

CONTACT INFORMATION

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CURRENT APPOINTMENTS

- 7/2026–Present Post-Doc, Chair of Macroeconomics: Prof. Dr. Joscha Beckmann, University of Hagen
- 5/2026–Present Visiting Researcher, RWI – Leibniz-Institute for Economic Research, Macroeconomics and Public Finance

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 4/2021–3/2026 Researcher, RWI – Leibniz-Institute for Economic Research, Macroeconomics and Public Finance: Prof. Dr. Torsten Schmidt, Prof. Dr. Almut Balleer
- 2018–2021 Student Assistant, Chair of Macroeconomics: Prof. Dr. Michael Roos, University of Bochum
- 2018 Student Assistant, Chair of Sociology, Labor, and Economics: Prof. Dr. Rolf G. Heinze, University of Bochum
- 2017, 2018 Student Assistant, RWI – Leibniz-Institute for Economic Research, Macroeconomics and Public Finance: Prof. Dr. Torsten Schmidt

EDUCATION

- 4/2021–3/2026 PhD in Economics (Summa cum laude), Supervisors: Prof. Torsten Schmidt/Prof. Michael Roos, Title: The Economics of Political Instability and Geopolitical Risk, University of Bochum
- 2018–2021 Economic Policy Consulting M.Sc., University of Bochum
- 2019–2020 International Exchange Program in Economics, University of Amsterdam
- 2014–2017 Economics and Political Science B.A., University of Bochum

PROJECTS**Ongoing**

- 2021–2026 Joint Economic Forecast 2022–2026 (Gemeinschaftsdiagnose)
- 2021–2025 Economic Reports for North Rhine-Westphalia

Completed

- 2024–2025 The Ruhr Area as a Destination for Foreign Direct Investment. Client: Brost Foundation
- 2022–2023 Partnership on Economic Research-Based Policy Evaluation and Planning. Client: Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy; Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning of the Republic of Rwanda; Institute of Policy Analysis and Research Rwanda
- 2021–2022 Joint Economic Forecast 2020–2022 (Gemeinschaftsdiagnose)
- 2021 Scientific Evaluation of the Pilot Projects for Digital Pandemic Management in North Rhine-Westphalia pursuant to Section 4c of the Corona Protection Ordinance (CoronaSchVO)

2021 Short-term Perspectives on Raw Material Price Developments. Client: Ministry of Economic Affairs, Innovation, Digitalization and Energy of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed

Blagov, B., M. Dirks and M. Funke (2025): Economic Knock-On Effects of Russia's Geopolitical Risk on Advanced Economies: A Global VAR Approach, *Macroeconomic Dynamics*, 29, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1365100525100552>.

Dirks, M. and T. Schmidt (2024), Political instability and Economic growth: Causation and Transmission. *European Journal of Political Economy*, 85 (102586), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejpoleco.2024.102586>

D’Orazio, P., and Dirks M. (2022): Exploring the Effects of Climate-Related Financial Policies on Carbon Emissions in G20 Countries: A Panel Quantile Regression Approach, *Environmental Science and Pollution Research* 29(5): 7678-7702, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11356-021-15655-y>.

Discussion Paper

Dirks, M. (2025): When Two Quarrel, the Third Rejoices: Windfall FDI and the Early Winners of the Russian-Ukrainian War, N. 1161/2025, Ruhr Economic Papers, <https://dx.doi.org/10.4419/96973345> (**R&R Journal of International Economics**).

Blagov, B., N. Benner and M. Dirks (2025): Measuring Political Instability at a High Frequency. N. 1186/2025, Ruhr Economic Papers.

D’Orazio, P., and Dirks M. (2020): COVID-19 and Financial Markets: Assessing the Impact of the Coronavirus on the Eurozone. N. 859/2020, Ruhr Economic Papers, doi:10.4419/86788995.

Policy Publications

Schmidt, T., B. Blagov, E. Coschignano, M. Dirks, D. Grozea-Helmenstein, N. Isaak, F. Kirsch, C. Krause, S. Kotz, P. Schacht-Picozzi and K. Weyerstraß (2025), Frühjahr 2025: Deutsche Wirtschaft weiter im Leerlauf. RWI Economic Reports, 76, A01.

Schmidt, T., B. Blagov, M. Dirks, N. Isaak, C. Krause and P. Schacht-Picozzi (2025), Economic Reports for North Rhine-Westphalia: Wirtschaft in NRW zwischen Hoffen und Bangen: Februar 2025. 2025, 1.

Schmidt, T., N. Benner, B. Blagov, E. Coschignano, M. Dirks, N. Isaak, R. Jessen, F. Kirsch, S. Kotz and C. Krause (2024), Jahresende 2024: Konjunkturelle Schwäche verstärkt strukturelle Belastungen in der Industrie. RWI Economic Reports, 75, 4, 32-67.

