conference, invited organiser of a symposium and various sessions at international conferences.
Dr Hans Achatz, Information Systems

The teaching unit delivers courses in the area of Information Systems which are part of different degree programs of the School of Business, Economics and Information Systems. With over 30 years of service, Dr Achatz is one of the longest serving members of the school. He engages in the work of the German Operations Research Society. Dr Achatz spent several years in the university senate as a representative of the scientific staff and served as spokesman for the Convention of Research Associates.

Dr Oliver Farhauer, Economics

The focus of the teaching unit is on delivering lectures in several bachelor’s degree programmes, including B.Sc. Business Administration and Economics, B.A. Governance and Public Policy, and B.A. International Cultural and Business Studies. The teaching unit also gives lectures for master students in M.Sc. International Economics and Business, and M.Sc. Business Administration.

My research interests include Regional and Urban Economics and Labor Economics.

Gerhard Hopf, Didactics of Business and Economics

We are engaged in teacher training in the subject “Business and Economics” for three different types of secondary schools, whereby three different qualifications can be received: the First State Examination in Bavaria, the “Bachelor of Education” and the “Master of Education”. Teacher training students are given the necessary didactic competences to support others in their learning processes in business, economics and law as well as in vocational orientation.
Postdoctoral Researchers

Dr Axel Buchner
My research interests include entrepreneurial finance & private equity, derivatives & financial engineering, and asset pricing & asset allocation.


Dr Marina Dodlova
My research interests include the political economy of development, in particular, pro-poor versus political redistribution, the politics of social policy in developing countries, joint dynamics of social policy and political participation. I also explore the impact of natural disasters on economic outcomes and microenterprise and firm dynamics in developing countries.

- Acquired funding for research project “Terrorism, Radicalization and Government Policy in MENA” from the French National Research Agency (in cooperation with Aix-Marseille School of Economics, University of Göttingen, Oxford University and University of Cairo).
- Presentation at the NEUDC 2020, Northwestern University, USA.

Dr Patrick Figge
My research interests include entrepreneurship, group collaboration, and the impact of digitalization. I investigate how organizations or teams leverage individual and collective knowledge, and how technologies affect the ways in which we process information and make judgments. I study these phenomena in various sociotechnical systems including open- and user innovation “crowds”, inventor teams, platforms, and open source software communities.

- Open Science Fellowship from the Stifterverband.
- Best Reviewer Prize by the Technology and Innovation Management (TIM) Division of the Academy of Management.

Dr Markus Fritsch
Research interests: semi- and nonparametric modelling, data science and statistical learning, estimation of panel data models, applied statistics and econometrics, computational statistics.


Dr Nora Fteimi
My main research interests comprise data analytics and knowledge management-related aspects particularly with a focus on subtopics dealing with text analytics and its adoption and application in organizational contexts as well as with privacy-related issues in this context.

- Visiting scholar at Turku School of Economics (Finland) in 2019.
- Invited presentation at the pre-ICIS special issue workshop (JAIS & MISQE) on “Artificial Intelligence in Organizations”, December 2019. Munich, Germany.

Dr Aixa García-Ramos
My research interests lie in the intersection of development economics, family economics and economics of crime. I have extensive experience conducting research on intimate partner violence, as well as working with both administrative and survey data from developed and developing countries.

- Acquired funding from Overdeck Innovation Fund Princeton University, IZA/DFID G2LMILIC, UNICEF and GIZ for the project “Reducing gender-based violence at schools in Mozambique”.

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- Open Science Fellowship from the Stifterverband.
- Best Reviewer Prize by the Technology and Innovation Management (TIM) Division of the Academy of Management.
Dr Patrizia Perras

My research interests include theoretical as well as empirical research with real-world implications in the areas of financial markets, asset pricing, asset management and risk management.

- Acquired funding from the Bavarian Equality Grant (BGF).
- Bavarian Cultural Award 2020 granted by the Bavarian State Ministry of Science and Art and Bayernwerk AG for my dissertation on intertemporal asset pricing.

