

MANUELA K. FRITZ

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PROFILE

I am an applied micro-economist with expertise in development, health, and climate economics. My research lies at the intersection of these fields and contributes to innovative solutions for improving public health and to advancing the general and health-specific resilience to climate change, in particular in low- and middle-income countries. Other strands of my research cover projects related to agriculture economics and microfinance. For my works, I apply micro-economic and -econometric methods and rely on insurance data, social network data, geospatial data, climate simulation and health simulation models, as well as primary data collected in the field via household surveys or online and lab-in-the-field experiments.

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Development Economics ◊ Health Economics ◊ Climate Economics ◊
Impact Evaluation ◊ Social Network Analysis ◊ Survey Research

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Postdoctoral researcher

June 2024 - present

(Walter-Benjamin Fellowship)

Technical University Munich, Germany

Professorship for Global Health (Prof. Dr. Janina Steinert)

Professorship for Public Policy for the Green Transition (Prof. Dr. Florian Egli)

Postdoctoral researcher

April 2023 - May 2024

University of Groningen, The Netherlands

Department of Economics, Econometrics and Finance

Development Economics Group (Prof. Dr. Robert Lensink)

Research associate and teaching assistant

October 2019 - March 2023

University of Passau, Germany

Department of Economics

Chair of Development Economics (Prof. Dr. Michael Grimm)

University of Groningen, The Netherlands

Department of Economics, Econometrics and Finance

Development Economics Group (Prof. Dr. Robert Lensink)

Research assistant

April 2019 - September 2019

University of Passau, Germany

Department of Economics

Chair of Development Economics (Prof. Dr. Michael Grimm)

AFFILIATIONS

Associate fellow of the Faculty of Economics and Business Research Institute (FEBRI),
University of Groningen

Affiliated researcher, Chair of Development Economics, University of Passau

EDUCATION

PhD in Economics

October 2019 - March 2023

Cotutelle / Double PhD Program

University of Passau, Germany

Department of Economics, Chair of Development Economics
(Supervisor Prof. Dr. Michael Grimm)

University of Groningen, The Netherlands

Department of Economics, Econometrics and Finance
(Supervisor Prof. Dr. Robert Lensink)

Thesis: "Health challenges of the 21st century - Empirical essays on the health and economic burden of non-communicable diseases and climate change in Southeast Asia"

Master Development Studies

October 2017 - September 2019

University of Passau, Germany

Specialization: Economics

Final grade: Very good (1.1)

Thesis: "Network Centrality, Information and Technology Adoption: Evidence from Farmers' Networks in Indonesia"

Exchange Semester

October 2015 - February 2016

RMIT University, Ho-Chi-Minh-City, Vietnam

Bachelor International Cultural and Business Studies

October 2013 - September 2017

University of Passau, Germany

Specialization: Southeast Asia

Final grade: Very good (1.4)

Abitur

June 2012

Droste-Huelshoff Gymnasium, Freiburg

Final grade: Very good (1.0)

PUBLICATIONS

Fritz, M., Grimm, M., My Hanh, H.T., Koot, J., Nguyen, G.H., Nguyen, L.P.H., Probandari, A., Widyaningsih, V., & Lensink, R. (2024). Effectiveness of community-based diabetes and hypertension prevention and management programs in Indonesia and Vietnam: a quasi-experimental study. *BMJ Global Health* 9(5), e015053. DOI: [10.1136/bmjgh-2024-015053](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2024-015053)

Fritz, M. (2022). Temperature and non-communicable diseases: Evidence from Indonesia's primary health care system. *Health Economics* 31(11), 2445-2464. DOI: [10.1002/hec.4590](https://doi.org/10.1002/hec.4590)

Fritz, M. (2022). Wave after wave – Determining the temporal lag in Covid-19 infections and deaths using spatial panel data from Germany. *Journal of Spatial Econometrics* 3, 9. DOI: [10.1007/s43071-022-00027-6](https://doi.org/10.1007/s43071-022-00027-6)

Fritz, M., & Fromell, H. (2021). How to dampen the surge of non-communicable diseases in Southeast Asia: Insights from a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Health Policy and Planning* 37(1), 152-167. DOI: [10.1093/heapol/czab138](https://doi.org/10.1093/heapol/czab138)

Fritz, M., Grimm, M., Keilbart, P., Laksmana, D.D., Luck, N., Padmanabhan, M., Subandi, N., & Tamtomo, K. (2021). Turning Indonesia organic: Insights from transdisciplinary research on the challenges of a societal transformation. *Sustainability* 13(23), 13011. DOI: [10.3390/su132313011](https://doi.org/10.3390/su132313011)

WORKING PAPERS & WORK IN PROGRESS

Fritz, M., Grimm, M., Weber, I., Yom-Tov, E. & Praditya, B. Can social media encourage diabetes self-screenings? A randomized controlled trial with Indonesian Facebook users (R&R *Nature Portfolio Journals - Digital Medicine*)

Fritz, M. Too hot to be happy? Mental health effects of the 2007 & 2015 Indian heat waves.

