



IPE @ WU NEWSLETTER

Institute for
International Political Economy



Summer 2024

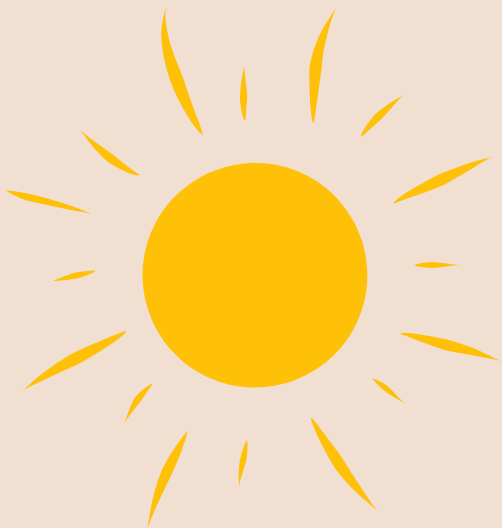


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IPE-NEWS IN SUMMER

Editorial by
MATTHIAS KOUREK, MA
Administrative Assistant

DEAR COLLEAGUES AND
FRIENDS,

Before the summer holidays begin and, for many, a well-deserved summer holiday after a long and intensive semester, we would like to provide you with the latest news from the Institute for International Political Economy.

Whether on the water or on the road - IPE is everywhere. This new issue of our newsletter is the best proof of this. Our team has been very busy again in recent weeks and months, both in teaching and in research. We have even been honoured with an award in the area of teaching: We share the delight of our Head of Institute, Prof. Jonas Bunte, on being awarded the Prize for Excellence in Teaching 2024 by WU Vienna.

Thank you for your interest in International Political Economy.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact us at: ipe@wu.ac.at. We will be happy to get in touch with you.

In the series "Meet Our Colleagues", this time Zack Zimbalist introduces himself and takes you to Salvador da Bahía in Brazil.

The latest edition of "Pizza, Politics & (Motion) Picture" took the participants on the sometimes very rough terrain of New York's Wall Street with the film "The Big Short". The latest addition to our "IPE@WU Careers" series is an interview with Laura Leyser, Director of Médecins Sans Frontières Austria. You can find the interview on our website as well as newly compiled evaluation results from the courses of the winter semester 2023/24.

Finally, participation in conferences took our colleagues Ashley Simpson and Sidan Raeskyesa to San Francisco and Prof. Jonas Bunte travelled to Washington, D.C., and Paris.

Do all these reports make you want to travel too? We certainly do. We wish all our colleagues, students and of course all our readers a relaxing summer and lots of fun with our IPE News.

IPE in the world

GREEN AT A PRICE THE IMPACT OF TARIFFS ON SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGIES

Leading article by
TERESA HÜBEL, MSc
Teaching and Research Associate

Limiting climate change necessitates significant shifts across multiple societal sectors. One pivotal change involves making green technologies more cost-effective than their fossil-based alternatives. Solar panels, for instance, should supplant fossil fuel energy production, and electric vehicles (EVs) must replace combustion-engine cars for travels that are not easily substituted by public transport.

Positive developments in our fight against climate change are rare, making the recent advancements in green technologies especially noteworthy. In 2022 alone, solar photovoltaic generation surged by an unprecedented 270 TWh globally – a 26% increase in just one year. This growth aligns with projections in the Net Zero by 2050 Scenario, driven by significant price reductions from efficiency gains, economies of scale, and governmental incentives.

Similarly, the EV sector has flourished, propelled by breakthroughs in battery technology and Tesla's redefinition of EVs as desirable, high-performance vehicles. Both sectors have evolved dynamically and shown greater potential in driving energy transformation than previously anticipated.

Continue on the next page ...



Teresa Hübel, M.Sc.
© WU / IPE, Hübel



Solar Power Plants
© azgek, Getty Images

Continuing:

GREEN AT A PRICE

However, recent shifts in global trade policies may hinder this progress. In May, President Biden announced new tariffs of 100% on EVs and 50% on solar cells from China, aiming to protect domestic manufacturing and jobs from cheaper, subsidized imports. This race for voter approval has escalated, with Trump proposing even steeper tariffs of 200% on Chinese-owned cars manufactured in Mexico. The European Union has taken less drastic yet similar measures, imposing tariffs of up to 48% after accusing China of unfairly subsidizing its EV industry. However, such policies don't come without side effects: local consumers face higher prices and rising inflation, while retaliatory tariffs from China could further strain local economies. Crucially, tariffs that go beyond balancing out Chinese subsidies will undermine the competitiveness of green technologies relative to fossil-based alternatives, deterring consumers from opting for pricier, green options.