Dr Davide Sala

The common thread through my research interests is the behaviour of firms (or individuals) in an international setting. The focal point of my recent research efforts is on firms competing in international markets (through knowledge carriers, diversity, innovation). My other research interests include international trade and trade policy, global value chains, foreign direct investment, multinational firms, labour mobility, migration, and innovation.

- Internationally published work in renowned economics and business journals.
- Member of the CESifo Research Network and affiliated to the Tuborg Research Centre for Globalisation and Firms.
- Completion of the Research Project “Managers as Knowledge-Carriers – Explaining Firms’ Internationalization Success with Manager Mobility” (“revise and resubmit” in a leading field journal).

Dr Daniel Schnurr

My research focuses on the implications of new data-driven business models, in particular the economic regulation of digital platform markets and the conditions for competitive access to data resources. Moreover, I analyse consumers’ individual decision-making behaviour in handling their personal data and the effectiveness of new data protection rules. With regard to digital infrastructures I investigate how “open access” can promote investment incentives in next-generation broadband networks.

- Published in renowned scholarly journals such as Management Science, Journal of Industrial Economics, Business & Information Systems Engineering, Information Economics and Policy, & MIT Sloan Management Review.
- Acquired EUR 1.23m funding from the Bavarian State Ministry of Science and the Arts for the junior research group “Data Neutrality & Open Access: Coherent Economic Policies”.
- Awarded a Schöller Fellowship for the project proposal “Humans vs. Machines: Competing with Artificial Intelligence in Digital Markets, EUR 20,000.

Dr Elisabeth Müller

My current research interests lie at the intersection of strategy, governance, and entrepreneurship. Specifically, I focus on research questions in the areas of cooperative strategy and governance in small and medium-sized companies and family firms as well as on governance of inter-firm cooperation.

- Acquired funding from different institutions (e.g., DFG, DAAD, BMBF, ESF).
- Received awards for research, teaching, and reviewing.
- Habilitation degree awarded in July 2020 based on the achievements in research (habilitation thesis “Essays on Strategy and Organization”), teaching, and third-party funding.
Dr Sebastian Schubach

My research centres around studying phenomena of digital and online marketing with a specific focus on digital platforms. Primarily, I investigate consumers’ reactions on search engine marketing and their consequences for designing effective and efficient search engine marketing communications. Moreover, I am researching what market orientation and customer orientation means in two- or more-sided markets.

• Third place in the 2020 EMAC/Sheeth Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Competition.

Dr Kim S. Strunk

My research interests focus on the technology driven changes in working and I am particularly interested in perceptions of crowd working arrangement. My research examines motivators and hindrances in this emergent form of work as well as the impact of virtual communities, serving as substitutes for an organizational and collegial environment.


Dr Katharina Werner

Research interests: Behavioural and Experimental Economics with a focus on lab-in-the-field experiments, behavioural aspects of conflict resolution, group identities; anti-corruption and Experimental Ethics.

• Acquired funding from Fritz Thyssen Stiftung for project “Behavioral Economic Approaches to Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention in Indonesia”, EUR 21,552.
• Invited seminar speaker at ZEW Mannheim (10 October 2019).

Doctoral Students and Research Affiliates

91 doctoral students are currently enrolled at our faculty. During the academic year 2019-20, 14 theses were successfully completed.

The School of Business, Economics and Information Systems offers a structured doctoral programme. Research institutes and the International Centre for Economics and Business Studies (ICeBS) offer a fruitful platform for collaboration in research as well as provide a framework for high-profile guest visits and mentoring by top scholars in the field. The School of Business, Economics and Information Systems is also integrated in the Bavarian Graduate Program in Economics (BGPE).

Complementary events include brown-bag seminars, colloquia for doctoral candidates and seminars on research methods.

