

IPE @ WU NEWSLETTER

Institute for
International Political Economy

Spring 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome & Opinion.....3

- Editorial
- Opinion: CBAM, EUDR, and CSDDD

Institute & People.....5

- Life at the Institute: Thank you, Matthias! & Welcome, Lisa!
- IPE Means Success: Sidan Raeskyesa
- Defining Moments: Nico Schuh
- Our IPE Students: Lili Anna Kovács

Third Mission.....10

- IPE@WU PPP: Inequality for all
- IPE@WU Explains: New videos online
- IPE@WU Analysis: New podcasts online
- IPE@WU Careers: New interview and future plans

Teaching.....14

- Spotlight: Our specialization, Politics and Money
- IPE Teaching News: WU in the 21st century: WUPol
- Pedagogic insight: Zack Zimbalist

Research.....18

- Spotlight on Mobile Money
- IPE On The Road: Association for African Studies in Germany, ISA in Chicago

Outro.....21

- Important Dates
- Scientist's Joke
- Get in Touch

IPE-NEWS IN SPRING

Editorial by

ELIZAVETA GAVRIKOVA, MSC

Institute manager

DEAR COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS,

After winter, spring arrives, nature comes back to life, and, of course, a new semester starts!

On this occasion we would like to provide you with the latest news from the Institute for International Political Economy. Our team has been very busy since the last issue of the newsletter.

Perhaps the most exciting news is that from summer semester 2025 we started offering our new specialization, **Politics and Money** to WUPol students. We also proudly present a new online format: **IPE@WU Explains** with videos created by our students to explain various concepts of international political economy. We added new content to the **IPE@WU Careers** interview series and have exciting plans for future issues.

There have been changes in the team of our Institute. We said goodbye to our valued colleague, Matthias, and welcomed a new member into the team, our institute manager, Elizaveta.

Apart from this, our team members share various insights into research, teaching and third mission efforts of the Institute.

Sidan Raeskyesa, published his research on Austrian FDI in the Journal of Asian Business and Economic Studies, while Ashley Simpson is working on an exciting new research topic related to the question how mobile money might affect corruption. Zack Zimbalist travelled to Bayreuth, Germany, to attend the biennial conference of the Association for African Studies in Germany. Our teaching assistant, Nico Schuh, and our student, Lili Anna Kovács, share their experiences with international political economy that had huge impacts on both their academic and professional journeys.

Nico Schuh and Zack Zimbalist share some of their insights into teaching and pedagogy. Read Nico's report about the redesign of the bachelor's course Sustainable Business and Economics (ZuWi) and Zack's approach to creating "desirable difficulties" for the students.

In October 2024, our institute hosted another Pizza, Politics and (Motion) Picture event where students gathered to watch a movie and discuss political economy issues.

We wish you a relaxing Easter break and hope you enjoy reading this issue.

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.

IPE in the world

CBAM, EUDR, AND CSDDD: WHAT DO THESE ACRONYMS MEAN FOR SUSTAINABILITY?

Leading article by
TERESA HÜBEL, MSc
Teaching and Research Associate

The European Union is taking bold steps to redefine global sustainability with three key regulations: the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), and the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). While their full impact remains to be seen, these directives share a common goal: driving sustainable practices worldwide.

What Do They Aim to Achieve?

- **CBAM** levels the playing field by taxing imported goods based on their carbon footprint, aligning trade policies with climate goals.
- **CSDDD** ensures companies uphold sustainable and ethical practices across their global supply chains.
- **EUDR** tackles deforestation by regulating commodities linked to forest loss, demanding sustainable sourcing.

Together, these regulations aim to set global environmental and social responsibility benchmarks.

Challenges and Lessons from EUDR

Ambitious as they are, these directives face implementation challenges. The EUDR rollout was delayed by a year due to concerns from trading partners over inadequate support to meet compliance requirements. This highlighted the need for transparent communication and capacity-building to ensure smooth implementation.

What Can Be Learned?

The EU's experience with EUDR provides valuable lessons for future implementation processes. Addressing stakeholder concerns, offering transitional support, and fostering collaboration with trading partners is crucial to achieving their objectives without creating undue burdens.



Teresa Hübel, M.Sc.
© WU / IPE, Hübel

LIFE AT THE INSTITUTE: THANK YOU, MATTHIAS!