While it is understandable for governments in the US and Europe to be concerned about the competitiveness of their EV and solar industries, the strategy of imposing hefty tariffs is counterproductive. Rather than penalizing foreign production, Western producers should enhance their own competitiveness. This perspective is supported by Norway, an EV adoption leader, which has opted not to join the EU in imposing new tariffs.



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LIFE AT THE INSTITUTE: SUNNY SKIES AND STRONG TIES STRENGTHENING TEAM RELATIONSHIPS ON THE OLD DANUBE

Every quarter, our team makes an effort to spend time with each other outside of work. A large part of our success as an Institute is the interpersonal relationships and friendships we have built that allow us to have high trust and open communication with each other. This past month, our colleague Matthias organised an outing on the Alte Donau for our social event. We rented a paddle boat and spent a great evening together on the river. The weather was perfect, and the company was even better!



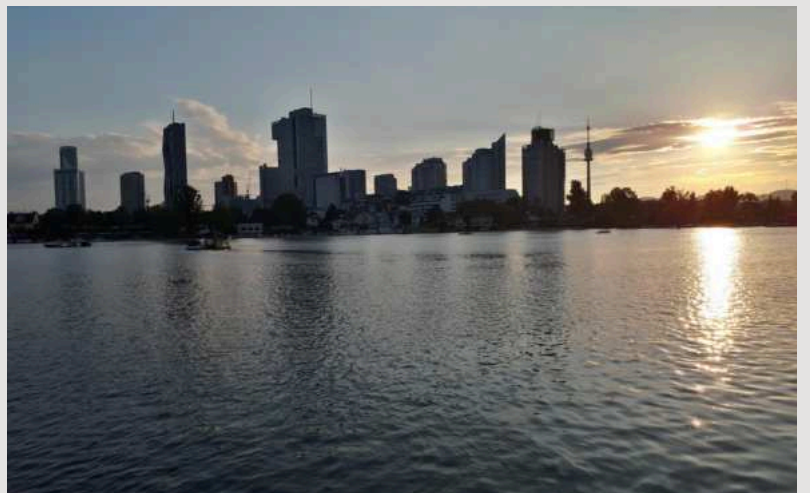
IPE Team - © IPE / Raeskyesa



Sidan Raeskyesa - © IPE / Simpson



Matthias Kourek - © IPE / Simpson



Vienna Skyline - © IPE / Kourek

IPE Means Success

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Success story by

ASHLEY B. SIMPSON, MSC

PROF. JONAS BUNTE, PHD

Teaching and Research Associate

Head of the Institute

We are delighted to announce that the head of our institute, Prof. Jonas Bunte, has been awarded the WU Vienna Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2024. All award winners from the university were presented at a ceremony on 20th June 2024 on the WU campus. The main part of this event was the exhibition "The Art of Teaching" - a poster was created for each award winner, depicting their very special approach to excellent teaching. In the following, we would like to present Prof. Jonas Bunte's approach based on some of the questions that the university asked the award winners and which formed the basis for the design of the posters.



Prof. Jonas Bunte, Ph.D., with Rector Prof. Dr. Rupert Sausgruber (middle)
© WU / Lucia Ugena

What characterises your teaching?

A central concern of my teaching is the development of three core competencies that enable students to understand the world more comprehensively and actively shape it. The first pillar, **Thinking Skills**, promotes the formulation of precise questions to develop several competing explanatory approaches and weigh them against each other. The **Doing Skills** emphasise the importance of media competence and teamwork. This is about developing new hypotheses and implementing them, which requires a collaborative and communicative approach. It includes communicating content via different media types and to various target groups. The third pillar, **Character Skills**, deals with uncertainty and challenges. It promotes resilience and teaches people to leave their comfort zones and remain capable of making decisions even in the face of incomplete information. I use the topics and content of International Political Economy, including in the specialisation "Politics and Money", to achieve this. In my personal interactions with students, I strive for a balance between accessibility and motivation on the one hand and encouragement and challenge on the other.