Our doctoral students and early career scholars regularly submit and present their research at national and international academic conferences. They submit and publish their work in prestigious peer-reviewed journals, including some of the most highly ranked outlets in their respective fields.

Doctoral Awards and Nominations

Florian Demann (Supervisor Professor Andreas König)
Nomination for Best Conference PhD Paper Prize at Strategic Management Society
The De Alio Entrant Dilemma: Why De Alio Firms Differ in Their Adoption of Discontinuous Technologies

Dr Susanna Grundmann (Supervisor Professor Johann Graf Lambsdorff)
Dissertationspreis Sparkasse Passau (in German)
Honesty and Reciprocity – Experimental Evidence on Non-Standard Preferences

Dr Katrin Huber (Supervisor Professor Stefan Bauernschuster)
Karl Paul Hensel-Preis
Empirical Essays on Decision-Making within Families: Determinants and Consequences of Family Labor Supply

Laura Körner (Supervisor Professor Carolin Häussler)
Inclusion of paper in the Best Paper Proceedings of the Babson Entrepreneurship Conference
The Influence of Entrepreneurial Teams’ Ownership Distribution on Recombinatory Novelty

Dörte Leusmann (Supervisor Professor Carolin Häussler)
Nomination for Best Conference PhD Paper Prize at Strategic Management Society
When Worlds Collide: Negotiating and Renegotiating Meaning in Interorganizational Relationships

Dr Patrizia Perras (Supervisor Professor Niklas Wagner)
Kulturpreis Bayern (Bayernwerk AG) (in German)
Three Essays on Intertemporal Asset Pricing
The School of Business, Economics and Information Systems has launched a Portability Data as a Competitive Resource: Essays on Market Power, Data Sharing, and Data Dissertationspreis der Sparda-Bank Ostbayern eG (in German) (Supervisor Professor Jan Krämer)

B2B Context
Service Provisions and Business Relationships in the Digital Era – Four Essays in the Dr Torben Stoffer (Supervisor Professor Thomas Widjaja)

Inclusion of paper in the Academy of Management Best Paper Proceedings
Good Fun or Laughing Stock? How CEO Trait Humor Affects Social Approval, Reputation, and Legitimacy
Benno Stöcklein (Supervisor Professor Andreas König)

Free Digital Platforms
Caught Between Two Stools? Four Essays on Value Creation and Value Extraction on 3rd position in the 2020 EMAC/Sheth Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Competition
Innovation, and Legitimacy
Dr Sebastian Schubach (Supervisor Professor Jan Schumann)

Inclusion of paper in the Academy of Management Best Paper Proceedings
Dr Torben Stoffer (Supervisor Professor Thomas Widjaja)

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Innovation, and Legitimacy
Dr Sebastian Schubach (Supervisor Professor Jan Schumann)

The Institute of Private Financial Planning is a centre of excellence for financial planning and consultancy for private households. For more information visit www.ifp.uni-passau.de/.

Research Centres

Institute CENTOURIS – Centre for Data-Based Insights
CENTOURIS is a research institute of the economics faculty of the University of Passau. The institute offers services in the field of empirical data analysis. These include, inter alia, the areas of project development, data collection and data evaluation up to consulting. Thematically, this can be classic market research studies such as customer satisfaction analysis, image and market potential studies, brand funnel analysis or consulting projects such as branding, product development, or marketing mix optimization. Equipped with its own staff of interviewers and using statistical methods, the institute carries out comprehensive market and data analytic research projects. It supports companies and the public-sector and also conducts research in national and international projects on topics such as digitalization, service excellence, mobility. For example, within the ISEM research project CENTOURIS develops an Industrial Service Excellence Monitor (ISEM) to support companies in Lower Bavaria and Upper Austria on their way to high-quality and innovative industrial services. The project DIGIONAL and DIGITOUR helps small and medium sized companies to digitize their business. For more information visit www.centouris.uni-passau.de/.