Schmidt, T., A. Balleer, B. Blagov, M. Dirks, N. Isaak, F. Kirsch and P. Schacht-Picozzi (2024), Strukturelle Anpassungen belasten konjunkturelle Erholung. Economic Reports for North Rhine-Westphalia, November 2024.

Schmidt, T., N. Benner, B. Blagov, M. Dirks, D. Grozea-Helmenstein, N. Isaak, R. Jessen, F. Kirsch, S. Kotz, C. Krause, P. Schacht-Picozzi and K. Weyerstraß (2024), Sommer 2024: Weiterhin kein konjunktureller Aufschwung in Sicht. RWI Economic Reports, 75, 3, 5-38.

Schmidt, T., A. Balleer, B. Blagov, E. Coschignano, M. Dirks, N. Isaak, F. Kirsch and P. Schacht-Picozzi (2024), Wirtschaft in NRW erholt sich. Economic Reports for North Rhine-Westphalia, Juni 2024.

Schmidt, T., A. Balleer, N. Benner, B. Blagov, M. Dirks, N. Isaak, R. Jessen, F. Kirsch, S. Kotz, C. Krause, M. Nöller and P. Schacht (2024), Frühsommer 2024: Konjunkturelle Erholung in Deutschland ohne Schwung. RWI Economic Reports, 75, 2, 37-74.

Schmidt, T., G. Barabas, N. Benner, B. Blagov, M. Dirks, D. Grozea-Helmenstein, N. Isaak, R. Jessen, F. Kirsch, C. Krause, P. Schacht and K. Weyerstraß (2024), Frühjahr 2024: Hohe gesamtwirtschaftliche Unsicherheit dämpft die Nachfrage. RWI Economic Reports, 75, 1, 3-41.

Schmidt, T., G. Barabas, B. Blagov, M. Dirks, F. Kirsch and P. Schacht (2024), Verhaltene Erholung der Konjunktur. Economic Reports for North Rhine-Westphalia, Februar 2024.

Schmidt, T., G. Barabas, N. Benner, B. Blagov, M. Dirks, N. Isaak, R. Jessen, F. Kirsch, C. Krause and P. Schacht (2023), Jahresende 2023: Privater Konsum dämpft die konjunkturelle Erholung in Deutschland. RWI Economic Reports, 74, 4, 30-69.

Schmidt, T., G. Barabas, B. Blagov, M. Dirks, N. Isaak, F. Kirsch and C. Krause (2023), Energiepreise belasten die konjunkturelle Erholung. Economic Reports for North Rhine-Westphalia, Oktober 2023.

Schmidt, T., G. Barabas, B. Blagov, N. Benner, M. Dirks, D. Grozea-Helmenstein, N. Isaak, C. Krause and K. Weyerstraß (2023), Sommer 2023: Aufschwung verzögert sich in Deutschland. RWI Economic Reports, 74, 3, 5-39.

Schmidt, T., G. Barabas, N. Benner, B. Blagov, M. Dirks, N. Isaak, R. Jessen, F. Kirsch and P. Schacht (2023), Frühsommer 2023: Konsumschwäche wird allmählich überwunden. RWI Economic Reports, 74, 2, 35-68.

Schmidt, T., G. Barabas, B. Blagov, M. Dirks, N. Isaak and F. Kirsch (2023), Konjunkturelle Erholung bleibt schwach. Economic Reports for North Rhine-Westphalia, Juni 2023.

Schmidt, T., G. Barabas, N. Benner, B. Blagov, M. Dirks, D. Grozea-Helmenstein, N. Isaak, R. Jessen, F. Kirsch, P. Schacht and K. Weyerstraß (2023), Frühjahr 2023: Kaufkraftentzug bremst die konjunkturelle Erholung in Deutschland. RWI Economic Reports, 74, 1, 5-45.

Schmidt, T., G. Barabas, B. Blagov, M. Dirks, N. Isaak and F. Kirsch (2023), NRW-Wirtschaft fasst wieder Tritt. Economic Reports for North Rhine-Westphalia, März 2023.

Schmidt, T., G. Barabas, N. Benner, B. Blagov, M. Dirks, N. Isaak, R. Jessen, F. Kirsch, P. Schacht and K. Weyerstraß (2022), Die wirtschaftliche Entwicklung zum Jahresende: Konjunktureller Dämpfer, aber keine tiefe Rezession. RWI Economic Reports, 73, 4, 5-39.

Schmidt, T., G. Barabas, N. Benner, B. Blagov, M. Dirks, D. Grozea-Helmenstein, N. Isaak, R. Jessen, F. Kirsch, P. Schacht and K. Weyerstraß (2022), Die wirtschaftliche Entwicklung im Inland: Inflationsschub lässt Produktion zurückgehen. RWI Economic Reports, 73, 3, 5-51.