It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to our colleague Matthias Kourek, who is leaving our institute after years of dedicated and outstanding work. Matthias was so much more than just a staff member – he was an indispensable pillar in many areas, an organizational talent, and, above all, a valued team player who was always there for all of us with an open ear and unwavering commitment.



*Matthias Kourek, MA
© WU Vienna / IPE*

Matthias was the driving force behind our institute's public presence. Whether it was the website, newsletter, or social media channels, his talent for appealing design and professional content helped us make the institute visible to the world. Events like "Pizza, Politics, and Motion Picture" thrived thanks to his organizational precision and creativity. In administrative support, Matthias organized trips, managed third-party-funded projects, solved technical issues, and planned internal events with incredible attention to detail. What impressed us most was his ability to remain calm, focused, and efficient even when faced with complex challenges, always finding the right solutions. Matthias also supported our teaching activities. He handled course announcements, maintained the online learning platforms, responded to student inquiries, and organized the supervision of theses. Even with smaller tasks like coordinating course evaluations, Matthias consistently demonstrated how much he cared about the quality of our work. Beyond that, Matthias was a committed supporter of our research. Whether entering data, sourcing relevant literature, or conducting background research on potential third-party funding projects, Matthias was always there with thorough work to back us up.

We all valued Matthias. He was always there when it mattered and often went above and beyond to support us and the institute. His humor, calm demeanor, and ability to focus on what really matters will be deeply missed – not just as a colleague but, above all, as a person. After all, where else can we find an Austrian with a Colombian sense of humor? :) Matthias, we thank you for everything you have done for us and wish you all the best on your future path. You will always remain a part of the IPE family!

LIFE AT THE INSTITUTE: WELCOME, ELIZAVETA!

We are absolutely thrilled to introduce Liza as the newest member of our team! With her versatile experience, she will enrich our institute in many areas. Liza brings six years of experience in university administration and has worked at the intersection of research, teaching, and administration - a perfect background for her new role with us.



Elizaveta Gavrikova, MSc
© WU Vienna / IPE

Particularly impressive is her previous work as Assistant to the Vice Dean, where she planned and managed admission campaigns, handled budgets, and contributed to developing curricula and quality assurance. Her active role in the successful accreditation of two major bachelor's programs demonstrates her strategic approach and ability to execute projects successfully.

Liza has also worked intensively on e-learning projects and developed innovative digital learning formats. With her expertise, she will help us further develop teaching at the institute. Liza is also academically active. She has worked as a lecturer and researcher in the field of management and is currently pursuing a master's degree in educational sciences at the University of Vienna. We are impressed by her commitment to continuous learning and applying new insights directly into practice. We are confident that she will not only enhance our teaching but also strengthen our Third Mission.

Liza's IT and communication skills will be another big asset to our team. Whether it's content management systems or social media, she has the skills we need to take our public relations to the next level and make our institute even more visible. And with her fluent German, English, and Russian, she is a perfect fit for our international environment.

We are delighted that she is now part of our team and are very much looking forward to working with her - welcome aboard, Liza! 😊

IPE Means Success

NEW PUBLICATION BY SIDAN RAESKYESA

Success story by

D. G. SIDAN RAESKYESA, MSC

Teaching and Research Associate

In November 2024, Sidan Raeskyesa published his research on Austrian FDI in the *Journal of Asian Business and Economic Studies*. His study began with an intriguing puzzle he noticed while analyzing data on Austrian FDI outflows to Asian economies. He observed that Austria invests more in India than Indonesia, even though both are emerging economies with abundant labor. A similar pattern appeared when comparing high-income nations like South Korea and Japan – Austrian investments favored South Korea.

Naturally, this led him to ask:

Why does Austria direct more investment to certain countries (like India) than others (like Indonesia) within the Asian region?

His hypothesis stemmed from Austria's status as a developed nation that relies heavily on advanced technology for its competitive edge. Given this, Austrian investors likely seek out foreign countries with comparable strengths in what's known as "knowledge capital." By using R&D expenditure as a percentage of GDP as a proxy, Sidan found that a host country's investment in research and development is a crucial factor in attracting Austrian investors.

We're thrilled about Sidan's success and extend our heartfelt congratulations! 🎉

The current issue and full text archive of this journal is available on Emerald Insight at:
<https://www.emerald.com/insight/2515-964X.htm>

Austrian FDI in Asian economies: Does knowledge capital matter?