PAULA Experimental Laboratory
The PAULA Experimental Laboratory is used by researchers of the School of Business, Economics and Information Systems to examine individuals’ economic decision-making. The laboratory provides both the technology and a large number of test persons. Students and members of the public are encouraged to participate in PAULA surveys. For more information visit www.wiwi.uni-passau.de/en/management-personal-information/laboratory-paula/.

Passau International Centre for Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies (PICaIS)
PICaIS is the University’s central cross-project platform for academic excellence and interdisciplinary convergence. It promotes research aligned with the University’s strategic guiding themes, supporting interdisciplinary project ideas that break new ground in terms of the topics examined and the methods employed. The centre is especially dedicated to the advancement of early career researchers and the creation of opportunities for network-building and interdisciplinary co-operation. PICaIS attracts international visiting scholars to Passau and integrates them into the University’s academic community. PICaIS pursues five core objectives: (1) providing rooms, time and financial resources for outstanding research projects; (2) establishing a vibrant platform for co-operation and exchange; (3) furthering the academic potential of promising early career researchers; (4) creating a unique culture of collegial, transparent, open-minded and multidisciplinary co-operation; (5) establishing an interface between academia and society. For more information visit www.picais.uni-passau.de/en/.

Institute of Private Financial Planning (ifp)
The Institute of Private Financial Planning is a centre of excellence for financial planning and consultancy for private households. Its research output is concerned with developing business processes and instruments to improve financial planning and financial advice for clients. Moreover, ifp is concerned with needs-based financial advice for private households. For more information visit www.ifp.uni-passau.de/institut/.

Research Affiliates
The School of Business, Economics and Information Systems has launched a research affiliate programme. Research Affiliates collaborate with scholars at our faculty on joint research projects. Our current research affiliates are:
- Dr Anne Assmus
- Dr Wolfgang Birglauber
- Dr Fabian Fuchs
- Professor Dr Marcus Giamattei
- Professor Dr Lorenz Graf-Vlachy
- Dr Susanna Grundmann
- Dr Marvin Hanisch
- Dr Renate Hartwig
- Dr Nicole Hess
- Dr Björn Hüttel
- PD Dr Johannes Jütting
- Dr Florian Kaiser
- Dr Johannes Lorenz
- Dr Manuel Schubert
- Dr Mila Vogelsang
- Dr Tristan Wimmer
- Dr Michael Wohlfarth
International Research Network

International Centre for Economics and Business Studies (ICEBS)

The International Centre for Economics and Business Studies provides targeted support for fostering international collaboration activities of members of the School of Business, Economics and Information Systems with renowned international scholars.

ICEBS has three key aims: promote collaboration with internationally renowned academics from abroad, facilitate world-class research projects and boost the potential of early career researchers by exposing them to new concepts and research methods. For more information visit www.wiwi.uni-passau.de/en/organisation/international-center-for-economics-and-business-studies-icebs/.

Visiting Researchers in the academic year 2019-2020

10/2019
Professor Jeffrey Reuer, University of Colorado, Boulder, USA

10/2019
Professor Steve Boivie, Mays Business School at Texas A&M University, Texas, USA

11/2019
Dr Ondrei Havlovík, Prague, Czech Republic

12/2019
Professor Marc Bourreau, Telecom Paris Tech, France

01/2020
Professor Johannes Jütting, OECD

05/2020
Dr Manuel Schubert, Managing Director, ASB&BEHAVIA (Online)

05/2020
Professor Saji K. Mathew, PhD, IIT Madras, India (Online)

06/2020
Professor Ramus Tommaso, Lisbon, Portugal (Online)

Recent Publications


Flagmeier, V. (in press). The information content of deferred taxes under IFRS. European Accounting Review.


Because of the Covid-19 epidemic, some of the collaboration were carried out online.


Zierke, O. (2020). Raising total capacity provision of mobile network operators through throttling. Pacific Telecommunications Council (Chair), Vision 2020 and Beyond, Honolulu, Hawaii.