Continue on the next page ...

Continuing:

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

What has been your most important key learning in activating students so far?

The most important thing is to take students seriously. It is always important to me to meet the students where they are. This involves two components:

Firstly, in terms of pedagogy, it is important to me to explain at the beginning of a course why I teach in a certain way. Much of what I practice may seem unconventional and outside of students' previous experiences. However, extensive research exists in the field of Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SOTL). Concerning research findings, I strive to show students that the approaches used in my courses are effective.

Secondly, I try to show the relevance of the skills and content to their future. Why do my courses focus on formulating explanations for issues and developing the ability to assess the quality of competing arguments? The reason is simple: There are often no clear-cut answers regarding right and wrong in the tension between politics and economics.

However, this does not mean that all arguments are equally valid. Some arguments are more convincing if their logical mechanisms are conclusive and the empirical evidence gives them an advantage. Nevertheless, it is a challenge to evaluate arguments and empirical information appropriately and rationally. Many students pursue careers in fields where there are rarely clear-cut answers. As a lecturer in International Political Economy, I have the opportunity to help students develop the skills required for such fields. (see also [IPE@WU Careers](#))

What methods do you use to encourage oral participation?

In terms of content, I focus mainly on topicality and incorporating my students' diverse backgrounds. Each course unit includes several current newspaper articles that directly link the subject matter to real current events. This highlights the relevance of what is being taught and encourages lively discussions. I also encourage students to bring in their perspectives. As a business university, we have a diverse and talented student body, so we can benefit from each other's experiences.

I also rely on a combination of technical innovations and contemporary media. During lessons, I use technology that allows students to ask questions without necessarily having to raise their hands. In addition, I integrate small surveys to capture immediate feedback and different opinions. Each unit has at least one case study in which students must analyse a current situation from various perspectives. Humor is also an important part of my methodology; I like to use memes to make complex topics tangible and entertaining. I also use modern media formats such as TikTok and podcasts to present the material in a lively and appealing way. Interested readers can find more examples here: [IPE@WU Analysis](#).

What has helped you the most in your teaching career?

For one, it was the opportunity to receive extensive pedagogical training at the University of Minnesota during my doctoral studies. These courses and workshops opened my eyes to the many possibilities in teaching. Second, I conduct my own research and publish in the area of [Scholarship of Teaching and Learning](#). Studying this literature provides me with much inspiration. Finally, I am convinced I can also learn much from my students. By actively soliciting feedback and taking it seriously, I gain valuable data to learn what works well in my courses and where there is room for improvement.

Meet Our Team

ZACK ZIMBALIST

In January 2006, I flew to Salvador, Brazil, for a yearlong exchange programme. I arrived as a young idealist with brown curly knotted hair well below my shoulders, Havana flip flops, and homemade ankle bracelets. Before Brazil, I studied economics, political science, and international studies in the idyllic setting of San Diego, California, my hometown. I also learned a bit of theory and math and read academic papers on poverty and governance in the developing world.

Though I already knew I was interested in applying myself to these topics, my experience in Brazil simultaneously shattered and solidified my motivation to do so. Brazil quickly taught me that my preconceptions and theories about development were woefully incomplete or wrong. More importantly, I learned a valuable lesson in humility, realising how little we all truly know.



Each day, I was saddened and struck by the misery, desperation, and inequality in Brazilian society. At the same time, I was also amazed by people's resilience, ingenuity, generosity, and optimism in the most difficult of circumstances. I wanted to do more to help those in need, but I didn't know how. Over the course of the year, I met and learned from people from all walks of life – I volunteered as an educator in an after-school programme for youth, visited community centres and NGO programmes in different neighbourhoods, and conducted research on racial inequalities. During my travels, I often met and chatted with folks on public transport or while getting lost navigating without a smartphone or a map. People were exceptionally kind. In those moments, I felt a profound sense of purpose: to walk among people and connect on a deeply human level without prejudice or conceit, remain curious and open-minded, and work toward policies and programmes that improve people's lives.

Salvador da Bahia, Brazil
© mtcurado, Getty Images Signature



The People of IPE - Our Students

ZSÓFIA GYÖRFI

"Hi, does any of you speak a reasonable level of French?" read the notification on my phone. I chuckled; well, the timing of this message was impeccable. I responded with a "yes" to my friend while soaking up the February sun in the French Alps. I had just returned from my exchange semester, filled with inspiration but feeling the blues. Little did I know how, a couple of conversations later, my life was about to change.