Dewa Gede Sidan Raeskyesa
*Department of Socioeconomics, Institute for International Political Economy,
WU Vienna University of Economics and Business, Vienna, Austria*

Abstract
Purpose – While Austrian foreign direct investment (FDI) in Asian economies experiences a rising trend, the following question arises: Why does Austria invest more in certain economies over others? This study intends to assess the factors that drive Austrian investment in Asian economies.
Design/methodology/approach – Based on the ownership, location and internalization framework and the knowledge capital approach, this study hypothesizes that knowledge capital significantly attracts FDI from Austria. Meanwhile, this study applies the panel-corrected standard error method to analyze data for 11 Asian economies from 1990 to 2022.
Findings – After considering endogeneity, the results show a positive and significant correlation between expenditure in research and development per gross domestic product (GDP) in the host economies and FDI inflow from Austria. In addition, the study reveals that factors such as market size, trade openness and natural resources in the host economies significantly influence Austria's FDI, which indicates that Austrian investors fall into the three main FDI typologies: market-seeking, resources-seeking and efficiency-seeking.
Originality/value – This study fills the literature gap by becoming the first to analyze the determinants of Austrian FDI in Asian economies, thus enriching our understanding of Austria's global investment pattern.
Keywords Austria, Foreign direct investment, Knowledge capital, Panel data analysis, Asia
Paper type Research paper

Journal of Asian Business and Economic Studies

Received 1 March 2024
Revised 9 June 2024
22 July 2024
17 September 2024
Accepted 19 September 2024

1. Introduction
The Asian region has become the third greatest investment region in the Austrian foreign direct investment (FDI) after Europe and the America. Based on the data from the Austrian National Bank, on average, from 1990 to 2022, Austrian investors have invested in the European region up to 80,625 million EUR, while the value reached more than 8,900 million EUR in America and 5,705 million EUR in Asia. Although Austrian investors are heavily

JEL Classification – F21, F23, O38
© Dewa Gede Sidan Raeskyesa. Published in *Journal of Asian Business and Economic Studies*. Published by Emerald Publishing Limited. This article is published under the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY 4.0) licence. Anyone may reproduce, distribute, translate and create derivative works of this article (for both commercial and non-commercial purposes), subject to full attribution to the original publication and authors. The full terms of this licence may be seen at <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/legalcode>

This paper was previously presented at the Joint Asian Conference on Business and Economic Studies (J-ACBES 2024), organized by the *Journal of Asian Business and Economic Studies (JABES)* and the University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City (UEH), co-organized by Universitas Padjadjaran (UNPAD) (Indonesia) and Udayana University (UNUD) (Indonesia). This conference was jointly incorporated from the previous prestigious conferences such as the 6th Asian Conference on Business and Economic Studies (6th ACBES), the 8th Global Advance Research Conference on Management and Business Studies (8th GARCOMBS) and the International Conference on Economics and Business Udayana University (2nd ICONICS). This joint conference was hosted at Udayana University – Bali, Indonesia, on August 28-30, 2024. I want to thank the editor, Jonas Bunte, and two anonymous referees for their valuable feedback on the article. I also thank the participants at J-ACBES 2024 for their fruitful comments.

The author declares that no funds, grants or financial support were received during the preparation of this manuscript and has no relevant financial or non-financial interests to disclose.


 Journal of Asian Business and Economic Studies
 Emerald Publishing Limited
 ISSN 2515-964X
 DOI 10.1108/JABES-02-2024-0111

Article in the *Journal of Asian Business and Economic Studies*

© IPE / Raeskyesa

Defining Moments

NICO SCHUH

DR. WEBER AND INFLATION OR: HOW I LEARNED TO STOP WORRYING AND LOVE IPE

From a young age, I was always quite interested in politics. While it took me some time to understand what exactly all these men in suits on the TV were talking about and an even longer time to understand why I should really listen, I was soon enthralled by politics. Similarly, I was always interested in what could broadly be described as “economic developments.” Consequently, I started studying Socioeconomics at the Vienna University of Business and Economics. There, I discovered a new and greater fascination with understanding these developments and how they are connected to each other. I was especially fascinated with the course “Modern Societies” by Prof. Jonas Bunte, which taught me the importance of a multiperspective approach to understanding how our modern societies function amid different political movements, market powers, and globalization.