Fritz M., Luck, N., Primasari, N.H. & Sawhney, U. My opinion, your opinion - Do group perceptions prevent the adoption of sustainable farming practices?

RESEARCH GRANTS & THIRD PARTY FUNDING

- **Walter-Benjamin Postdoctoral Fellowship** (German Research Foundation, DFG), 200,000 €
- **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship** (European Union, EU), 190,000 € (rejected in favor of the WB-fellowship)

AWARDS

- **KfW & VfS Promotion prize for practice-oriented development research** (5,000 €) (2024)
- **Helmut Schmalen Dissertation Award** (500 €) (2023)
- **Bavarian Cultural Price – Category Science, PhD Thesis** (2,000 €) (2023)
- **Sustainable Society PhD Research Award** (2,500 €) (2021)

INVITED TALKS

2024: Development Economics Research seminar, University of Tilburg || Research Seminar Nijmegen School of Management, Radboud University

2023: World Bank Policy Workshop: Data Driven Decision Making for Universal Health Coverage, Hoi An, Vietnam

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2024: NOVAFRICA Conference on Economic Development, Lisbon, Portugal || European Health Economics Association Conference (EuHEA), Vienna, Austria

2023: Nordic Conference in Development Economics, Gothenburg, Sweden || German Development Economics Conference (VfS), Dresden, Germany || Dutch Development Economics Workshop, Groningen, The Netherlands || The Web Conference, Austin, Texas, USA

2022: VfS Annual Conference, Basel, Switzerland || SOM PhD Conference, Groningen, The Netherlands

2021: Nordic Conference in Development Economics, Bergen, Norway || German Development Economics Conference (VfS), Hamburg, Germany || SOM PhD Conference, Groningen, The Netherlands

ONGOING PROJECTS

Revamping the Innovative Spirit of Microfinance. Funding from the Dutch Research Council (NWO). PI: Dr. Burak Uras. Joint with University of Tilburg, University of Wageningen, University of Groningen, INESAD Bolivia.

Learning about sustainable adoption of green agricultural technologies: Experimental evidence from training with organic farming practices and soil tests in Indonesia. Funding from the German Research Foundation (DFG). PIs: Prof. Michael Grimm, Dr. Nathalie Luck. Joint with University of Passau, Universitas Gadjah Mada.

PREVIOUS PROJECTS

Scaling-up non-communicable disease interventions in Southeast Asia (SUNI-SEA). Funding from the European Union. PI: Prof. Marten Postma, Dr. Jaap Koot. Joint with UMCG Groningen, University of Groningen, University of Passau, Trnava University, HelpAge International, Sebelas Maret University, Thai Nguyen University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Health Strategy and Policy Institute.

African Risk Capacity (ARC) Replication Impact Evaluation. Joint with the World Food Program Evaluation Office and Mali Country Office.

Formal Insurance and Productive Effects Study (FIDES). Joint with the University of Passau, Institut de Recherche en Sciences de Santé (IRSS), L'association Songui Manégré / Aide au Développement Endogène (ASMADE), Burkina Faso.

TEACHING & SUPERVISION

Teaching

2019 - 2023

Evaluation of Development Policies (Quasi and field experiments) (Tutorial), Master Level
Health, Development and Public Policy (Tutorial), Master Level
Introduction to Econometrics (Tutorial), Master Level
Micro Development Economics (Tutorial), Master Level
Microeconomics (Tutorial), Bachelor Level

Supervision

2019 - present

Supervision of Master and Bachelor theses

SURVEY COORDINATION & FIELD WORK

Scaling-up non-communicable disease interventions in Southeast Asia (SUNI-SEA) 2023

Survey design, coordination and supervision of data collection and field work. Java, Indonesia.

Current State and Potential of Organic Farming in Indonesia (IndORGANIC) 2019

Coordination and supervision of data collection and field work. Tasikmalaya, Indonesia.

Formal Insurance and Productive Effects Study (FIDES) 2019

Coordination and supervision of data collection and field work. Ouagadougou / Ziniaré, Burkina Faso.

SERVICES FOR THE PROFESSION

Women's representative & member of faculty board

2021 - 2023

University of Passau
Faculty of Business, Economics and Information Systems

REVIEWING ACTIVITIES

Journal of Health Economics, Social Science & Medicine, Economics and Human Biology, BMJ Open, Archives of Public Health

MEDIA COVERAGE

15.06.2023, [Passauer Neue Presse](#), "Diabetes: Frühe Diagnose mittels Facebook. Passauer Ökonomen wollen über das soziale Netzwerk Risikopatienten finden und informieren."

17.04.2023, [Bavarian State Ministry of Science and the Arts](#), "Early Diabetes Diagnosis: Using Facebook Ads for Disease Prevention".

SOFTWARE & LANGUAGES

Software

STATA, R, \LaTeX ,
ODK/SurveyCTO, MS Office

Languages

German (native), English (fluent)
Spanish (beginner), Dutch (beginner)