I was 19, just out of secondary school, when I moved to Vienna to pursue my studies at WU. After spending almost two years in lockdown, it was a breath of fresh air. It felt like I had earned my freedom in every sense. University days were like compensation for time that was lost during the pandemic.

Education should be a right, not a privilege. In an ideal world, we would exist with equal opportunity and accessibility. This is where the WU Buddy programme comes into the picture. University students get matched up with younger students of various ages from less fortunate backgrounds. I was not involved initially due to my German skills (or the lack thereof), but when my friend asked if I could help her protégée with French, I agreed without hesitation. The doubts crept in after the initial excitement had passed, and I realised I had not spoken French in two years because talking to French people on the chairlift does not count.



Zsófia Györfi
© IPE / Györfi

I met my study Buddy for the first time on campus for a lighthearted 3-hour study session. She is all passion and determination, with a side of gentle kindness. Plus, there is something else about her that reminds me of myself. Except opportunities did not treat us equally. There is no point in denying that the world is reflecting the traits of our economy. Interactions, relationships, and human connections have become transactional. We give so little without expecting anything in return. Volunteering for the right cause, one that is close to our hearts, can break this warped, capitalist perception. Feeding back into the cycle of knowledge, finding compassion, and helping someone on the path to reach their full potential despite their unequal starting chances are priceless things. I was lucky enough to have good mentors in my life, through school or privately, and I owe so much to them. Maybe this is like a positive ouroboros – the self-consuming serpent symbol of life and death, except this is about life, passing on knowledge, and trying to make a difference for someone else's sake. It is an eternal cycle, perhaps one of the most ancient kinds.

This is what Socioeconomics is all about, in a sense. It humanizes economics and makes us explore and explain connections all around – the world and ourselves. Fighting social injustice from behind a desk can seem too utopian, but the more one thinks about it, the better it can translate into our lives and actions. In class, concepts can seem so distant and abstract; however, picking them apart helps. I took "Trade, Politics and Environment" this semester, which fits precisely into this scheme of dissecting abstractions until they become so real and tangible that you start to see them reflected everywhere in the world around you. This is a real asset, especially if it inspires effort. It was the perfect opportunity to bring my Buddy along for a lecture, as per her request, and I could practically hear the gears turning in her head. I think she discovered a little bit of this beautiful process and took it home with her.

Pizza, Politics & (Motion) Picture - 8th edition

THE BIG SHORT

EATING PIZZA WHILE DISCUSSING THE FINANCIAL MARKET CRISIS - WHY NOT?

Report by

D. G. SIDAN RAESKYESA, MSC

Teaching and Research Associate

On 6th June 2024 the Institute organised the 8th edition of Pizza, Politics, and (Motion) Picture. More than ten students from social sciences gathered to watch *The Big Short* and discuss its main messages through the lens of International Political Economy.

Interestingly, we saw not only students who took classes from our institute, but also external guests, such as students from the University of Vienna and WU alumni. From a nationality perspective, we had participants from Romania, Austria, and India. This means that PPP has increased its popularity beyond the borders of WU Vienna and is benefiting from even more diverse perspectives!

The various backgrounds among the attendees led to a stimulating discussion about the movie. We delved into whether the USA's financial crisis resulted from market or government failure and explored the intricate mechanisms that led to the creation of the housing market bubble. The evening was filled with thought-provoking arguments, from the bankers' short-sightedness to the financial market's asymmetric information and the role of banking regulation in allowing the bubble to grow.

The event concluded with a series of profound questions: Can we trust the banking and financial system we live in? Is it normal to see such a strong connection between politics and financial markets? Most importantly, how can we ensure that the next generation does not face a similar crisis? These questions are not just food for thought; they hold the key to our future.



PPP Participants on 6th June 2024
© IPE, Kourek



Advertisement for "The Big Short"
© IPE, Kourek

Third Mission - IPE@WU Careers

NAVIGATING CAREER PATHS: INSIGHTS FROM LAURA LEYSER OF DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

Report by

ASHLEY B. SIMPSON, MSC

Teaching and Research Associate

One of the primary questions and concerns we receive from students is, "What career path can I pursue with a background in IPE?" We attempt to guide students through this challenging decision by offering as many resources as possible, including our IPE@WU Careers series, where we interview people with exciting jobs in the field of IPE.