While my studies were exciting and formative for me in an academic sense, politically and economically, it was turbulent, to say the least, both globally and in my home country of Austria. With the war in Ukraine raging on and seemingly taking a turn for the worse, global tensions rising amid a new war in the Middle East, and progress on climate change being slow at best, the international stage is faced with a multitude of challenges. Meanwhile, in Austria, the far-right Freedom Party (FPÖ) is leading the polls, and inflation is soaring high. Worried about these not completely unrelated developments and routinely asking myself why Austria cannot seem to curb its inflation, I came across the works of Dr. Isabella Weber. After attending a talk she held on anti-inflationary policies at the “Bruno Kreisky Forum,” I enthusiastically started reading her book “How China Escaped Shock Therapy.” Reading her book, I started seeing much more clearly the different causes of – and tools for fighting inflation. Her book not only inspired the research area of my bachelor’s thesis, and left no doubt that International Political Economy is my academic home.

Under the professional and academic tutelage of Prof. Jonas Bunte I was able to deepen my understanding of the field further, and I will start a master’s degree in IPE at the London School of Economics and Political Science this fall.



The People of IPE - Our Students

LILI ANNA KOVÁCSI

When I was nearing the end of my studies at WU, I had just a couple of courses left to finish, and I needed to pick one that would fit into my schedule. Honestly, I ended up choosing Sidan's FDI and Development class by chance. It seemed to align with my other courses, and I didn't think much of it at first. But from the very first class, I realized this course would be unlike anything I had experienced before.

What made it so special was Sidan's teaching style. Instead of just lecturing us on the subject, he encouraged discussions. We were constantly debating, sharing ideas, and exploring different angles. And here's the best part: there was never a "wrong" answer. Even when our arguments weren't fully fleshed out, Sidan didn't shut us down. Instead, he guided us with questions and suggestions that helped us think more deeply. It really made the whole class feel more interactive and engaging.

The course itself focused on foreign direct investment (FDI), and while I had some background knowledge of the topic, I learned so much more about how FDI can shape economies, politics, and even social structures. We talked about why some countries attract more FDI than others and what impacts investments can have. It was fascinating to see how global markets are all intertwined and how one country's policy decisions can have ripple effects across the world.

One of the assignments in the class was to write an op-ed on a topic related to FDI. Being from Hungary and living in Austria, I thought it would be interesting to write about the factors that influence the FDI policies in these two countries. Sidan encouraged me to expand on this idea for my thesis, which I ended up doing. Working on my thesis was challenging at first, but Sidan's support made it a lot easier. We had a few one-on-one meetings where he would ask me questions and help me think through my ideas. He never gave me direct answers but helped me refine my arguments and approach. It really felt like a collaboration, and it made the whole process much more enjoyable than I had expected.

Looking back, I can honestly say that this class had a huge impact on my academic and professional journey. The lessons I took away from the course—like the importance of questioning assumptions, embracing different perspectives, and thinking critically—have stuck with me. Now, I'm working full-time at Deloitte, and those skills have been invaluable. The ability to approach problems from different angles and consider all sides of an issue is crucial in my job, and I know that the things I learned in Sidan's class will continue to help me throughout my career.



Lili Anna Kovácsi
© IPE / Kovácsi

Pizza, Politics & (Motion) Picture - 9th edition

INEQUALITY FOR ALL

Report by

D. G. SIDAN RAESKYESA, MSC

Teaching and Research Associate

In October 2024, our institute hosted another exciting PPP event where students gathered to watch and discuss political economy issues based on a selected movie. This time, we chose *Inequality for All*, directed by Jacob Kornbluth.

Focusing on the United States, the film helped us explore how economic policies that favor the wealthy can contribute to inequality. We also learned how inequality can impact the quality of democracy in a country—a crucial insight for understanding today's economic and social challenges.

With delicious pizza, we enjoyed a lively and thought-provoking discussion about the causes and consequences of inequality. One key question we tackled was: When does inequality become dangerous for society? Even in high-income countries like Austria or the United States, which offer many benefits and a sense of security, the issue of inequality remains a persistent challenge.



PPP Participants on 10th October 2024

© IPE, Raeskyesa

It was a fantastic evening filled with great conversations, and we're already looking forward to the next one! 🍕

Third Mission - IPE@WU Explains

NEW VIDEOS ONLINE!

Report by
TERESA HÜBEL, MSC
Teaching and Research Associate

The institute proudly presents a new online format: IPE@WU Explains! Our students briefly explain the core concepts of international political economy. Our courses cover a wide range of exciting topics linking politics and money. This gives our students insight into various concepts in economics and political science, as well as beyond. Ever wondered what an electoral system is? What it means for banks to be too big to fail? Or what's behind insider trading? Then have a look here:



Third Mission - IPE@WU Analysis

NEW PODCASTS ONLINE!

