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Placement Officer: Prof. David Schindler

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Education

2022 to present	Ph.D. in Economics, Tilburg University Advisors: David Schindler, Mery Ferrando, Anna Salomons Expected Completion: June 2026
2020–2022	Research Master in Economics, Tilburg University
2019–2020	M.Sc. in Economics, Tilburg University
2016–2019	B.Sc. in International Economics and Finance, Bocconi University

Research Interests

Labor Economics, Political Economy, Economic History

Research Visits

Fall 2025	Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Host: Marta Reynal-Querol)
Spring 2024	LMU Munich (Host: Davide Cantoni)

Job Market Paper

Expertise-Leveling Technology and the Division of Creative Labor

Best Paper Award, 14th Warwick Economics PhD Conference; Best Paper Award, 19th Workshop on Social Economy for Young Economists

What happens when an expertise-leveling technology diffuses through an industry? I study digital sampling, which makes recorded performances reusable and reduces the expertise required for music production. I assemble novel data on production credits, sample use, and content for 70,712 US records released between 1980 and 2000. A difference-in-differences design identifies the causal effects of geographic exposure to a new sampler's 1988 promotional campaign attached to Michael Jackson's tour. Exposure increased sampling. Main artists on sampled records were more likely to be self-taught and less likely to report formal musical training. Participation in music production, measured as participants per 100,000 working-age residents, showed no detectable change. On exposed records, the number of people working exclusively in writing, composition, arrangement, and production grew by 0.5, roughly 15 percent of the pre-period mean, with no detectable broadening of individual task bundles. Records became more acoustically distinct from recent music before the organizational response emerged, while lyrics showed no significant change. These findings suggest that making existing performances easier to reuse can support specialized creative contributions and music that departs from the recent past.

Publications

Labor Market Signals: The Role of Large Language Models (w/ K. Abbas Nejad, T. Wicker & N. Zaccaria), accepted, Journal of Labor Economics

Large Language Models (LLMs) are transforming the labor market, including hiring decisions. This paper examines their impact on the signals job-seekers send to potential employers through two field experiments focusing on cover letters. We find that LLMs enhance signal quality, especially benefiting lower-quality applicants, yet these gains do not boost interview invitations because they are concentrated in standardized, less influential sections of the cover letter. LLMs furthermore reduce the frequency of grammatical errors, but reduce the text’s readability by using longer words. When recruiters learn of LLM usage, they place greater value on high-quality, human-crafted letters. Hence, LLMs reduce the informativeness of signals, potentially increasing inefficiencies in labor market matching. A calibrated structural model estimates the losses compared to a setting without LLMs.

Working Papers

Media Narratives and the Rise of Civil Rights (w/ A. Armand, P. Atwell, J. F. Gomes & Y. Schenk, submitted)

We examine the power of media narratives to counter prejudice, a dimension often overlooked in a literature that predominantly documents how media reinforce it. We study an unprecedented experiment from post-WWII United States: in 1946, amid entrenched racial divisions, the producers of the popular children’s radio series *The Adventures of Superman* suddenly replaced its usual fantasy plots with stories confronting intolerance in American society, designed to elicit moral and emotional engagement among millions of young listeners. The shift generated exogenous variation in exposure to anti-prejudice narratives across cohorts and locations, a feature that we verify using historical listenership records. We show that childhood exposure produces lasting changes in social and political preferences, including greater racial tolerance, stronger support for civil rights, and higher civic mobilization later in life. These individual-level effects translate into societal shifts in favor of civil rights. Our results confirm that countering prejudice requires deeper and more enduring psychological processes compared to persuasion through information or framing.