Our most recent interviewee was Ms. **Laura Leyser**, the managing director of [Doctors Without Borders Austria](#). Laura took the time to answer numerous anonymized questions from our students. Laura offered great advice, such as trying different careers out through internships, ensuring that your organization's goals align with your values, and choosing a career that you enjoy.



Laura Leyser

© Doctors without Borders Austria

Perhaps more importantly than her tangible advice, Laura also spoke to many of IPE students' concerns. For example, many roles in the development field can be stressful and emotionally challenging as there is so much suffering, crises, and conflict worldwide. Laura has much experience in this area and even gives an example of living in Nepal and seeing the damage first-hand when a 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit. Her advice for this problem is to focus on the positive change you can effect at a very small level. Another concern IPE students have is knowing how the intangible, generalist knowledge and skills they develop can translate into actually getting a job. Laura explains that understanding the different societal actors (their incentives, the winners and losers of policies) with an analytical mindset and communicating these insights is an incredibly useful skill set for all kinds of jobs.

Continue on the next page ...

Continuing:

IPE@WU CAREERS: LAURA LEYSER

It is inspiring to hear from Laura, who validates students' feelings of being overwhelmed and uncertain about their career path and gives concrete advice about moving forward. We are grateful to Laura for taking the time to share her wisdom and experiences with us.

If you would like to watch the interview, please go to our website:

[IPE@WU Careers](#)

If you would like to contribute to IPE Careers or suggest someone we should interview, please don't hesitate to reach out:

[E-Mail the Institute for International Political Economy](#)



Screenshot from the interview

© IPE

Peeking into the lecture halls

TEACHING IPE

Teaching description by
ZACK ZIMBALIST, PHD
Teaching and Research Associate

Sustainable International Development

BSc Business, Economics and Social Sciences

Course series Zukunftsfähiges Wirtschaften / Sustainable Economics

Have you ever wondered why Luxembourg's GDP per capita is 415 times that of Burundi? Or how South Korea transformed itself from a small agricultural economy in 1960 to the 13th largest economy in the world and a global leader in high-tech industries while other countries have economically stagnated?

In Sustainable International Development, students delve into these questions and more. This course offers the opportunity to grasp crucial concepts, theories, and skills necessary to generate and evaluate hypotheses explaining divergent development trajectories of countries around the world.

Specifically, the course analyses theories highlighting the foundational role of geographical or environmental factors in development, the impact of culture, institutions, and state policies on economic development, and the complex interplay between politics and development. Students examine rigorous, innovative research and real-world cases to bring theories to life. For example, the course investigates why gender quotas increase women's political power in some contexts but not in others and why certain countries successfully ban mining and shift away from fossil-fuel-based interests while others do not.

Additionally, students develop analytical skills by applying key concepts such as endogeneity, the counterfactual, the fundamental problem of causal inference, necessary and sufficient conditions, and internal and external validity. These skills are highly valuable across a variety of professional fields.

After successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Apply international development theories to real-world puzzles.
- Generate hypotheses that can explain variation in development trajectories across and within countries.
- Apply methodological concepts and tools to adjudicate among competing hypotheses and design policy and strategy solutions that promote sustainable development in particular contexts.

Zack Zimbalist, a post-doc at our institute, leads this course. We would love to see you there!

Teaching IPE - Pedagogic Insight

NEW TEACHING EVALUATIONS ONLINE

Pedagogic insight by
ASHLEY B. SIMPSON, MSC.
Teaching and Research Associate

Our Institute challenges students with unique teaching methods emphasising reasoning skills, communication and technical competencies, and personal development. Given the innovative nature of our pedagogical approach, it is important to us that we seek frequent feedback from students and try to improve where possible. We are happy to report that we have posted evaluations from the Winter Semester 2023/2024 on our website. Check out our summary graphs for “Modern Societies I” (BA level), “Philosophy of Science”, “FDI and Development”, and “Regulating Finance and Sustainable Development” courses.

www.wu.ac.at/en/ipe/teaching/teaching-quality

CLICK FOR
MORE INFO
ABOUT
“IPE@WU
CAREERS”



What our team is working on

CHALLENGING XENOPHOBIA: THE ROLE OF LOCAL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN SHAPING IMMIGRATION ATTITUDES IN SOUTH AFRICA

Research introduction by
ZACK ZIMBALIST, PHD
Teaching and Research Associate

In a working paper under review, I investigate why individual attitudes toward government restrictions on immigration vary dramatically within South Africa.

