

BENEDIKT ZOLLER-RYDZEK

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RESEARCH INTEREST

My research lies at the intersection of international economics and international business, with a quantitative, firm-level focus. Using microdata, causal inference, and increasingly AI/ML and text-based analytics, I study how firms make location, investment, and organizational decisions and how these choices shape performance. A core interest is how geopolitical risk (e.g., trade conflicts, sanctions, fragmentation) alters firm behavior, and how digital transformation and data-driven decision-making affect resilience and competitiveness in global markets.

POSITIONS

Head of the Global Business Lab

July 2025 - Present

ZHAW School of Management and Law, Switzerland
International Management Institute

- Provide strategic and operational leadership for the Lab's research, teaching, and partnership portfolio.
- Own budget: annual planning, resource allocation, cost control, and management reporting.
- Lead project development in quantitative and digital domains (e.g., explainable AI, data governance, data-driven decision-making), coordinating internal and external stakeholders across academia, public institutions, and industry.
- Led the end-to-end development of a European Joint Degree Master in Data-Driven Management Innovation with 5 European partner institutions—including curriculum architecture/design, partner alignment, and coordination of legal approvals/accreditation readiness.

Senior Lecturer

April 2019 - July 2025

ZHAW School of Management and Law, Switzerland
International Management Institute

- Designed and delivered practice-oriented, data-driven teaching in quantitative methods, economics, and strategic management across Bachelor, Executive MBA, and continuing education, incl. "Big Data for Managers" translating analytics into actionable managerial decision-making.
- Implemented innovative learning formats (e.g., flipped-class/blended learning, experiential in-class simulations/experiments, and real-world examples paired with empirical evidence) to strengthen transfer from theory to professional application.
- Built digital, scalable practice tools (e.g., Moodle quizzes with randomized values and specialized problem sets) enabling individualized repetition and mastery learning.
- Increased engagement in on-site and online settings through interactive teaching technology (live polls/Mentimeter, structured breakout discussions, collaborative problem-solving).

DIZH Fellow

February 2022 - Present

Digitalization Initiative of the canton of Zurich, Switzerland

- Principal Investigator / Project Lead on "Location choice of digital MNEs"; delivered policy-relevant digitalization AI evaluation work for public authorities.

Post-doctoral Researcher*December 2014 - April 2019*

ETH Zurich, Switzerland

Swiss Economic Institute (KOF) and MTEC

- Conducted large-scale empirical research in international economics public finance using firm-/trade-level microdata and advanced econometrics/data analytics.
- Delivered policy briefs and evidence on trade, tariffs, multinational taxation, and firm behavior—translating complex results into actionable insights for policy stakeholders.
- Taught Master/PhD-level quantitative international economics; mentored and supervised PhD students on research design and publication-oriented outputs.

Research Assistant*July 2008 - August 2009*

University of Mannheim, Germany

Chair for Public Finance and Economic Policy

EDUCATION

PhD in Economics, (Dr. sc. ETH Zurich)*April 2012 - December 2014*

ETH Zurich, Switzerland

Advisor: Professor Peter H. Egger

Master in Quantitative Economics*September 2009 - October 2011*

University of Alicante, Spain

Advisor: Professor Mariano Bosch

Diplom Volkswirt*September 2004 - July 2009*

University of Mannheim, Germany

Advisor: Professor Eckhard Janeba

PUBLICATIONS

Geopolitical Risks: Differential Impacts on Domestic Firms and MNEs

PIBR: The Changing Global Power Balance, Emerald, forthcoming, with Siyana Gurova and Florian KellerHerausforderungen und Chancen einer grenzüberschreitenden ESG-Berichterstattung **Progress in IS, Springer**, forthcoming, with Michael Hellwig

Multinational and exporter wage premia. Evidence from Southeastern Europe and a panel multiple-treatments approach

Empirical Economics, 2023, with Peter H. Egger and Pinar Kaynak

The economic reconstruction of Belarus: Next steps after a democratic transition

EU Parliament Study, 2022, with Christopher A. Hartwell, Kateryna Bornukova, Dzmitry Kruk

Trade and attitude towards the EU: What really matters?

European Foreign Affairs Review, 2021, with Florian Keller

COVID-19: Guaranteed loans and zombie firms

CESifo Economic Studies, 2020, with Florian Keller

Indirect effects of trade shocks on Turkish local labor markets

Regional Science and Urban Economics, 2020, with Peter H. Egger and Pinar Kaynak

Estimating bargaining-related tax advantages of multinational firms

Journal of International Economics, 2020, with Peter H. Egger and Nora M. Strecker

European Nearshoring Index - Is Eastern Europe Attractive for Swiss IT Firms?

Central European Business Review, 2019, with Florian Keller

Who is Paying for the Trade War with China?