Work in Progress

Law & Order and Social Capital (w/ F. Capozza & M. Giugovaz)

How does violent state repression affect social capital and political participation in mature democracies? We study the 2001 G8 summit in Genova, Italy, where police violently repressed authorized protests, causing one death, hundreds of injuries, and documented abuses. We proxy local exposure to repression through pre-summit associational networks: municipalities more connected to the Genoa Social Forum (GSF), the main mobilization and logistics channel, were more likely to send participants and, in the aftermath, circulate direct testimony of the facts. Our strategy relies on a market-access style exposure index based on proximity to GSF associations and estimate a difference-in-differences design with continuous treatment using municipal election panels and repeated cross-sectional survey data. We find that higher exposure persistently depresses turnout in subsequent national elections, with no evidence of systematic left–right realignment; instead, exposure increases transitions from voting to abstention across blocs. Additional survey evidence is consistent with a mechanism of “vertical” distrust: exposure predicts lower trust in the police, while generalized trust and sense of local belonging rise.

Teaching Experience

2024–present	Tutorial <i>Public Sector for Economics</i> , undergraduate level, Tilburg University (evals: 4.8, 4.7, 4.5, 4.6)
2022–present	Tutorial <i>Econometrics</i> , undergraduate level, Tilburg University (evals: 4.4, 4.4, 4.2, 3.6)
2022–2023	Tutorial <i>Microeconomics: Markets and Games</i> , undergraduate level, Tilburg University (eval: 4.3)
2022–2023	Tutorial <i>Skills: Visualizing Data & Writing for Policy Makers</i> , undergraduate level, Tilburg University (evals: 4.3, 4.9)
2022–present	B.Sc. Thesis Supervision, Tilburg University

Grants, Scholarships, and Awards

2026	Best Paper Award, 14th Warwick Economics PhD Conference, for <i>Expertise-Leveling Technology and the Division of Creative Labor</i> (Job Market Paper)
2026	Best Paper Award, 19th Workshop on Social Economy for Young Economists, for <i>Expertise-Leveling Technology and the Division of Creative Labor</i> (Job Market Paper)
2024	OpenAI Researcher Access Program (Co-PI), \$2,000
2023	Jenny Ligthart Award, CentER, best Research Master thesis

Research Assistance

2022	Research Assistant, TiSEM (David Schindler): digitized historical documents from the U.S. National Archive
2021	Research Assistant, TiSEM (David Schindler): assisted in designing and running a laboratory experiment

Seminar & Conference Presentations

2026	UPF Student Seminar, Applied Micro Meeting (Tilburg), AYEW Behavioural and Experimental Economics Workshop, Applied Lunch (UPF), Internal Workshop (Tilburg), 4th Milan PhD Economics Workshop (Bocconi), 11th Monash-Paris-Warwick-Zurich-CEPR Text-As-Data Workshop, 19th Workshop on Social Economy for Young Economists (Bologna), 14th Warwick PhD Conference, 2nd EUI PhD Conference, ENTER Jamboree (UC3M), Venice Summer Institute, European Economic Association (EEA), 38th EALE Conference, 41st AIEL Conference
2025	Internal Workshop (Tilburg), 18th Workshop on Social Economy for Young Economists (Bologna), ENTER Jamboree (SSE), Applied Micro Chat (Tilburg), Public Governance Workshop (Université Paris Dauphine), Internal Seminar (UC3M)
2024	Empirical Student Seminar (LMU), Media Bias Workshop (Cologne), ENTER Jamboree (ULB), mEETING (Tilburg), Applied Micro Chat (Tilburg), MPE Brown-bag Research Seminar (Maastricht), Economic Insights for Creating Inclusive Labor Markets (University of Tokyo)
2023	Spanish Economic Association (Salamanca), Applied Seminar (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona), Internal Workshop (Tilburg), Inaugural Essex PhD Conference in Applied Economics (Essex)

Academic Service

2023–present	Applied Micro Meeting Organizer, Tilburg University
2022–2025	ENTER Seminar Series Coordinator, Tilburg University
2021–2025	GSS Seminar Coordinator, Tilburg University
2021–2022	Education Committee Member, TiSEM, Tilburg University

Computer Skills

Python, R, Stata, ArcGIS.

Languages

Italian (native), English (fluent)

References

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