Report by
TERESA HÜBEL, MSC
Teaching and Research Associate

One of the parts of our teaching philosophy is developing multiple explanations for variation in the world by identifying causal mechanisms. Beyond classroom practice, how do we emphasize this skill in our assignments?

We encourage our students to apply this skill by creating competing explanations for a given puzzle and communicating their thought processes and findings through podcasts. By delving into case studies and crafting podcasts that examine diverse perspectives, students are better equipped to tackle real-world challenges.

Listen to our students' great work here:



Third Mission - IPE@WU Careers

NEW INTERVIEW AND FUTURE PLANS

Report by

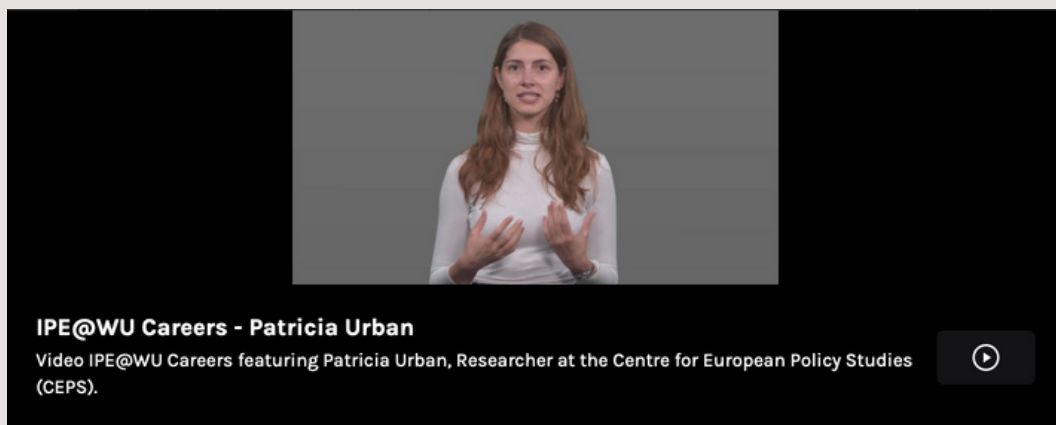
ASHLEY B. SIMPSON, MSC

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.

So far, our institute has used students' questions to interview **Edith Predorf**, **Laura Leyser**, and **Harry Beachcroft-Shaw**, who work for the Austrian Foreign Trade Center in Nairobi, Doctors Without Borders Austria, and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), respectively.

Our most recent interviewee was Ms. **Patricia Urban**, a researcher at the Center for European Policy Studies (CEPS). CEPS is a leading think tank and forum for debate on EU affairs. Patricia's research interests have revolved around interactions of socioeconomic and ecological systems. Her main expertise relates to the area of circular economy.



Video with Patricia Urban on the IPE@WU Careers page
© IPE / Patricia Urban

These interviews have helped students envision what working for NGOs or the public sector might look like. However, in our next edition of IPE Careers, we are excited to explore careers in the private sector that combine politics, economics, and sustainability. We are grateful to **Valerie-Sophie Schönberg**, the owner of Schönberg Consulting, for giving her time to share her experiences and career path. Valerie-Sophie helps organizations create impactful, long-term solutions to integrate ecological and social sustainability and is a Member of the Board of the Circular Economy Forum Austria and Director of the Sustainable Transformation Processes. Stay tuned to learn more about Valerie-Sophie's work and how she became a consultant!