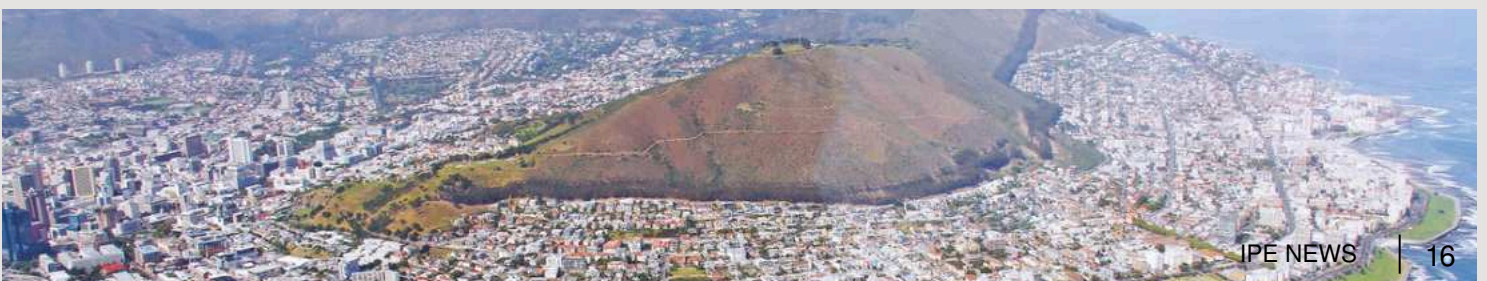
South Africa is home to roughly 4 million immigrants seeking asylum or economic opportunity. Despite consistently high unemployment, elevated crime rates, and poor service delivery, South Africa is still significantly more developed and politically stable than its neighbours, including Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In the months leading up to the 2024 National Elections held in late May, numerous politicians and political parties sought to mobilise votes by employing anti-immigrant populist rhetoric, blaming immigrants for South Africa's economic struggles.



Zack Zimbalist, Ph.D.
© IPE / Zimbalist

However, many South Africans do not share these xenophobic or anti-immigrant views. Instead, they welcome cross-border migration and champion Pan-African ideals. My paper examines the vital role of the local economic context in shaping individual attitudes toward immigration policy. I argue that residents in under-served areas are more likely to have positive interactions with immigrants while observing their positive economic impacts, which helps to reduce stereotypes and counteract xenophobic messages disseminated by certain South African political elites and media outlets.

These findings have broader implications for other countries facing rising anti-immigrant sentiment. They underscore the need for immigration reforms and highlight the importance of engaging with local communities to educate the public on immigrants' rights and highlight their economic contributions. Finally, government and civil society can do more to promote positive intergroup contact.



Aerial View of Cape Town
© sharonang, pixabay

IPE on the Road

ISA IN SAN FRANCISCO: PRESENTING ACADEMIC WORK ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD

Conference report by

D. G. SIDAN RAESKYESA, MSc

Teaching and Research Associate

In April 2024, my colleague Ashley Simpson and I, had the opportunity to present our work at the International Studies Association convention (ISA) in San Francisco, United States. Ashley is from the United States, so the trip was like a short visit to her home country, but it was my first time there.

During the conference, Ashley presented her work on the Export-Import Bank and gender issues. At the same time, I discussed my work on the impact of foreign direct investment restrictions on income inequality.



Ashley B. Simpson, M.Sc. & D. G. Sidan Raeskyesa, M.Sc.
© ISA / IPE / Simpson, Raeskyesa



D. G. Sidan Raeskyesa, M.Sc. & Ashley B. Simpson, M.Sc.
© IPE / Simpson, Raeskyesa

The annual ISA conference is a massive and well-known gathering of social scientists from all over the world who meet to discuss their work; it is no surprise that I also had an opportunity to engage with other political scientists from Indonesia. It was a good experience for both Ashley and me, as we received positive and constructive feedback on our work from other social scientists. Oh, and one more thing: We also took the time to see the famous Golden Gate Bridge of San Francisco!