Schmidt, T., G. Barabas, N. Benner, B. Blagov, M. Dirks, N. Isaak, R. Jessen, F. Kirsch, P. Schacht and K. Weyerstraß (2022), Die wirtschaftliche Entwicklung im Frühsommer 2022: Erneute Belastungen verzögern nochmals die wirtschaftliche Erholung in Deutschland. RWI Economic Reports, 73, 2, 5-32.

Schmidt, T., G. Barabas, M. Dirks, N. Isaak and P. Schacht (2022), Neue Belastungen verzögern konjunkturelle Erholung. Economic Reports for North Rhine-Westphalia, Mai 2022.

Schmidt, T., G. Barabas, N. Benner, M. Dirks, N. Isaak, R. Jessen, P. Schacht and A. Steuernagel (2022), Die wirtschaftliche Entwicklung im Inland: Gestiegene Energiepreise belasten die Erholung. RWI Economic Reports, 73, 1, 39-78.

Schmidt, T., G. Barabas, M. Dirks and N. Isaak (2022), Wirtschaft trotz Belastungen. Economic Reports for North Rhine-Westphalia, Februar 2022.

Andor, Mark Andreas et al. (2022): Endbericht zur wissenschaftlichen Evaluierung der Modellprojekte für das digitale Pandemic-Management in NRW nach § 4c Coronaschutzverordnung (CoronaSchVO), RWI Project Reports, RWI - Leibniz-Institute for Economic Research, Essen.

Schmidt, T., G. Barabas, N. Benner, B. Blagov, M. Dirks, F. Kirsch, N. Isaak, R. Jessen, P. Schacht and K. Weyerstraß (2021), Die wirtschaftliche Entwicklung im Inland: Erneuter Aussetzer der wirtschaftlichen Erholung im Winter. RWI Economic Reports, 72, 4, 5-38.

Schmidt, T., G. Barabas, N. Benner, B. Blagov, M. Dirks, N. Isaak, R. Jessen and P. Schacht (2021), Die wirtschaftliche Entwicklung im Inland: Materialengpässe verzögern die wirtschaftliche Erholung. RWI Economic Reports, 72, 3, 37-75.

Schmidt, T., G. Barabas, B. Blagov, M. Dirks, N. Isaak, F. Kirsch and P. Schacht (2021), Erholung der Wirtschaft verzögert sich. Economic Reports for North Rhine-Westphalia, November 2021.

Andor, Mark Andreas et al. (2021): Werkstattbericht zur wissenschaftlichen Evaluierung der Modellprojekte für das digitale Pandemie-Management in NRW nach § 4c Coronaschutz-verordnung (CoronaSchVO), RWI Project Reports, RWI - Leibniz-Institute for Economic Research, Essen.

Schmidt, T., Kirsch, F., Dirks, M. (2021): Kurzfristige Perspektiven der Rohstoffpreisentwicklung, RWI Project Reports, RWI - Leibniz-Institute for Economic Research, Essen.

Refereeing

Climate Policy, Economic Systems, Eurasian Economic Review, European Journal of Political Economy, Emerging Markets Review, International Economics and Economic Policy, Oxford Economic Papers.

CONFERENCES

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| 2026 | EEA Dublin 2026 |
| 2025 | 8th International Conference on the "Political Economy of Democracy and Dictatorship", 29th International Conference on Macroeconomic Analysis and International Finance, EEA Bordeaux 2025, CESA Workshop for Young Researchers |
| 2024 | 17th RGS Doctoral Conference in Economics, 7th International Conference on the "Political Economy of Democracy and Dictatorship", 2024 Meeting of the European Public Choice Society, 28th International Conference on Macroeconomic Analysis and International Finance, FMM Conference 2023: Inflation, Distributional Conflict and just Transition, CESA Workshop for Young Researchers |
| 2023 | 16th RGS Doctoral Conference in Economics, 6th International Conference on the "Political Economy of Democracy and Dictatorship", 60th Annual Meetings of the Public Choice Society, Annual Conference 2023 of the "Verein für Socialpolitik" |

RESEARCH STAYS

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| November 2022 | Institute of Policy Analysis and Research - Rwanda |
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TEACHING

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| Winter 2026 | Introduction to Economics, University of Applied Sciences for Police and Public Administration in North Rhine-Westphalia |
| Summer 2025 | Introduction to Macroeconomics (Master), Witten/Herdecke University |
| Summer 2024 | Introduction to Macroeconomics (Bachelor), FH Bochum |

SOFTWARE SKILLS

R, Stata, Python, MATLAB, LaTeX, Excel, MS Word and PowerPoint

LANGUAGE SKILLS

German Native

English Fluent

SCHOLARSHIPS

2019 – 2021 Study grant from the Friedrich Ebert Foundation

SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

2023 – 2025 PhD-Representative at the RWI – Leibniz-Institute for Economic Research