EconPol Policy Brief 11, 2018, with Gabriel Felbermayr

Capital taxation, investment, growth, and welfare

International Taxation and Public Finance, 2018, with Simon Boesenberg and Peter H. Egger

WORK IN PROGRESS

Geo-Economic Fragmentation and Managerial Sensemaking: How Swiss Exporters Respond to Trade Shocks

with Siyana Gurova and Florian Keller

Falling tariffs: implications of globalization induced tariff reductions on firms, workers, and tax revenues

with Nora Strecker and Georg Thunecke

Conceptualization and measurement of international competitiveness: The case of Swiss companies

with Siyana Gurova and Florian Keller

Navigating change: Managing firm risks in turbulent times

with Siyana Gurova and Florian Keller (under review)

Decomposing the margins of transfer pricing of multinational firms

with Andrea Lassmann and Sarah Lein

Multi-unit firms and their scope and location decision

with Raymond Riezman and Peter H. Egger

How migration and trade flows shape countries' sentiments

with Nora Strecker and Florian Keller

TEACHING

ZHAW School of Management and Law: Quantitative Methods for Managers, Economics, International Business Environment, War and Economics, Doing Business in Europe, International Trade Policy, International Strategic Management, Business Research for Managers (IEMBA)

ETH Zurich: IE - Theory of New Trade and Multinational Firms (Masters/PhD)

University of Alicante: Mathematics, Macroeconomics II

RESEARCH AND PROJECT GRANTS

Innosuisse Grant (2025) AI4Alps: Explainable AI Agents, CHF 178,000

EU Interreg (2024), International ESG Reporting and Supply Chains, CHF 298,000

Innocheque Grant (2023), ESG Reporting in MNEs, CHF 14,900

UNU WIDER SA-TIED (2022), with Nora Strecker and Georg Thunecke, CHF 10,000

DIZH Fellowship (2022), CHF 94,000

European Parliament study, with Christopher Hartwell, Economic policies and the democratic transition of Belarus (2021), CHF 25,000

Consulting Project (2022), Netcetera Nearshoring, CHF 13,100

Consulting Project (2021), Crypto Finance Nearshoring, CHF 7,000

Innocheque Grant (2021), Insurance Blockchain, CHF 14,900

EU Interreg (2021), with Florian Keller, Bauen 4.0, CHF 60,000

Innosuisse Grant (2019), Dentists Networks CHF 145,000

EU Interreg (2019), with Florian Keller, Cross-boarder 3D Printing, CHF 150,000

MTEC Foundation (2017), with Peter H. Egger and Nora M. Strecker, Multinational Taxation, CHF 50,000

European Tax Policy Forum (2015), with Peter H. Egger, Growth Effects of Capital Taxation CHF 12,000

PRESENTATIONS

2025 Wirtschaftstagung Die Mitte, (Brunnen, Switzerland)

2024 The 6th International Conference on European Economics and Politics (Zurich, Switzerland), 50th Conference of the European International Business Academy (Aalto, Finland)

2023 49th Conference of the European International Business Academy (Lisbon, Portugal)

2023 3rd Workshop of the Swiss Network on Public Economics (Zurich, Switzerland)

2020 Swiss COVID Task Force, Economics Group (Switzerland)

2019 Twenty-first Annual Conference European Trade Study Group (Bern, Switzerland), 1st Workshop of the Swiss Network on Public Economics (Zurich, Switzerland)

2018 Midwest International Economics Group Fall Meeting (Philadelphia, USA), Center for Business Taxation (Oxford, United Kingdom), Göttinger Workshop Internationale Wirtschaftsbeziehungen (Göttingen, Germany)

2016 31st Annual Congress of the European Economic Association (Geneva, Switzerland), Journées LAGV 16 - International conference in public economics (Aix-en-Provence, France)

2015 Jahrestagung des Vereins für Socialpolitik 2015 (Münster, Germany), European Tax Policy Forum (London, United Kingdom), University of Zurich (Zurich, Switzerland)

2014 Midwest International Economics Group Fall Meeting (Kansas, USA), Sixteenth Annual Conference European Trade Study Group (Munich, Germany), 70th Annual Congress of the International Public Finance Institute (Lugano, Switzerland), SNF Singeria - CEPR Conference on Economic Inequality, Labor Markets and International Trade (Ascona, Switzerland)

2013 Midwest International Economics Group Fall Meeting (Michigan, USA), Fifteenth Annual Conference European Trade Study Group (Birmingham, United Kingdom), University of Zurich (Zurich, Switzerland), XIV Conference on International Economics AEEFI (Mallorca, Spain)

2012 CESifo Area Conference on Global Economy 2013 (Munich, Germany), XIII Conference on International Economics AEEFI (Granada, Spain)

REFeree SERVICE

Agriculture, Economies, European Economic Review, EURAM, EIBA, International Economic Review, Frontiers in Political Economy, International Tax and Public Finance, International Journal of Emerging Markets, Journal of Theoretical Public Economics, National Tax Journal, Review of International Economics, Sustainability, Theoretical Economic Letters, The International Trade Journal, The World Economy.

LANGUAGES

German (native), English, Spanish, Hungarian

PROGRAMMING

Stata, R, Matlab, Python

MEMBERSHIPS

European Economic Association, Verein für Socialpolitik, Digital Euro Association (Fellow)

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