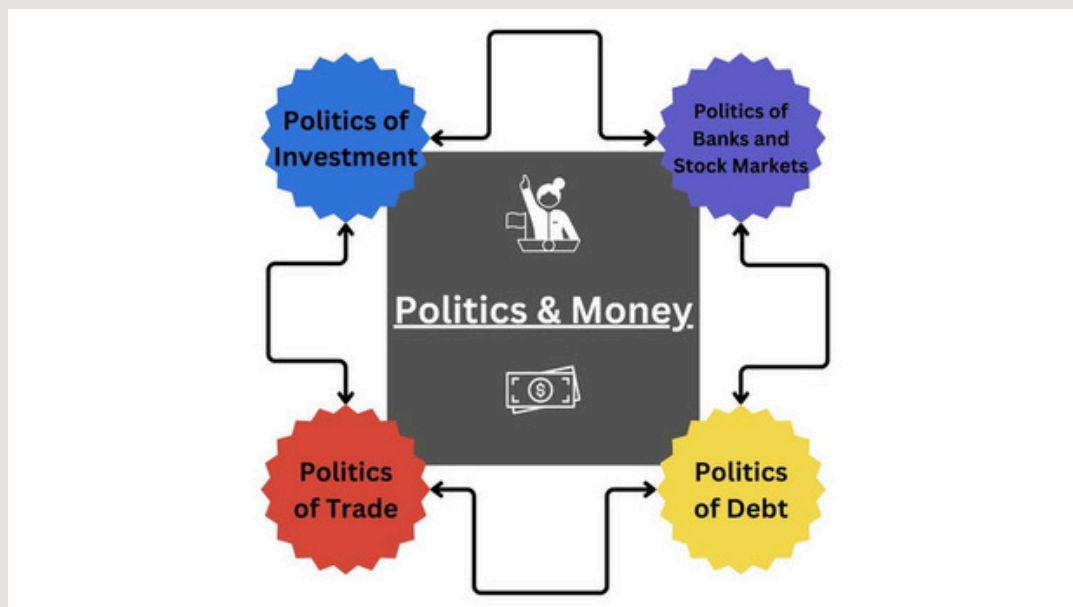
Our new specialization

POLITICS AND MONEY

Report by
ASHLEY B. SIMPSON, MSC
Teaching and Research Associate

Good news for WUPol students! In the summer semester 2025 we begin offering our specialization, Politics and Money. Our world is increasingly complicated and uncertain, but seemingly disparate issues - such as the trade war between the US and China, economic sanctions on autocratic countries like Russia, resistance against foreign investment, and growing trends of inequality, automation, democratic backsliding, and unsustainable economic growth—are all connected through politics and money.

Our specialization empowers students to disentangle these issues. The four courses in the specialization will help students build strong analytical and communication skills and the perseverance and grit to think through questions without easy answers. Beginning in March 2025, students can take “Politics of Investment” and “Politics of Banks and Stock Markets.” Then, the following semester, students can take the other two courses in the specialization: “Politics of Trade” and “Politics of Debt.”



LEARN MORE HERE:

<https://www.wu.ac.at/en/ipe/teaching/wupol-specialisation-politics-and-money>

Teaching IPE - Teaching News

WU IN THE 21ST CENTURY: WUPOL

Teaching news by
NICO SCHUH
Teaching Assistant

When I started working for Prof. Jonas Bunte to redesign the bachelor's course Sustainable Business and Economics (ZuWi) as part of WU's bachelor's reform, we agreed that ZuWi wouldn't be a course like any other. From the very beginning, we worked hard to carefully select leading theories from a plethora of different fields and package them in an approachable and relatable way for our young students.

While we knew that curating interesting theories and applying them to relevant puzzles would make our classes much more exciting (for our students and us alike), we were also well aware that our university's outward communication could be described as somewhat rudimentary. Therefore, we launched an ambitious and exciting project to reach our students better and inform them about our course and the new bachelor's program in economics, environment, and politics (WUPol).

More precisely, we launched an Instagram and YouTube account to present our students with modern, platform-appropriate, and easily digestible videos (Reels and shorts). In these videos, we provide our students with detailed information on the different sections ZuWi VA has to offer and answer the most asked questions on the new program WUPol. Since launching our Social Media presence, our Instagram account alone has accrued more than 35.000 views. By scanning the QR code below, you can see for yourself:



Teaching IPE - Pedagogic Insight

“DESIRABLE DIFFICULTIES”

Pedagogic insight by

ZACK ZIMBALIST, PHD

Teaching and Research Assistant

At the start of the courses I lead, I tell students that my primary focus is on their learning. To that end, I strive to create “desirable difficulties.” A term coined by psychologist Robert A. Bjork in 1994, desirable difficulties refer to learning conditions or tasks that require a substantial but desirable (achievable) level of effort.

I believe the process of learning should be increasingly challenging, frustrating, and slow. A large body of research has shown that this approach positively affects long-term learning and the transfer of knowledge across domains.

In contrast to short-term accomplishment and performance, long-term learning rarely occurs through tasks that are easy, effortless (rather than effortful), or focused on memorization for a one-time exam.