IPE on the Road

THE POLITICS OF SOVEREIGN FINANCE CONFERENCE

Conference report by
 PROF. JONAS B. BUNTE, PHD
 Head of the Institute

In April, I had the privilege of attending "The Politics of Sovereign Finance" conference, organised by the Sovereign Finance Lab at Princeton University. Held in Washington, DC, the conference coincided with the Spring Meetings of the World Bank and IMF, providing a unique opportunity to engage with a diverse and distinguished audience of practitioners, policymakers, and academics.



The conference aimed to delve into the intricacies of sovereign finance, fostering a rich dialogue among experts in the field. A particularly insightful moment for me was Mark Munger's presentation. He showcased his innovative research using automated text analysis on speeches from the Zambian parliament to explore the conditions under which governments opt for austerity measures or choose to default on debt. This cutting-edge analysis provided valuable insights into the political economy of debt management.

Discussion Panel at the Conference
 © Princeton Sovereign Finance Lab / IPE, Bunte

At the conference, I presented a paper coauthored with Patrick Bayer titled "Carbon Disclosure and Governmental Kickbacks: Evidence From The US EXIM Bank." Our research investigates how higher-polluting firms disclose their emission levels to receive monetary support from governments. This support, facilitated through export credits, underscores the intricate relationship between environmental disclosure and political economy. The conference was an excellent platform to share our findings and engage in stimulating discussions with fellow scholars and practitioners.



Layna Mosley & Peter Rosendorff
 © Princeton Sovereign Finance Lab / IPE, Bunte

IPE on the Road

DEBTCON IN PARIS

Conference report by

PROF. JONAS B. BUNTE, PHD

Head of the Institute

In May, I attended the 7th edition of the Interdisciplinary Sovereign Debt Research and Management Conference, known as "DebtCon." The Princeton School of Public and International Affairs and Georgetown University organised this event at the Paris School of Economics. The venue was especially noteworthy as it is the academic home of Thomas Piketty, a renowned scholar on inequality. This makes it an ideal location for discussing the profound impacts of sovereign debt on government finances and societal outcomes.

DebtCon brought together a diverse audience comprising practitioners, policymakers, and academics, each bringing unique perspectives and jargon to the table. This mix included government debt managers, private bond investors, ministers, and their advisors, alongside economists and political scientists. While the interdisciplinary nature posed communication challenges, it also enriched the discussions, offering multifaceted insights into the complexities of sovereign debt.

A highlight of the conference was a panel featuring Natalija A. Jaresko, former Minister of Finance of Ukraine and executive director of the Financial Oversight & Management Board for Puerto Rico. Jaresko emphasized the critical role of social sciences in understanding and mitigating the societal impacts of economic austerity measures imposed by international organisations. Her insights underscored the importance of political science and sociology in shaping effective and humane economic policies.



One particularly enlightening presentation was by Lukas Franz from the Kiel Institute for the World Economy. His paper on "The financial returns on China's Belt and Road" initiative revealed that the real rate of return on these projects stands at a modest 1.7% annually. While this figure pales in comparison to other assets like EMBI bonds and global equities, it highlights the significant political returns that China garners through these international infrastructure investments.

On a personal note, the conference also provided an opportunity to reconnect with academic colleagues Alexa Zeitz and Kofi Gunu, who, like me, were mentored by Ben Ansell during our doctoral studies. Discussing our current research and reflecting on how Ben has shaped our academic journeys was enjoyable and intellectually stimulating.

LOOKING AHEAD - IMPORTANT DATES

23rd - 25th August 2024

Registration period for ZuWi-VA courses, summer university

Get more info in the [course catalogue](#)!

2nd- 27th September 2024

Registration period for IPE courses, winter semester

Different periods for each course!
See all courses in the [course catalogue](#)!

24th October 2024

Pizza, Politics & (Motion) Picture

Ninth Edition

SCIENTIST'S JOKE

A physicist, a doctor, and an econometrician go out hunting.

They see a deer. The physicist fires first – his shot misses 5 feet to the left. He says, "Crap, I forgot to account for wind resistance."

*The doctor fires second. He misses 5 feet to the right, and before he can say anything, the econometrician yells, **"Yay, we got him!"***

Get in Touch

CLICK & FOLLOW

Are you still looking for inspiration for your bachelor's thesis?

We have compiled a list of potential topics and research questions for bachelor's theses that can help you find your way.



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