To foster desirable difficulties, I use three main techniques, which are supported by academic research:

- **retrieval practice** (the repeated testing effect),
- **the spacing effect** (distributed practice)
- **interleaved practice** (mixing related concepts).



Zack Zimbalist, Ph.D.

© IPE / Zimbalist

Retrieval practice involves regularly having students recall previously learned material. Relatedly, spacing encourages students to space out their study sessions and practice throughout the semester rather than cramming for a single exam. Finally, interleaved practice involves learning overlapping or related concepts simultaneously.

My goal is to design instruction, in-class activities, and low-stakes bonus point quizzes for each session to encourage students to revisit concepts and material throughout the semester, with the hope that this will lead to lasting deep learning.

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 2024/2025 on our website. Check out our summary graphs for “Politics, Law, and Finance”, “FDI, Political Economy, and Development Challenges”, “Regulating Finance for Stability and Sustainability”, and “Navigating Trade and Politics for Sustainable Development”.

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

CLICK FOR
MORE INFO



What our team is working on

MOBILE MONEY: HOW IT MIGHT AFFECT CORRUPTION?

Research introduction by
ASHLEY B. SIMPSON, MSc.
Teaching and Research Associate

How might mobile money, a technology that digitalizes payments and savings, affect corruption? Much literature identifies the economic benefits of mobile money, such as increased savings, remittances, and entrepreneurship. However, there is little research about mobile money's potential political effects.

Over the last few months, Zack and I have worked to analyze the relationship between mobile money and corruption in Africa. Initial findings suggest that mobile money, like other technologies, increases transparency and raises the costs of engaging in corruption. Our next step is to gather feedback from experts in African political economy at the Southern Political Science Association Conference in Puerto Rico.



Ashley B. Simpson, MSc.
© WU Vienna, IPE

IPE on the Road

PRESENTING IN BAYREUTH: BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR AFRICAN STUDIES IN GERMANY

Conference report by
ZACK ZIMBALIST, PHD
Teaching and Research Assistant

In September 2024, I was fortunate to be able to travel to Bayreuth, Germany, for the biennial conference of the Association for African Studies in Germany (VAD e.V.), which was hosted by The Institute of African Studies at the University of Bayreuth.

The conference theme was Reconfigurations in Africa - and African Studies. The conference aimed to examine the processes of transformation on the African continent and the “need to critically reflect on the means – academic, artistic and otherwise - by which we approach them globally to expand knowledge production.” To achieve this goal, the conference successfully brought African institutions together to connect and collaborate with parallel institutions in Europe.

I have been attending academic conferences on African Studies since 2012, but I was deeply impressed by the strong representation of African scholars from across the continent, alongside many based in Germany and other parts of Europe.



Zack Zimbalist, Ph.D.
© IPE / Zimbalist

This level of representation should be the standard in African Studies, not the exception. I greatly enjoyed conversing with colleagues from Mozambique, practicing my rusty French with Malian professors over lunch in the Mensa, and chatting with other academics from Nigeria, Zimbabwe, and South Africa.

These scholars also offered valuable feedback and personal insights on my presentation, titled “Reconfiguring African Politics in North America and Beyond.” The draft paper critically examines the dominant concepts, theories, and methods taught in North American undergraduate “African politics” courses. Drawing on an analysis of 1,260 readings from 24 undergraduate syllabi and interviews with African academics based in South Africa, the paper highlights alternative pedagogical approaches and suggests remedies to the current curriculum.

Continue on the next page ...

LOOKING AHEAD - IMPORTANT DATES

24 - 27th April 2025

Registration period for ZuWi-VA
courses

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

19th- 24th August 2025

Registration period for ZuWi-VA
courses, summer university

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

10th April 2025

Pizza, Politics & (Motion) Picture

Tenth Edition

SCIENTIST'S JOKE

A political economist and a physicist are asked to find the volume of a red rubber ball. The physicist measures the diameter and calculates the volume.

The political economist looks at it and says,
"Well, it depends on the political climate."

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.



Follow us on
LinkedIn & YouTube
[linkedin.com/wu-ipe](https://www.linkedin.com/wu-ipe)
[youtube.com/@IPEatWU](https://www.youtube.com/@IPEatWU)



E-Mail for general questions	ipe@wu.ac.at
Telephone	+43 (1) 31336 - 6722
Opening hours (Availability by phone)	Mon: 10:00 - 14:00 Tue, Fri: 10:00 - 13:00